Congressional Information Demystified
sponsored by the Government Documents Interest Group (GDIG)

Friday, October 15, 2010, 11:00 a.m.- 11:50 a.m

Patricia Kenly, Georgia Tech
Bette Finn, Georgia Tech
What is a “Congress”?

• A “Congress” lasts for 2 years (starting in Jan. of odd-numbered years).
  • It is divided into 2 regular “sessions”
• Much work is done in committees – there are more than 200 (20 “standing” in the House; 16 “standing” in the Senate)
  • The first committee report for the 111th Congress would be identified as:
    Senate Report 111-001 - or, S. Rept. 111-01
    House Report 111-001 - or, H. Rept. 111-01
Major Congressional Activities

• Bills and Resolutions (introducing, evaluation)
  They are referred to appropriate committee(s) or subcommittee(s)
  – and Voting
• Committee Hearings
• Committee Reports
• Confirmations of Presidential Nominations (Senate)
Bills & Resolutions

• If introduced in the House of Representatives:
  H. R. [number] – sequential

  note: this does NOT stand for “House Report”

• If introduced in the Senate:
  S. [number] – sequential

Most legislation is initiated in the House.
Of the more than 10,000 bills introduced in each
“Congress”, only 600 or so are enacted into law.
(Source: Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, D.C. – www.llsdc.org)
First Bill this session in the House – 647 pages!

“enacting clause” – used since 1871 - the same in all bills
Resolutions

• Can be “simple” ; “joint” ; “concurrent”

Simple — re rules, operation, or opinion. If adopted, published in the Congressional Record.

Joint — per LC, “there is little practical difference between a bill and a joint resolution…except for a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution”.

Concurrent — per LC, “used merely for expressing facts, principles, opinions, and purposes of the two Houses”. On approval by both Houses, published in special Statutes at Large volume.
S. RES. 389

RESOLUTION

Commending The University of Alabama Crimson Tide for being unanimously declared the 2009 NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision National Champions.

Whereas the Crimson Tide earned a berth in the 2010 BCS National Championship Game by defeating the then-unbeaten Florida Gators 32–13 in the 2009 Southeastern Conference Championship Game;

4 pages, highlighting the season – eventually, the request to transmit an enrolled copy of this bill to the Pres. of the Univ. of Alabama, the Athletic Director, and to the Football Coach
JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

“ARTICLE—

“SECTION 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year, unless two-
Concurrent Resolution

H. CON. RES. 106

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2009

Mr. BRIGHT (for himself and Mr. TERRY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress in support of a single national fuel economy standard.
Committee Activity

• Committee **Hearings**

• Committee **Reports** – states purpose and background of bill, changes to the bill, cost estimates, and text of bill (if in House). Written if committee “reports favorably” the bill to the full House or Senate.

• Committee **Prints** (can include staff reports, investigative reports, draft reports and bills)

• Committee **Documents** -
  – Per GPO’s new FDsys database, can include committee prints (“if ordered to printed as documents”), and reports of executive depts./agencies.
BIG OIL BAILOUT PREVENTION LIABILITY ACT OF 2010

AUGUST 5, 2010.—Ordered to be printed

Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, submitted the following,

REPORT
The Deepwater Horizon explosion and ongoing release of oil into the Gulf of Mexico have made it clear that the $75 million per incident liability limit applicable to offshore facilities under OPA is outdated and inappropriate. An analyst at the financial services company Raymond James recently estimated the total cost of the Deepwater Horizon disaster to be $63 billion, and Louisiana’s State Treasurer has estimated that environmental and economic damages could reach up to $100 billion. BP reports that it has incurred over $3 billion in response costs thus far. As of July 5, 2010, BP reported that it had already paid over $147,000,000 in claims.

In testimony before the House of Representatives, MIT economist Michael Greenstone also described how an artificial limit on liability removes incentives for safety. Lifting the limit on liability, which requires companies to bear the liability for drilling activities, will ensure companies have the maximum incentive to avoid events such as the Deepwater Horizon disaster.
TARGET DATE RETIREMENT FUNDS: LACK OF CLARITY AMONG STRUCTURES AND FEES RAISES CONCERNS

Summary of Committee Research

research firm, Morningstar, Inc., corroborated the Aging Committee’s findings, noting that among target date 2010 funds, stock allocations ranged from 26 percent of assets to 72 percent of assets.
LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION (LACPR) REPORT

Any program or assessment regarding the future sustainability of Louisiana’s coastline must consider historical and future trends in erosion and sea level rise. For instance, Louisiana has lost 1,900 square miles of land since the 1930s (Barras et al., 1994; Barras et al., 2003; Dunbar et al., 1992). Between 1990 and 2000, wetland loss was approximately 24 square miles per year. The projected loss over the next 50 years, with current restoration efforts accounted for, is estimated to be approximately 500 square miles (Barras et al., 2003). As the late coastal
To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 3043, the “ Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008.” This bill spends too much. It exceeds the reasonable and responsible levels for discretionary spending that I proposed to balance the budget by 2012. The Congress is on a path to spend $205 bil-
Keeping Current

• CQ Weekly is highly recommended (or other publications from CQ). Often includes an “outlook” for major topics under possible consideration.

