

Congressional Bills in GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys)

Congressional Bills Learning Objectives

- Obtain an understanding of Congressional bills, their forms and versions, and the Congressional process, as it relates.
- Obtain an understanding of the Congressional Bills collection on FDsys, and its capabilities and features.

Congressional Bills: The Big Picture

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

The U.S. House of Representatives

- 435 members, based on Congressional Districts
- Elected every two years
- At least 25 years old
- U.S. citizen for seven years

The U.S. Senate

- 100 Senators, two from each state (Senior and Junior)
- Elected every six years, staggered
- At least 30 years old
- U.S. citizen for nine years

U.S. House of Representatives

- Originates Revenue Legislation
- Traditionally originates Appropriation Legislation
- Presents Charges in Impeachment
- Presidential Elections: if no clear winner, chooses President from presidential candidates with the top 3 Electoral votes

U.S. Senate

- Advises and Consents to Treaties
- Advises and Consents to Presidential Nominations
- Tries the Impeachment (2/3 Vote)
- Presidential Elections: if no clear winner, chooses Vice President from VP candidates with the top 2 Electoral votes

Lawmaking Requirements

- Both House and Senate must:
 - Pass Same Bill Language
 - With the Same Bill Number
 - Present it to the President for Action

Sources of Legislation

- Sources of legislation are unlimited:
 - Idea and draft by a Member
 - Citizen or group may transmit proposal to Member
 - Executive communication
 - Executive departments and independent agencies

4 Forms of Legislation:

Legislative Proposal	Designation	Use	Who approves it?	Has the force of law?
Bill	H.R. S.	Lawmaking	House, Senate, President	Yes
Joint Resolution	H.J. Res. S.J. Res	Lawmaking, Constitutional Amendments, Continuing Resolutions	House, Senate, President	Yes
Concurrent Resolution	H. Con. Res. S. Con. Res.	Internal business of both chambers	House, Senate	No
Simple Resolution	H. Res. S. Res	Internal business of one chamber	House or Senate	No

2 Types of Bills

- Public bill – affects the general public
- Private bill – affects individual or private entity rather than the public at large

A Bill Becomes Law – Congress' Role

- Bill drafting
- Bill is introduced on the floor
- Committee review and report
- Floor debate and vote
- Referral to other chamber
- Conference to resolve any differences in bills
- Final vote on bill

Bill Sponsors and Referral to Committee

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5

To support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2013

Mr. KLINE (for himself, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. PETRI, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. MESSER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

Bill as it is reported to the floor of the House

Note that the bill is being reported to the floor with a proposed amendment



Note that the second committee it went to discharged it to the Committee of the Whole



Union Calendar No. 108

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5

[Report No. 113-150, Part I]

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JUNE 6, 2013

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JULY 11, 2013

Additional sponsor: Mr. SALMON

JULY 11, 2013

Reported from the Committee on Education and the Workforce with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

JULY 11, 2013

The Committee on Financial Services discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 6, 2013]

A Bill Becomes a Law – President’s Role

President can	Congress can	Result
Sign		Law
Veto bill and return it to Congress	Override by 2/3 vote in both houses	Law
	Not override	No law
Do nothing	Congress in session	Law
	Congress adjourns	No law (pocket veto)

Congressional Bills

- FDsys – all published versions of bills from 103rd Congress forward (1993-present)
- Updated daily by 6 a.m. (Eastern) when bills are published and approved

Finding More Clues about Congressional Bills

- Congressional Bills Collection on FDsys
 - Contains the official versions of bills
- Finding the text of bills elsewhere on FDsys
 - Congressional Hearings
 - Congressional Record
 - Congressional Reports
 - Calendars

Bill Versions

- Approximately 50 possible bill versions, e.g:
 - (is) – Introduced in Senate
 - (ih) – Introduced in House
 - (pch) – Placed on House Calendar
 - (pcs) – Placed on Senate Calendar
 - (eh) – Engrossed in House
 - (es) – Engrossed in Senate
 - (enr) – Enrolled Bill
- View versions and definitions in FDsys Help 'About Congressional Bills' at http://www.gpo.gov/help/about_congressional_bills.htm



GPO Seal of Authenticity

Congress # and Session → 113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

Bill Number ↓
H. R. 5

Official Title → To support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes.

House Bill → **IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

JUNE 6, 2013

Sponsor, Co-sponsors & Committee Referrals → Mr. KLINE (for himself, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. PIETRI, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. MESSER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes.

Enacting clause → 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

Short title → 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
4 This Act may be cited as the "Student Success Act".

Added or Deleted Text

- ASCII Text Version
<DELETED>Authorized to be<DELETED>
“Authorization to be appropriated”
- PDF Version
~~Authorized to be appropriated~~
Authorized to be appropriated

Examples in FDsys

- Browse
- Basic Search
- Advanced Search
- Retrieve by Citation



www.fdsys.gov

Tracking a piece of legislation is easy using FDsys.

1



History of Bills

2



Congressional Bills

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Congressional Record

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Bound Congressional Record

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Public and Private Laws

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Statutes at Large

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United State Code

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- Upcoming Sessions & Archived Sessions:
- <http://fdlp.gov/about-the-fdlp/training-and-events>

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Subcategory – FDsys Training