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Congressional Reports

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Congressional Reports

Content and File Format

The [Congressional Reports](#) databases contain House, Senate, and executive reports from the 104th Congress (1995-96) through the present. The “List of Reports available online,” which appears as the first hit in every results list, lists by report number all of the Congressional reports that are currently available via *GPO Access*. The database for the current Congress is updated irregularly, as electronic versions of the documents become available. Reports are available as [ASCII text](#) and [Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) files. [1] Graphics, including scanned images of camera-ready copy, are available from the PDF files but are not included in the ASCII text files.

Fielded Searches

Fielded searches allow you to make your search more specific by limiting your results by preselected elements, such as Congress and type of report. The fields for the *Congressional Reports* databases are as follows:

Congress: 104th, 105th, and 106th

Type of report: Senate reports, House reports, and executive reports

To select or deselect a field, click on the appropriate box or circle. You may search for one or multiple types of reports with a single query. However, you may choose only one option in regard to the Congress. Queries that do not specify a field will perform a search of all of the report types.

Note: The fielded-search page automatically defaults to the current Congress. If you do not wish to search the reports from this Congress, you must deselect the corresponding radio button by choosing another.

Maximum Responses

The maximum responses you may receive from a query is set at a default of 40. To locate a larger number of documents (up to 200), you must change the setting. All of the *GPO Access* search pages provide a box in which you may change the maximum number of returned documents. Generally, 40 responses should be adequate to retrieve the document for which you are searching. If you cannot find a desired document with the default 40 responses, you may want to try making your query more specific before expanding the number of returned documents.

Identification Codes

In the list that displays your query results, the title of each *Congressional Reports* document is preceded by an identification code. The identification code contains two elements: a database abbreviation and the report number. For example, in the listing "H.Rpt.106-18 Spending under current law," "H.Rpt." stands for House reports, "106-18" is the report number, and "Spending under current law" is the title of the report. Variations on the database abbreviation are "S.Rpt." for Senate reports and "E.Rpt." for executive reports. The report number contains the number of the Congress during which the report was published (e.g., "H.Rpt.106-18" was published by the 106th Congress).

List of Available Reports

To view a current list of Congressional reports available via *GPO Access*, click on the "submit" button on the search page without having entered any query terms and then select the appropriate document from the results list. The list of reports pertains to the Congress that is selected.

Sample Searches

The following sample searches are provided as guides to popular types of searches in the *Congressional Reports* databases. They are performed in the *Congressional Reports* database for the 105th Congress. [2]

Search by Subject

This type of search returns reports that are related to a specific subject. The word(s) that you enter as your search term(s) may appear anywhere within the report.

Query: "ethics"

Results: H.Rpt.105-848 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS
H.Rpt.105-797 IN THE MATTER OF REPRESENTATIVE JAY KIM
H.Rpt.105-1 IN THE MATTER OF REPRESENTATIVE NEWT GINGRICH

(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

Search by Report Number

This type of search returns documents based on report number. The returned documents may be reports that bear the number you have entered as a query, or they may reference the report number in their title or text, as in a regular subject search. If a field for report type is not specified, the search will return relevant Senate, House, and executive reports.

Query: "105-22"

Results: E.Rpt.105-22 MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATIES WITH AUSTRALIA
H.Rpt.105-834 REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES
H.Rpt.105-842 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ON ACTIVITIES

(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

Note: While a report number may be used in a query, a full identification code (e.g., "E.Rpt.105-22") will not produce a successful search.

Search by Bill Number

This type of search returns reports that pertain to a given bill. The bill number may be typed with or without punctuation. If no punctuation is used, you must leave a space between the "h" and the "r" for bills in the House.

Query: "h.r. 3"
Alternative: "h r 3"

Results: H.Rpt.105-86 JUVENILE CRIME CONTROL ACT OF 1997
H.Rpt.105-89 H.R. 3, THE JUVENILE CRIME CONTROL ACT OF 1997
H.Rpt.105-405 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF
(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

Search for Executive Report and Corresponding Treaty Document

This type of search allows you to retrieve an executive report and its corresponding treaty document. It requires you to perform the same search in both the *Congressional Reports* and the [Congressional Documents](#) databases. To narrow the search results, check the boxes for executive reports in *Congressional Reports* and treaty documents in *Congressional Documents*.

Query: **grains**

Results: E.Rpt.105-16 INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT, 1995 [from *Reports*]
T.Doc.105-4 INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT, 1995 [from *Documents*]
(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

A treaty document presents a treaty as submitted to the Senate for ratification by the president of the United States. The corresponding executive report from the Committee on Foreign Relations provides the committee's recommendations on the treaty.

Footnotes

[1] Users with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software can view documents as they appear in the printed version. This software is available from Adobe's Web site at the following URL:
<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>.

[2] The results of these sample searches are described as they appear on the Web interface. The display of the results may vary for users of the WAIS client and SWAIS software.

[Questions or comments](#) regarding this service? Contact the **GPO Access User Support Team**
by Internet e-mail at gpoaccess@gpo.gov;
by telephone at **1-202-512-1530** or toll-free at **1-888-293-6498**;
or by fax at **1-202-512-1262**.