• THOMAS database from the Library of Congress (“Current Activity” and “Weekly Top Five”)

• House and Senate websites

• For major legislation, newspaper or periodical articles are good starting points
Browse Articles by Topic

- Science
  - 2010

- July 19 - Overlapping Oil Spill Bills Strain House
- July 19 - Public Interest in the Private Sector
- July 19 - Pushing for A Venture Capitol
- July 26 - Bill Aims to Increase Funding for Security R&D
- July 26 - Chambers at Odds Over Funding Pace For Shift to Commercial Space Carriers
- July 26 - Senate’s $60 Billion Spending Bill Would Restructure NASA Programs
- August 9 - Mars: Containing the Red Menace
- August 9 - NASA Reauthorization Bill Passes in Senate; Hutchison Urges House Colleagues to Follow Suit
- August 16 - Case Study: A Blockbuster, but Not for Everyone
- August 16 - Case Study: Scientific Guidance, Political Rejection
- August 16 - Case Study: Using the Research in Coverage Decisions
- August 16 - Health Policy By Comparison
- August 16 - Much Evidence Still in Paper Files
- August 16 - New CMS Head Keeps His Down
- August 16 - PCORI: A New Health Acronym
- August 16 - Where the Health Research Is Happening
- September 6 - Stem Cell Ruling Draws Congressional Rebukes
- September 13 - Fall 2010 Outlook: Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations
- September 13 - Fall 2010 Outlook: NASA Reauthorization
- September 13 - Fall 2010 Outlook: Stem Cell Research
Fall 2010 Outlook: NASA Reauthorization

By Keith Perine, CQ Staff

Bills: S 3729, HR 5781

Outlook: The House is likely to pass its bill to reauthorize NASA, leading to talks with the Senate, which has passed companion legislation.
Synopsis: Bipartisan bills in both chambers would reauthorize the embattled space agency through fiscal 2013 and set parameters for the future of NASA’s human spaceflight program. But so far, the House and Senate authorizers have responded differently to President Obama’s fiscal 2011 budget proposal to shift the U.S. human spaceflight program toward commercial carriers. Lawmakers will have to resolve some disparities between the two bills, especially when it comes to funding the development of commercial spaceflight. The bill the Senate passed in August would devote much more money to transitioning to commercial carriers than the version approved in July by the House Science and Technology Committee.

For example, the Senate version would authorize $300 million in fiscal 2011 for commercial cargo development and $312 million for commercial crew development and related studies. The House bill would authorize $50 million for commercial crew development and $14 million for a commercial cargo demonstration program. As approved by the House panel, the House bill included another $100 million for a new loan guarantee program for commercial carriers. Both versions of the legislation would authorize one more flight for the space shuttle fleet, which is scheduled for retirement by next year.

The Senate version, which a bipartisan group of senators worked out in negotiations with the White House, hews more closely to Obama’s proposals for the future of NASA than does the House bill, and the White House has voiced support for the Senate version. If House and Senate lawmakers are not able to resolve their differences on an authorization measure, NASA policy language might be enacted as part of a prospective continuing resolution to fund the government after the current fiscal year expires Sept. 30. Provisions similar to the Senate reauthorization bill have already been written into the Senate version of the fiscal 2011 spending bill (S 3636) that would fund NASA.

Legislative action: House Science and Technology Committee approved HR 5781 (H Rept 111-576) by voice vote July 22. Senate passed S 3729 (S Rept 111-278) by voice vote Aug. 5.

