

Now Available

Bill text, bill summary and status for the 107th through the 112th congresses

New Features

- Effective display on mobile devices
- Member profiles of all members serving from the 93rd through the 112th congresses
- Ability to simultaneously search all content across all available years
- Ability to narrow and refine search results
- Consistent and permanent urls
- Improved information architecture

**By the End of
2012**

Bill summaries and bill status from the 93rd Congress through the present
Bill text from the 103rd Congress through the present

**Other Additions
During Beta
Stage**

Congressional Record, Congressional Record index, House and Senate calendars, congressional reports, committee landing pages, nominations, treaties, executive communications



THOMAS

FACT SHEET ON THE PUBLIC LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM (THOMAS)

Jan. 5, 1995

Named for the third president, THOMAS (thomas.loc.gov) debuts in time for the start of the 104th Congress. The Library built the original system in just three weeks, responding to a request from Congress on December 15, 1994. The inaugural system featured full text of House and Senate bills from the 103rd Congress, a directory of congressional committees and Members of Congress, weekly floor schedules for the House, and a schedule of daily committee hearings. Before year's end, the Congressional Record and Index, Bill Summary and Status files, and House and Senate bills from 104th Congress are added.

Summer 1996

Changes in graphic design improve the system's appearance and facilitate navigation both within the THOMAS system and through connections to other Internet resources. The addition of House and Senate Committee reports and links to House and Senate Committee homepages reveal the process that takes place from the introduction of a bill through floor action. Historical documents are added, such as the text of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Federalist Papers and broadsides and papers pertaining to the Continental Congress and 1789 Constitutional Conventions. The ability to perform keyword searches on these documents greatly ease research on the founding of the nation and its governance.

Jan. 1997

Legislative Information System (LIS) for the legislative branch debuts.

2001

Modernization of THOMAS appearance, streamlined instructions for enhanced usability.

Nov. 2005

THOMAS gets a new look and additional features to improve site navigation and expand functionality. Highlights included a revised home page, links to full texts of treaties from treaty records, historical information on previous congressional sessions and information for teachers.

Jan. 2010

In celebration of its 15th anniversary, THOMAS is updated for the second session of the 111th Congress. New items include a bookmarking and sharing toolbar, a "Top Five" bills of the week feature, a new RSS feed, links to contact information for members of Congress, a tip of the week, availability of Government Printing Office's PDF version of bills, and increased timeout interval for search results (from 5 to 20 minutes).