

# Congressional Reports in GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys)

## Congressional Reports Learning Objectives

- Obtain an understanding of Congressional Reports, the types of reports available, and how they relate to the Congressional process.
- Obtain an understanding of the Congressional Reports collection on FDsys, and its capabilities and features.

## Congressional Reports: The Big Picture

*Congressional committees issue Congressional Reports that deal with proposed legislation and issues under investigation.*

## Types of Congressional Reports

- 1) House and Senate Reports
- 2) Conference Reports
- 3) Senate Executive Reports

See examples on FDsys at [www.fdsys.gov](http://www.fdsys.gov)

## House and Senate Reports

- Concern proposed legislation or contain findings on matters under investigation
- Describes the purpose and scope of the bill and reasons for its recommended approval.
- May have a section-by-section analysis to explain what each section is about
- Indicate what is being added and deleted from existing law
- Explain Committee amendments

113TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT  
2d Session } 113-419

### GOVERNMENT REPORTS ELIMINATION ACT OF 2014

APRIL 28, 2014.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ISSA, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, submitted the following

#### R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4194]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4194) to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

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COMMITTEE STATEMENT AND VIEWS



## Conference Reports

- Resolve differences in proposed legislation between the House and Senate.
- Is a negotiated agreement on legislation between the House and Senate conference committees.
- Printed and submitted to each chamber for its consideration.

113TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT  
2d Session } 113-449

### WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014

MAY 15, 2014.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. SHUSTER, from the committee of conference, submitted the following

#### CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 3080]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3080), to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**



# Senate Executive Reports

- Reports of the Committee on Foreign Relations relating to Treaties between the United States and foreign nations, which have been submitted to the U.S. Senate for ratification
- Reports of various Senate Committees regarding nomination of individuals.

## TAX CONVENTION WITH HUNGARY

APRIL 29, 2014.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, submitted the following

### REPORT

(To accompany Treaty Doc. 111-7)

The Committee on Foreign Relations, to which was referred the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Hungary for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on February 4, 2010, at Budapest, and a related agreement effected by an exchange of notes on February 4, 2010 (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 111-7), having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with one declaration, as indicated in the resolution of advice and consent, and recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification thereof, as set forth in this report and the accompanying resolution of advice and consent.

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I. PURPOSE  
The purpose of the new Hungary Convention is to promote and facilitate trade and investment between the United States and Hungary. Principally, the Convention provides for reduced withholding rates on cross-border payments of dividends, interest, royalties, and other income, as well as the elimination of withholding taxes on cross-border dividend payments to pension funds. The Convention contains rigorous protections designed to protect

## A quick note about treaties...

Foreign policy includes treaties, trade agreements, arms sales, and other foreign policy activities.

It is a balance between both presidential management and legislative powers.

Congress can influence foreign policy through legislation, appropriations, and Senate advice and consent on nominations and treaties.

# Treaty Publications

Senate Treaty Document  
Congressional Hearing  
Senate Executive Report  
Simple Resolution of Ratification  
Senate Executive Calendar  
Instrument of Ratification  
Presidential Proclamation  
Treaties and Other International Acts series (TIAS)

# Treaty Publications

- Senate Treaty Document
  - Text of the treaty
  - Letter submitted to the President by the Secretary of State
  - Other documents deemed informational
- Senate Executive Report
  - Committee on Foreign Relations views on the treaty

## Report process

1. Committee votes on a bill. They can vote it:
  - Favorably
  - Unfavorable or adversely
  - Without recommendation
  - Tabled
2. If bill is ordered to be reported out of Committee, they may file a report. A bill is officially reported in a chamber when it is filed.
3. Congressional Report options:

<b>"Without amendment"</b>		<b>No changes made to bill as proposed</b>	<b>Retains bill #</b>
<b>"As amended"</b>		Includes amendment(s)	Retains bill #
<b>Clean bill (House)</b>	<b>Original bill (Senate)</b>	New bills including the text adopted in Committee markup	New bill #
Amendment in the nature of a <b>substitute</b>		All amendments previously adopted are included	Retains bill #

## Contents of Reports for committee approved measures...

Example of House Report 113-344:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CRPT-113hrpt344/pdf/CRPT-113hrpt344.pdf>

## Then what?

- Report is filed by the chair so it can go on the appropriate House or Senate calendar
- Must be on calendar for certain amount of time before the floor can take action on it (varies between H and S)
- Report is reviewed by the chamber

## Why read reports?

“Committee reports are perhaps the most valuable single element of the legislative history of a law. They are used by the courts, executive departments, and the public as a source of information regarding the purpose and meaning of the law.”