Related stories: Senate passage of S 3729, CQ Weekly, p. 1934; House committee approval of HR 5781, p. 1812; Senate committee approval of S 3729, p. 1759.
# Bills to Watch | 111th Congress

(As of Sept. 24, 2010; * see the coverage in this issue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BILL</th>
<th>HOUSE</th>
<th>SENATE</th>
<th>ADMINISTRATION VIEW</th>
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| **Aviation Programs Authorization**  
HR 915 (H Rept 111-119, Parts 1 and 2); S 1451 (S Rept 111-82) (Story, p. 2237) | Passed HR 915 5/21/09 | Commerce, Science and Transportation approved S 1451 7/21/09 |  
| **Budget Guidelines for Fiscal 2011**  
H Res 1493; S Con Res 60 (CQ Weekly, p. 2094) | Adopted H Res 1493 7/1/10 | Budget approved S Con Res 60 4/22/10 |  
| **Campaign Finance Overhaul**  
HR 5175 (H Rept 111-492, Part 1); S 3628 (Story, p. 2233) | Passed HR 5175 6/24/10 | Rejected cloture on motion to proceed to debate on S 3628 7/27/10 | President supports HR 5175  
| **Climate Change and Energy Overhaul**  
HR 2454 (H Rept 111-137, Part 1); S 1733 (S Rept 111-121); S 1462 (S Rept 111-48); S 3663 (CQ Weekly, p. 2155) | Passed HR 2454 6/26/09 | Energy and Natural Resources approved S 1462 7/16/09  
Environment and Public Works approved S 1733 11/5/09 | President supports HR 2454 |
### Bills to Watch (Cont.)

<table>
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<th>Bill Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Defense Authorization for Fiscal 2011</td>
<td>Passed HR 5136 5/28/10</td>
<td>Rejected cloture on motion to proceed to debate on S 3454 9/21/10</td>
<td>Veto threatened on HR 5136</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intelligence Authorization</td>
<td>Passed HR 2701 2/26/10</td>
<td>Passed S 3611 8/5/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>NASA Authorization</td>
<td>Science and Technology approved HR 5781 7/22/10</td>
<td>Passed S 3729 8/5/10</td>
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<td>Oil Spill Response</td>
<td>Passed HR 5503 7/1/10</td>
<td>Passed HR 2693 and HR 5716 7/21/10</td>
<td>President supports HR 5851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transportation and Infrastructure approved HR 5629 7/1/10</td>
<td>Passed HR 2693 and HR 5716 7/21/10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Energy and Commerce approved HR 5626 7/15/10</td>
<td>Passed HR 2693 and HR 5716 7/21/10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty</td>
<td>Passed HR 2591 7/30/10</td>
<td>Passed HR 3534 and HR 5851 7/30/10</td>
<td>President supports treaty</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign Relations approved Treaty Doc 111-5 9/16/10</td>
<td>President supports treaty</td>
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THOMAS database – Library of Congress

http://thomas.loc.gov/
Select “More Search Options”
## S.3729

**Title:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010  
**Sponsor:** Sen Rockefeller, John D., IV [WV] (introduced 8/5/2010)  
**Cosponsors:** (None)  
**Related Bills:** H.R.5781  
**Latest Major Action:** 9/30/2010 Presented to President.  
**Senate Reports:** 111-278

<table>
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<th>All Information (except text)</th>
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BASIS OF ESTIMATE
For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 3729 will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2011 and that the amounts authorized and estimated to be necessary will be appropriated for each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the affected agencies and programs. S. 3729 would specifically authorize the appropriation of nearly $59 billion for NASA activities during the 2011-2013 period. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3729 would cost $58 billion over the 2011-2015 period.

For 2010, NASA received an appropriation of $19 billion to fund its activities. For the 2011-2013 period, S. 3729 would authorize the appropriation of $19 billion to $20 billion a year for NASA’s programs.
Bill Text Versions
111th Congress (2009-2010)
S.3729

“Reported” version – out of the committee’s work
“Engrossed” version – as passed by one body
“Enrolled” version – FINAL – what is sent to the President

There are 3 versions of Bill Number S.3729 for the 111th Congress. Usually, the last item is the most recent.

1. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (Reported in Senate - RS)[S.3729.RS][PDF]
The end of the fiscal year; vote taken at 11:36pm

9/29/2010 8:58pm:
DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 3729.

9/29/2010 9:41pm:
At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.

9/29/2010 11:30pm:
Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H7370-7371)

9/29/2010 11:36pm:
Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

9/29/2010 11:36pm:
On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 304 - 118 (Roll no. 561). (text: CR H7342-7354)

9/29/2010:
Cleared for White House.

9/30/2010:
Presented to President.
FDsys Database

• New GPO database – replaces GPO Access
• Our color handout is a screenshot of the collections on it
• URL for IE browser: http://www.fdsys.gov
• URL for Firefox: http://fdsys.gov
• URL per Google: www.gpo.gov/fdsys
Pending Legislation
These are bills that the President may sign in the coming days, posted for your evaluation and comment.

Signed Legislation
This is the full list of legislation the President has signed into law.

