

Bibliotips

ELECTRONIC DATABASES

LexisNexis
Congressional

Alfred R. Neumann Library, University of Houston Clear Lake

LexisNexis Congressional brings together information published by and about the United States Congress. It provides links to the full range of legislative and public policy resources, including hearing transcripts and submitted testimony, committee reports, bills, public laws, selected committee prints, congressional documents, *Congressional Record*, *Federal Register*, *Code of Federal Regulations* and *U.S. Code*, etc.

STARTING LEXISNEXIS CONGRESSIONAL AND SELECTING A SEARCH CATEGORY

From the library's World Wide Web homepage (<http://www.uhcl.edu/library>), click on **Research a Topic**, then **Databases A-Z**. Select the tab **Databases by Name**, click **L**, and then click on the **LexisNexis Congressional** hyperlink.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis Congressional website. At the top right, there are navigation links: Home, How Do I?, Site Map, and Help. The main content area is a list of search categories, each with a red underlined link and a brief description. On the left side, there are two vertical menus: 'Congressional Search Forms' and 'Search for Other Information'. Two callout boxes provide instructions: one points to the 'CIS Index' link with the text 'At the Main Menu, click on the desired search category to see a list of available search options.', and another points to the 'Bills' link with the text 'Click on the hypertext link to open a search form.' To the right of the 'Bills' link, a sub-menu titled 'Bills' is visible, containing links for 'Bill Tracking', 'Bill Tracking by number', 'Bills', 'Bills by number', and 'Hot Bills'. The 'Congressional Search Forms' menu includes links for CIS Index, Cong. Indexes, Publications, Testimony, Bills, Laws, Regulations, Members, Committees, Inside Washington, Hot Bills/Topics, and List of Links. The 'Search for Other Information' menu includes links for Academic and Statistical.

Search Category	Description
CIS Index	CIS indexing and abstracting of congressional publications and the CIS Legislative Histories (1970-present)
Congressional Indexes, 1789-1969	Congressional Indexes, 1789-1969 and Indexes to Unpublished Hearings through 1976
Publications	Full text of congressional reports, documents, prints, bills and the Congressional Record
Testimony	Prepared statements and selected question & answer transcripts (1988-present)
Bills	Bill tracking reports that follow bills through Congress and the text of bills
Laws	Public laws and the United States Code Service
Regulations	The Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations
Members	Biographical and financial information and voting records
Committees	Rosters, charters and schedules for committees and subcommittees
Inside Washington	An insider's perspective on recent legislative activities
Hot Bills/Topics	Relevant publications on key American public policy issues
List of Links	Other Web sites with useful information about Congress and American politics

Congressional Search Forms

- CIS Index
- Cong. Indexes, 1789-1969
- Publications
- Testimony
- Bills
- Laws
- Regulations
- Members
- Committees
- Inside Washington
- Hot Bills/Topics
- List of Links

Search for Other Information

- Academic
- Statistical

Bills

- [Bill Tracking](#)
- [Bill Tracking by number](#)
- [Bills](#)
- [Bills by number](#)
- [Hot Bills](#)

BASIC SEARCHING

After selecting a search category and a search option, a search form will appear. Search forms for different search categories may differ slightly, but most share common features.

Sample search form for searching CIS Legislative Histories:

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis search interface. On the left is a sidebar with search categories: Congressional Search Forms, CIS Index, Subject, History Number, Legislative History (highlighted), Committee, Title, Witness, Bill Number, Document number, Bibliographic, and Cong. Indexes, 1789-1969. The main search form is titled 'Search CIS Legislative Histories by keyword.' and includes fields for 'on a subject:', 'with these words in the title:', and 'from this Congress:'. A 'Search' button and a 'Clear Form' button are at the bottom. Annotations with arrows point to various parts: 'Click here for more help on completing the form and examples of citing the resources retrieved through this form.' points to a 'tips' link; 'Choose a Boolean operator (and, or, or and not)' points to a dropdown menu; 'Enter a term or a phrase.' points to the title search field; 'Choose a congress.' points to the Congress dropdown; 'Click on the box next to your desired term and then click Paste to Search.' points to a 'Paste to Search' button in a sub-section titled 'Find a search term in the CIS subject list'.