*(Source: How Our Laws Are Made CDOC 108-93)*

# Example of Existing Law

Page taken from the  
Statutes at Large  
"Dodd-Frank Wall  
Street Reform and  
Consumer Protection  
Act"

Became law July 21,  
2010

(9) CONSUMER PRIVACY.—  
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau may not obtain from a covered person or service provider any personally identifiable financial information about a consumer from the financial records of the covered person or service provider, except—  
(i) if the financial records are reasonably described in a request by the Bureau and the consumer provides written permission for the disclosure of such information by the covered person or service provider to the Bureau; or  
(ii) as may be specifically permitted or required under other applicable provisions of law and in accordance with the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.).  
(B) TREATMENT OF COVERED PERSON OR SERVICE PROVIDER.—With respect to the application of any provision of the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978, to a disclosure by a covered person or service provider subject to this subsection, the covered person or service provider shall be treated as if it were a “financial institution”, as defined in section 1101 of that Act (12 U.S.C. 3401).  
(d) ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANT RULES.—

Extract of House  
Bill as introduced

H.R. 2571

"To amend the  
Dodd-Frank Wall  
Street Reform  
and Consumer  
Protection Act..."

Introduced June  
28, 2013

5 (a) REQUIRED NOTIFICATION AND PERMISSION.—  
6 Section 1022(c)(9)(A) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Re-  
7 form and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C.  
8 5512(c)(9)(A)) is amended—  
9 (1) by striking “may not obtain from a covered  
10 person or service provider” and inserting “may not  
11 request, obtain, access, collect, use, retain, or dis-  
12 close”;  
13 (2) by striking “personally identifiable finan-  
14 cial” and inserting “nonpublic personal”; and  
15 (3) by striking “from the financial records” and  
16 all that follows through the period at the end and  
17 inserting “unless—  
18 “(i) the Bureau clearly and conspicu-  
19 ously discloses to the consumer, in writing  
20 or in an electronic form, what information



(A) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau **[**may not obtain from a covered person or service provider**]** *may not request, obtain, access, collect, use, retain, or disclose* any **[**personally identifiable financial**]** *nonpublic personal* information about a consumer **[**from the financial records of the covered person or service provider, except—**]** *unless—*

**Brackets indicate the bill is proposing text be removed from the law**

**[**(i) if the financial records are reasonably described in a request by the Bureau and the consumer provides written permission for the disclosure of such information by the covered person or service provider to the Bureau; or

**[**(ii) as may be specifically permitted or required under other applicable provisions of law and in accordance with the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.)**]**

*(i) the Bureau clearly and conspicuously discloses to the consumer, in writing or in an electronic form, what information will be requested, obtained, accessed, collected, used, retained, or disclosed; and*

*(ii) before such information is requested, obtained, accessed, collected, used, retained, or disclosed, the consumer informs the Bureau that such information may be requested, obtained, accessed, collected, used, retained, or disclosed.*

**Italics indicate the bill is proposing text be inserted into the law**

**Asterisks indicate text that is not being changed, so it is 'snipped' out**

\* \* \* \* \*  
**[**(B) TREATMENT OF COVERED PERSON OR SERVICE PROVIDER**]** *With respect to the application of any provision of*

## Congressional Reports

- FDsys – all published versions of Congressional Reports from 104th Congress forward (1995-present)
- Part of the *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*
- Updated irregularly as electronic versions of the reports become available

## Search Examples in FDsys

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