Vetoed Legislation
These are bills that the President declined to sign into law.
The White House – Pending Legislation - NASA

Links to THOMAS record
On October 11, 2010, the President signed into law:

S. 3729, the “National Aeronautics Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010,” which authorizes appropriations to NASA for FYs 2011-2013; requires development of a Space Launch System that can access the regions of space beyond low-earth orbit; requires continued support for development of commercial crew and cargo transportation capabilities; supports use of the International Space Station (ISS) through 2020; and requires one additional Space Shuttle mission to the ISS in FY 2011.
Congressional Hearings

• Held for important public policy issues in order to gather background info. for legislation.

• Example: the oil spill in the Gulf
  – Samantha Joye, Prof. of Marine Sciences at UGA, was asked to “testify” this summer.

• Dr. Joye’s prepared statements, like that of many other experts, convey and explain technical topics to a lay audience (Congress!)
Deluge of Oil Highlights Research and Technology Needs for Effective Cleanup of Oil Spills

of use in legislative research
Dr. Samantha Joye

Witness Panel II

(From L to R): Mr. Douglas Helton, Captain Anthony Lloyd, Ms. Sharon Buffington, and Dr. Albert Venosa

(From L to R): Dr. Jeffery Short, Dr. Samantha Joye, Dr. Richard Haut, Dr. Nancy Kinner, and Mr. Kevin Costner

For information on the witnesses, use the links at left.
It is virtually impossible to understand or quantify the ecological consequences of the BP blowout on the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem without knowing how much oil and gas has leaked from the wellhead. These numbers need to be estimated and corroborated independently based on available observational data. Unfortunately, the leak rate was not quantified.
Transcripts of Hearings (Q&A)

• It’s the opportunity for a Member of Congress to delve into a particular topic of interest with an expert – and get it on the record.

• Especially useful when witnesses are asked pointed questions from a Member of Congress –
  – the CEO of BP; bank executives; key staff from investment firms; former Enron executives; Toyota executives…

• Note: Not all hearings are “published”
LexisNexis Academic has the Q&A (text of hearing) in which Dr. Joye was witness (on 6/9)

Source: CQ Transcriptions (loaded 6/10)
June 9, 2010 – Q&A with Dr. Joye

**Rep. Baird** - ...Dr. Joye...Can you talk to us a little bit about the impact of this spill on both harmful algal blooms, dead zones, and then if you've got some knowledge on deep-sea corals in particular.

**Dr. Joye** – Sure...So the organisms in the ocean that are responding to this oil spill are predominantly ones that eat methane and eat oil. So those organisms are all heterotrophic and in the upper water column they're oxygen-consuming heterotrophs.

So those organisms are being turned on by the -- stimulated, if you will -- by the input of oil and gas. What that does to the higher trophic levels of the system is -- is -- it's -- it's an abnormal stimulation. How that will cascade up to higher trophic levels is very unclear.
Dr. Joye - In terms of the benzoic ecosystems, the Gulf of Mexico...

Rep. BAIRD: I'm -- I'm going to have to ask you to be very brief. Tell us what benzoic organisms are and then...

Dr. JOYE: So they're...

Rep. BAIRD: I know this, but...

Dr. JOYE: ...yes, so they're organisms that live on the sea floor all around the Gulf of Mexico. And these organisms include deepwater corals...

If you take away oxygen from the water those organisms will not be able to survive so the -- the implications and repercussions of -- of the oil and gas incident to the water column will be immediately felt by -- by any -- any creature that needs oxygen, if oxygen is depleted in the water.

Rep. BAIRD: So the oil doesn't -- the oil is -- is consumed by a certain category of organisms. In the process of doing that they also consume oxygen that deoxygenates the water column and that has adverse repercussions throughout the food chain.

Dr. JOYE: Exactly. So the bottom line is that it's good that they're getting rid of the oil, but you're also getting rid of oxygen...

Committee Hearings – Additional Info.

- In addition to outside expert testimony, hearings often contain reports submitted by agencies. Of particular interest are those from:

**GAO (Government Accountability Office)**

GAO’s mission is to “…provide Congress with timely information that is objective, fact-based, nonpartisan, non-ideological, fair, and balanced.”

Reports can be found on GAO’s website, or often from FDSys, Committee websites, or LexisNexis Academic.
Why GAO Did This Study
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is in the midst of many changes and one of the most challenging periods in its history. The space shuttle is slated to retire this year; the International Space Station nears completion but remains underutilized, and a new means of human space flight is under development. Most recently, the administration has proposed a new direction for NASA.