How to search:

1. Select a search category, e.g., **CIS Index**, at the *Main Menu*.
2. Select a search option, e.g., **Legislative Histories**.
3. If subject search is available, click on **Subject List** to choose from an index of controlled subject terms. On that screen, search by entering a word rather than a letter to save searching time. Click **Paste to Search** after selecting a term.
4. If keyword search is available, enter all terms in lower case (searches are not case sensitive and will search all terms entered as a phrase by default). See **Advanced Searching Tips** below for more information.
5. If a pull-down menu is available, click on the down arrow to open and select from a list of choices (e.g., time periods, Boolean operators, etc.).
6. Click **Search** after entering all your terms.

ADVANCED SEARCHING TIPS

Expand or narrow your search by using Boolean logic, proximity indicators, and truncation symbols:

and	medicare and budget
or	income or revenue
and not	hearings and not notices
w/n	airport w/5 security
*	wom*n
!	balance!

finds both words in the same document
 finds either word in the same document
 finds first word without the second word
 finds first word within 5 words of second word
 finds *woman* or *women*
 finds *balance*, *balanced* and *balances*

VIEWING YOUR RESULTS

Your search will return a list of matches (hits) for the terms you typed. This list will tell how many documents were found. The results list has 25 citations on each page. When there are more than 25 documents in the answer set, use the **Next Results** and **Previous Results** buttons to navigate through different pages of the list. You may wish to narrow your search if you have too many hits. Use **FOCUS** Search to add additional terms. Use **Edit Search** to return to the search form and revise your strategy.

The screenshot shows the search results page for the query "employee benefit plans", family medical leave act. It includes a search bar with the terms, a 'Search Within Results' button, and 'Print' and 'Email' buttons. Below the search bar are tabs for 'Document List', 'Expanded List', 'KWIC', and 'Full'. A 'Tag for delivery' section has a 'Clear' button. A callout box points to the 'KWIC' or 'Full' buttons with the text: 'Click on the highlighted links or the KWIC or Full button to view text.' The first result is '1. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF: P.L. 103-3, Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, CIS-NO: 93-PL103-3, CIS-DATE: December, 1993, DOC-TYPE: Legislative History, DATE: Feb. 5, 1993, LENGTH: 24 p., CIS Legislative Histories'. The page number 'Document 1 - 1 of 1.' is shown at the bottom right.

Search Terms: "employee benefit plans", Family Medical Leave Act

FOCUS™ Search Within Results Edit Search

Document List Expanded List **KWIC** Full Document 1 of 1

CIS Legislative Histories
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93 CIS PL 1033; 103 CIS Legis. Hist. P.L. 3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF: [P.L. 103-3](#)

TITLE: Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

CIS-NO: 93-PL103-3
CIS-DATE: December, 1993
DOC-TYPE: Legislative History
DATE: Feb. 5, 1993
LENGTH: 24 p.

KEYWORDS: ... MEDICAL LEAVE ACT; PREGNANCY; FAMILIES; ADOPTION; FEDERAL EMPLOYEES; CHILDREN; AGED AND AGING; SMALL BUSINESS; GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS; EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS; HEALTH INSURANCE; DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYEES; COMMISSION ON LEAVE; FEDERAL ADVISORY BODIES

KWIC View shows only text containing your search results.

Document List Expanded List KWIC **Full** Document 1 of 1

CIS Legislative Histories
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93 CIS PL 1033; 103 CIS Legis. Hist. P.L. 3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF: [P.L. 103-3](#)

TITLE: Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

CIS-NO: 93-PL103-3
CIS-DATE: December, 1993
DOC-TYPE: Legislative History
DATE: Feb. 5, 1993
LENGTH: 24 p.
ENACTED-BILL: [103 H.R. 1 Retrieve Bill Tracking report](#)
STAT: 107 Stat. 6
CONG-SESS: 103-1
ITEM-NO: 575

SUMMARY:
"To grant family and temporary medical leave under certain circumstances."

Entitles eligible private sector and government employees to up to 12 weeks of unpaid medical leave for a serious health condition, and up to 12 weeks of unpaid family leaves of absence for childbirth, adoption, and care of infants or seriously ill children, spouses, or parents.

