

## **SUPREME COURT**

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### **Supreme Court of the United States**

[www.supremecourtus.gov/](http://www.supremecourtus.gov/)

Official Web site of the U.S. Supreme Court. Includes casehandling guides, court rules, recent decisions and the full text of Court opinions of bound volumes 502 *et seq.*

### **United States Reports (KF 101 A2)**

Official reports of the U.S. Supreme Court.

## **EXECUTIVE AGENCIES**

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### **Code of Federal Regulations (KF 70 A3)**

[www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html)

Codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register* by executive departments and agencies of the federal government. Available on *GPO Access* from 1996 to the present.

### **Federal Register (AE 2.106)**

[www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html)

Official daily publication for rules, proposed rules and notices of federal agencies and organizations. Available on *GPO Access* from 1994 to the present.

## **STATUTORY INTERPRETATION**

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### **Statutes and Statutory Construction (KF 425 S56)**

Comprehensive treatise on statutory construction and interpretation with chapters on the legislative function, separation of powers, the introduction of bills and legislative committees.

Contact Government Documents Librarian Diana Mercer at [Diana.Mercer@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:Diana.Mercer@sc.ohio.gov).

## THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO LAW LIBRARY Information Series

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# 5 Federal Legislative History



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A federal legislative history is a compilation of the documents that track a bill as it moves through Congress. Federal legislative histories are used to understand the purpose and intent of federal statutes. When a question arises concerning the applicability or interpretation of a statute, a legislative history can be compiled or consulted to better understand the reasons for the enactment of that statute. Documents used to research legislative history include:

- Committee hearings, prints and reports
- Congressional debates
- Congressional Record
- Presidential records
- Supreme Court decisions
- Various versions of a bill

#### **SUBJECT HEADINGS**

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The following subject headings can be used to search the online catalog for resources on federal legislative histories and statutory interpretation and construction.

- Law–United States–Interpretation and construction
- Legislative histories–United States
- Legislative histories–United States–Bibliography

#### **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY GUIDES**

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##### **Federal Legislative History**

[www.law.duke.edu/lib./researchguides/Fedleg](http://www.law.duke.edu/lib./researchguides/Fedleg)

Detailed introduction to basic documents and procedures for researching the legislative history of a federal law.

##### **Federal Legislative History Research: A Practitioner's Guide to Compiling the Documents and Sifting for Legislative Intent**

[www.llsdc.org/Fed-Leg-Hist](http://www.llsdc.org/Fed-Leg-Hist)

Detailed guide to compiling legislative histories. Includes an extensive bibliography of law journal articles related to federal legislative histories.

##### **How to Compile a Legislative History**

[www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/usgd/leghis.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/usgd/leghis.html)

Selective guide to resources for compiling federal legislative histories.

##### **U.S. Legislative Process - Research Guide**

<http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/govdocs/uslegis.html>

Describes the federal legislative process and the documents produced in that process.

#### **COMPILATIONS OF LEGISLATIVE HISTORIES**

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##### **Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories: A Bibliography of Government Documents, Periodical Articles and Books (KF 1 J65)**

Compilations of legislative histories in books, government documents, legal periodicals, looseleaf services and online databases.

##### **Union List of Legislative Histories (KF 4 U55)**

#### **ONLINE RESOURCES**

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##### **GPO Access**

[www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html)

Free electronic access to the U.S. Government Printing Office's federal legislative history resources, including the *Code of Federal Regulations*, the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register* and the *United States Code*.

##### **LexisNexis / Westlaw**

Subscription-based databases containing information used to compile federal legislative histories.

#### **CONGRESS**

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##### **Congressional Record (X 1.1/A:)**

[www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html)

Official record of congressional proceedings and debates. Published daily when Congress is in session. Available on *GPO Access* from 1994 to the present.

##### **Statutes at Large (KF 50 U5)**

Official series of session laws enacted by Congress since 1789. Laws are printed chronologically, cited by the Congress that enacted the legislation and numbered sequentially.

##### **THOMAS: Legislative Information from the Library of Congress**

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Includes committee reports, the *Congressional Directory*, the *Congressional Record* back to the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress and the full text of all congressional bills and public laws back to the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress.

##### **United States Code (KF 62 2006 A2)**

Official codification of the *Statutes at Large*. Organized by subject matter into 50 titles, arranged alphabetically and permanently established. Includes a list of acts cited by popular name and a general subject index.

##### **United States Code Congressional and Administrative News (KF 48 W45)**

Full text of public laws and presidential executive orders and proclamations, selected congressional committee and conference reports, and tables of public laws, legislative history, U.S. Code and popular name acts.

#### **PRESIDENT**

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##### **Public Papers of the President (J 80 A283)**

Major statements, messages, papers, press releases, speeches of the president and a table of presidential documents.

##### **Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents**

[www.gpoaccess.gov/wcomp/](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wcomp/)

Acts approved by the president, executive orders, press releases, proclamations, speeches and White House announcements. Available on *GPO Access* from 1993 to the present.

##### **White House**

[www.whitehouse.gov/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/)

Executive orders, press briefings, proclamations, radio addresses and speeches.