Amid all this potential change, GAO was asked to review the key issues facing NASA. This testimony focuses on four areas: 1) retiring the space shuttle; 2) utilizing and sustaining the International Space Station; 3) continuing difficulty developing large-scale systems, including the next generation of human spaceflight systems; and 4) continuing weaknesses in financial management and information technology systems.

What GAO Found
The major challenges NASA faces include:

- **Retiring the Space Shuttle.** The impending end of shuttle missions poses challenges to the completion and operation of the International Space Station, and will require NASA to carry out an array of activities to deal with shuttle staff, equipment, and property. This year the shuttle is scheduled to fly its final six missions to deliver hardware, supplies, and an international laboratory to the International Space Station. NASA officials remain confident that the current manifest can be accomplished within the given time, and add that should delays occur, the space station can still function. According to NASA, there are trade-offs the agency can make in what it can take up to support and sustain the station. However, failure to complete assembly would further reduce the station’s ability to fulfill its research objectives and short the station of critical space parts that only the shuttle can currently deliver. Retirement of the shuttle will require disposing of facilities; ensuring the retention of critical skills within NASA’s workforce and its suppliers; and disposing of more than 1 million equipment items.

- **Utilizing the International Space Station.** The space station, which is nearly complete, faces several significant challenges that may impede efforts to maximize utilization of its research facilities. These include the retirement of the shuttle and the loss of its unmatched capacity to move cargo and astronauts to and from the station; the uncertain future for the station beyond 2015; and the limited time available for research during the period leading up to the conclusion.
United States Government Accountability Office

GAO

Testimony
Before the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives

For Release on Delivery
Expected at 10:00 a.m. EST
Wednesday, February 3, 2010

NASA

Key Management and Program Challenges

Statement of Cristina Chaplain, Director
Acquisition and Sourcing Management
Wednesday's hearing did not include policy officials from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration or the Obama administration, but instead gathered three of the organizations that watch over NASA: the agency's inspector general, Congress's General Accounting Office and the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel.
LexisNexis Academic – By Category
News Transcripts → CQ Congressional Testimony

**Sources by Category**
- News Transcripts (140)
  - Federal News Service (49)
  - CQ Congressional Testimony (25)
  - CQ Transcriptions (25)
  - Financial Market Regulatory Wire (23)
  - CNN Transcripts (11)
  - CBS News Transcripts (2)

- Newswires & Press Releases (75)
- Law Reviews & Journals (1)

Publication Name
NASA CHALLENGES;
COMMITTEE: HOUSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY;
SUBCOMMITTEE: SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY
LENGTH: 3254 words

TESTIMONY-BY: CRISTINA CHAPLAIN, DIRECTOR
AFFILIATION: UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Statement of Cristina Chaplain Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management United States Government Accountability Office
Committee on House Science and Technology Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics
February 3, 2010
HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

February 3, 2010

Serial No. 111–73

Printed for the use of the Committee on Science and Technology
CRS Reports

- Congressional Research Service (CRS) is part of the legislative branch – it’s within the Library of Congress.
  - It has as its mission to provide Congress with “comprehensive and reliable legislative research and analysis that are timely, objective, authoritative, and confidential…”

Even though the reports are the work of a government agency, they are not released to the public; availability is limited. Occasionally, a Member of Congress adds it to a committee report, or on his/her website.
CRS Reports – cont’d.

• More frequently, 3 outside sources provide access - from:
• Open CRS - http://opencrs.com/
• FAS (Federation of American Scientists) http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/index.html
• Univ. of North Texas http://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/CRSR/
CRS Reports

• From Open CRS –
  – Try this site first; but note that you cannot limit by date, nor limit within search results

• From FAS –
  – Focus is on 10 *broad* topics related to national security and foreign policy + Miscellaneous
  – Search is performed on the *entire* FAS site

• From Univ. of North Texas –
  – Browse by topic; search by title, subject, or full-text.
138 reports retrieved for “oil spill”

Oil Spills in US Coastal Waters - Open CRS - CRS Reports for the ... 
Apr 30, 2010 ... During the past two decades, while U.S. oil imports and consumption have steadily risen, oil spill incidents and the volume of oil spilled ...
opencrs.com/document/RL33705/

[PDF] Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Selected Issues for Congress 
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View 
Survey, the 2010 Gulf spill has become the largest oil spill in U.S. waters, ... Exxon Valdez spill several times over. The oil spill has damaged natural ...
assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R41262_20100618.pdf

[PDF] The 2010 Oil Spill: Natural Resource Damage Assessment Under the ... 
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View 
Sep 8, 2010 ... 39 For an analysis of criminal laws related to wildlife harm, see CRS Report R41308, The 2010 Oil Spill: Criminal ...
opencrs.com/document/R41396/2010-09-08/download/1013/

[PDF] Oil Spills in US Coastal Waters: Background, Governance, and ... 
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View 
by JL Ramseur - 2009 - Related articles 
Aug 27, 2009 ... 8 For example, California passed the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act in 1990. More ...
assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33705_20090827.pdf
Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Selected Issues for Congress

Curry L. Hagerty, Coordinator
Specialist in Energy and Natural Resources Policy

Jonathan L. Ramseur, Coordinator
Specialist in Environmental Policy

June 18, 2010
Congressional Record
Published since 1875

- Daily – and – Bound editions (the latter published years later, but is the official version)
  - Index – by subject, title of bill, Member of Congress
  - Daily Digest – actions (hearings, committees)

- It is what happens on the floor (mostly) – bills introduced (sometimes the text); debates, remarks
  - “extension of remarks” section for Members of Congress to change text, or to insert items not delivered on the floor, such as: speeches, articles, etc.
Examples of Remarks

• “Do not call yourself an environmentalist and vote against this rule. Ladies and gentlemen, this isn’t Burger King and you cannot have it both ways.” (8/9/84, p.23469).

• “Mr. Chairman: Under this administration’s mismanagement; budget cuts; lack of enforcement; sweetheart deals with industry; and most basic total lack of commitment to assuring the safety of our environment, we have lost almost four years in the effort to clean up toxic wastes. We must act now…” (8/9/84, p.23538).
Corps of Engineers: require operation of the Allatoona Dam and Reservoir Project to allow continued provision of water to the Atlanta, GA, region (see S. 3911, S7788 [29SE]

S.3911 -- To require the Secretary of the Army to operate the Buford Dam/Lake Sidney Lanier Project and the Allatoona Dam and Reservoir Project, and for other purposes. (Introduced in Senate - IS)

S 3911 IS

111th CONGRESS

2d Session

S. 3911

To require the Secretary of the Army to operate the Buford Dam/Lake Sidney Lanier Project and the Allatoona Dam and Reservoir Project, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

September 29, 2010
Voting in the House

• Electronic voting was introduced in 1971.
• If a voice vote, noted as “Aye” and “No”
  – If it is difficult to determine the result, members rise in favor rise and are counted (and afterwards, those opposed)
  – Only the total number is known in the above examples
• Votes identified by member name are listed at “Yea” or “Nay” or “Present”.
Commercial Sources for Legislative Information
(available at many libraries)

• From CQ Press (now part of Sage; for many years was Congressional Quarterly Inc.):
  – Congress and the Nation (every 4 years)
  – CQ Almanac (annual)
  – CQ Weekly (formerly Congressional Quarterly weekly report)

• Periodicals and newspapers (especially New York Times and Washington Post) – use:
  – Academic Search Complete (an EBSCOHost database)
  – LexisNexis Academic
CQ Almanac

• Since 1945, Congressional Quarterly has offered in-depth analysis of the path legislation takes through Congress, including how bills are changed, derailed, or ultimately passed during an annual session of Congress.

http://www.cqpress.com/

Congressional Quarterly Almanac 1948 – 2000
CQ ... Almanac Plus 2001 – 2006
CQ ... Almanac 2007 - ?
CQ Almanac Online
2. Congress Clears Two Measures In Support of 'Do Not Call'


Subjects: TELECOMMUNICATION -- Law & legislation; TELEMARKETING; UNITED States; UNITED States. Congress; UNITED States. Federal Trade Commission; Administration of General Economic Programs; Telemarketing Bureaus and Other Contact Centers; Legislative Bodies

Database: Academic Search Complete

CQ Weekly -- House cleared Bill S 781 Feb. 6 indefinitely extend telemarketers fees to fund registry (Senate passed bill in Dec.). Feb. 6 Senate cleared by voice vote House-passed HR 3541 to bar FTC from purging millions registry phone numbers. Established in 2003 (PL 108-10)
CQ’s Congress and the Nation – new ed. (XII) just released
http://www.cqpress.com
Sources for Congressional Activity in the Last Decade

• Example: For the Do-Not-Call Registry and related legislation
  – *Congress and the Nation* (from CQ) provides detailed timeline with background info. – and, the resulting legal actions relating to the law.
  – THOMAS database
  – FDsys database

• After a bill becomes a law, it is not end of the process because of lawsuits. It can take many years to resolve.

• Laws of course can be amended by future Congresses
The process of a bill becoming a public law is usually lengthy. Bill introduced & passed in 2 days.

With speed seldom seen in Congress, both chambers in 2003 rushed through legislation (HR 3161) to validate the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) “do not call” registry that was intended to halt unwanted telemarketing calls into private homes.

…

On Sept. 23 U.S. District Court Judge Lee R. West in Oklahoma ruled that the FTC did not have the authority to begin enforcing its registry. The public outcry was swift and loud, and it was clearly heard in the halls of Congress. The opportunity to block un-wanted sales calls was hugely popular across the country. On Sept. 24 Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, met with aides at noon and ordered them to draft legislation explicitly authorizing the FTC to launch the registry. From there on it was a fast train to enactment.
Tauzin at first encountered difficulty in getting HR 3161 to the House floor as leaders were reluctant to add it to a continuing funding resolution. He then turned to the news media, holding a 3 p.m. press conference at which he attacked the Oklahoma court ruling. That in turn launched a deluge of statements and press releases from other House members expressing outrage at the decision. By 5:30 p.m. House leaders agreed to take up the legislation the following day. On Sept. 25 the House on a key vote of 412-8 (R 219-5; D 192-3; I 1-0) passed the bill before lunchtime. The Senate cleared the bill by a 95-0 vote later the same day.

Before President George W. Bush signed the bill into law Sept. 29 (PL 108-82), a federal judge in Denver, Colorado, put the registry on hold, ruling that it violated the free speech rights of telemarketers because it exempted charitable organizations. Judge Edward W. Nottingham blocked the FTC plan to begin enforcement on Oct. 1. A federal appeals court ruled Oct. 7 that the FTC could begin enforcing the list while the case was argued.

On Feb. 17, 2004, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, where several cases had been consolidated, upheld the constitutionality of the law. The U.S. Supreme Court on Oct. 4, 2004, upheld the decision by declining to review the lower court ruling.
Fdsys – Advanced Search Do-Not Call

Congressional Bills

Title

“do not call”
9. H.R. 3161 (EH) - An act to ratify the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to establish a do-not-call registry. [PDF 151 KB]
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, SECTION 1. NATIONAL DO NOT-CALL REGISTRY. (a)... More Information
Search: Do Not Call
Bill Text Search Results

2000 Bills from multiple Congresses ranked by relevance on "do+not+call ".
81 bills containing your phrase exactly as entered.
44 bills containing all your search words near each other in any order.

7. [110th] Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007 (Reported in Senate - RS)[S.2096.RS][PDF]
8. [110th] Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007 (Reported in House - RH)[H.R.3541.RH][PDF]
10. [110th] Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007 (Introduced in Senate - IS)[S.2096.IS][PDF]
THOMAS – “Bill Summary & Status”
Do-Not-Call Registry

Bill Summary & Status
H.R.3161

H.R.3161
Title: To ratify the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to establish a do-not-call registry.
Sponsor: Rep Tauzin, W. J. (Billy) [LA-3] (introduced 9/24/2003)  Cosponsors (39)
Related Bills: S.1654, S.1655
Latest Major Action: Became Public Law No: 108-82 [GPO: Text, PDF]
U.S. Code

- FREE online version is on FDsys database
- Consider searching in one of the commercial sources. They provide additional information, such as relevant legal cases.
  - U.S.C.A. (United States Code Annotated, from West Publishing)
  - U.S.C.S. (United States Code Service, from Bender (acquired by LexisNexis, and so on on LexisNexis Academic database (select US Legal))
Historical Sources (free online government databases)

- **THOMAS** (from Library of Congress – “LC”)
- **FDSys** database from GPO

- **A Century of Lawmaking** (part of American Memory Project, from LC)
  - Optically scanned; NOT full-text searchable, but good subject indexes and browse features
THOMAS – “Bill Summary & Status” – Grand Canyon

S.1296
Title: Grand Canyon National Park Enlargement Act
Cosponsors (27)
Related Bills: H.RES.1420

All Information (except text) | CRS Summary | Major Congressional Actions
--- | --- | ---
**Titles** | Cosponsors (27) | All Congressional Actions with Amendments
**Related Bills** | Related Committee Documents | With links to Congressional Record pages, votes, reports
CBO Cost Estimates | Subjects |
THOMAS “Bill Summary and Status” – “Major Congressional Actions” – Grand Canyon

S.1296
Title: Grand Canyon National Park Enlargement Act
Related Bills: H.RES.1420

MAJOR ACTIONS:

3/20/1973 Introduced in Senate
9/21/1973 Reported to Senate from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs with amendment, S. Rept. 93-406.
9/24/1973 Passed/agreed to in Senate: Measure passed Senate, amended.
9/25/1974 Reported to House from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs with amendment, H. Rept. 93-1374.
10/10/1974 Passed/agreed to in House: Measure passed House, amended.
12/18/1974 Conference report agreed to in Senate: Senate agreed to conference report.
12/18/1974 Cleared for White House
12/24/1974 Measure presented to President.
1/3/1975 Signed by President.
Searched LC’s database for 22\textsuperscript{nd} Congress – House – re the Georgia boundary with Florida.
A Century of Lawmaking (database from LC)

- 1789-1838 - American State Papers
- 1817-1875 – “Serial Set” – Documents and Reports plus others ordered printed. Includes reports of executive depts.
- 1789-1875 - House and Senate Journals
  - Contains “legislative minutes, votes, history of bills, procedural matters, and Presidential messages” (per Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, D.C. - LLSDC – website: www.llsdc.org)
A Century of Lawmaking
Congressional Record & predecessor publications

- 1824-1837 - Register of Debates (privately published)
  - Appendix to each session contained Presidential messages, public laws, and selected executive department and congressional committee reports (per LLSDC)

- 1833-73 - Congressional Globe (privately published)
  - No committee reports or hearings (per LLSDC)

- 1873-75 of the Congressional Record
1 item retrieved with “georgia boundary florida” near each other
American State Papers
Part of online A Century of Lawmaking

- 1789-1838 – covers 9 topics (Foreign Relations; Finance …) plus Miscellaneous
- Legislative and executive documents of Congress
- Online has these features:
  - Browse by topic/span of years
  - Index within each topic/span of years
  - Search
### American State Papers – Foreign Relations

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Note: time span from 1789 to 1828 for Foreign Relations
Some entries for the subject “Boundary”, within the general topic “Foreign Relations”, from 1789-1797

- Boundary, (Eastern)--Measures respecting, ... 30, 48
- Between Spanish possessions and the United States, ... 30, 44
- Between the United States and Choctaws, ... 60
- Northeastern and Northwestern, convention formed for their demarkation, 1803, 62
- Between Louisiana and the possessions of Spain, ... 66, 68
- Eastern, message and papers respecting, 1790, ... 90, 99
- Report of a committee on, 1790, ... 100
- Between Spain and the United States, instructions of the American Secretary of State to American commissioners, respecting, 1792, March 18, ... 252
- Southern, of Georgia and the Spanish territory; examination of the question by Messrs. Carmichael and Short, 1793, 438

Last entry is from the Duke of Alcudia (Spain). Next slide shows entry that is circled.
Spain sets up a claim to possessions within the State of Georgia, founded on her having rescued them by force from the British during the late war...

France, on our invitation, lauded a large army within our territories…but she did not pretend to keep possession of the places rescued...

At the conclusion of the war, Great Britain, on the 30th of November, 1782, by treaty acknowledged our independence, and our boundary, to wit: the Mississippi to the west, and the completion of the 31st degree, &c. to the south.
Historical Sources (expensive commercial sources)

• **CIS U.S. Serial Set Index** (print ed.)
  – Many academic libraries own this; useful to identify major topics and relevant sessions of Congress

• **U.S. Serial Set Digital Collection** (from LexisNexis)

• **U.S. Congressional Serial Set** (from Readex)
Boundary line betwixt Georgia and Florida
H. doc. 43 (22-1) 217
Register of Debates (pub. by Gales & Seaton)

taxes to one or the other Government. The State of Georgia had disposed of the question in a summary way, by running the line according to the view the authorities of the State entertain of the subject. We claim, and the United States are prepared to maintain it, that this land was ceded by Spain to this Government, and that the line has been run and settled, under the treaty of 1795, and that all the land south of that line was acquired, is now owned by the United States, and is a component part of the territory he represented. To understand this question properly, it would be necessary to print, for the use of the House, with this message, the previous correspondence and reports on the subject; and he would submit a motion to print the message, and documents accompanying the same, as well as those heretofore presented, that the House might act upon the subject with a full knowledge of the facts. Mr. W. moved to refer them to the Committee on the Judiciary; which was agreed to.

Mr. WHITE asked the indulgence of the House to allow him to present a letter he had the honor to receive from Mr. Gallatin, and another from the draughtsman of the General Land Office, relating to the report of the commissioners of Spain and the United States.

The motion was, by unanimous consent, received, and the papers ordered to be printed.
U.S. House
http://www.house.gov/

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View live streaming video of the House Chamber and searchable video archives of the House
From http://www.senate.gov/ find Senator web sites for contact info. (E-mail etc.)
The 2010 COMO "Congressional Information Demystified" presentation and handout will be available on the "Government Information" Research Guide from the Georgia Tech Library at: http://libguides.gatech.edu/government ("Legislation")

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