BILLS: [99 H.R. 2020](#); [99 H.R. 4300](#); [99 S. 2278](#); [100 H.R. 284](#); [100 H.R. 925](#); [100 S. 249](#); [100 S. 2488](#); [101 H.R. 770](#); [101 S. 345](#); [102 H.R. 2](#); [102 S. 5](#); [102 S. 418](#); [102 S. 688](#); [103 S. 5](#)

DESCRIPTORS:
FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT; PREGNANCY; FAMILIES; ADOPTION; FEDERAL EMPLOYEES; CHILDREN; AGED AND AGING; SMALL BUSINESS; GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS; EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS; HEALTH INSURANCE; DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYEES; COMMISSION ON LEAVE; FEDERAL ADVISORY BODIES

REFERENCES:
DEBATE:
136 Congressional Record, 101st Congress, 2nd Session - 1990
May 9, House consideration of H.R. 770, [p. H2157](#),
Mar. 16, House consideration of H.R. 770, [p. H4655](#),
Mar. 16, House consideration of H.R. 770, [p. H4655](#),
Mar. 16, House consideration of H.R. 770, [p. H4655](#)

Full View shows the full text. Legislative History full text contains links to the public law, bill tracking reports, bill text, related bills and debates from *Congressional Record*.

PRINTING, SAVING AND E-MAILING RESULTS

Please review your search for relevant documents before printing. To print or save your results, click on the **Print** tab, and then the **Display Document** button to get a clean copy of the document. To print, use the browser's print features. Click on **File**, select **Print**, and press **OK**. To save, place an IBM-formatted disk in drive A. Then click **File** and select **Save As**. At the *save in* pull-down menu, select **floppy (A:)**; then click **Save**. To e-mail your document, click on the **E-mail** tab. At the address box prompt, enter your e-mail address. When ready, click on the **E-mail** button.

LOCATING FULL TEXT OF CONGRESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

LexisNexis Congressional provides full text access to:

- all reports from 1993 forward and selected ones from 1991-1992
- all hearings from 1994 forward
- 15 percent of committee prints from 1995 forward
- 75 percent of house and senate documents from 1995 forward

Publications not available in full text are available in microfiche format in the Neumann Library. Use the page numbers provided through the CIS abstracts for a specific section of the microfiche copy. To locate a microfiche copy, use the unique CIS accession number, e.g., CIS-NO: 95-H783-22. The CIS microfiche collection is located at call number KF49.C62 in the Microfiche Area on the library's 1st level next to the Current Periodicals area. Some CIS publications may be available in paper format; search the Library Catalog using the publication's title or SuDoc number provided through the *CIS Index*.

Consult a reference librarian if assistance is needed.

Document List Expanded List KWIC **Full** Document 2 of 11. [previous](#) [next](#)

Locate a Copy of This Publication in Your Library

CIS/Index
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TITLE: Direct Broadcast Satellite Service and Competition

CIS-NO: 2002-H521-11

SOURCE: Committee on the Judiciary, House

DOC-TYPE: Hearing [Retrieve the full text of testimony](#)

DATE: Dec. 4, 2001

LENGTH: iv+141 p. il.

CONG-SESS: 107-1

ITEM-NO: 1020-4; 1020-9

SUDOC: Y4.J89/1:107/50

GPO-STOCK-NO: 552-070-27875-3.

SUMMARY:
Committee Serial No. 50. Hearing to examine proposed merger of EchoStar Communications Corp. and Hughes Electronics Corp., and to assess implications of merger for competition in the cable TV and direct broadcast satellite markets.

Supplementary material (p. 3-13, 50-60, 87-141) includes submitted statements, correspondence, an article, a press

Use this no. to locate the microfiche copy in the Microfiche Area at KF49.C62.

Click here to link to the full text document.

Search this no. in the Library Catalog to see if UHCL has a paper copy of this document.



HOW TO CITE ARTICLES FROM LexisNexis CONGRESSIONAL

For sample citations, click on **Tips** in the upper right corner of your search form. See sample search form on page 2.

Source, coverage, and update schedule for the Lexis Nexis CONGRESSIONAL content:

Contents	Coverage	Updated	Source
Bill Text	1989 - current	Daily when Congress is in session	LexisNexis
Bill Tracking (includes CRS Bill Digest)	1989 - current	Daily when Congress is in session	LexisNexis
Campaign Contributions from Individuals and PACs	1987 - current	Monthly during even-numbered years; quarterly during odd-numbered year	FEC
Campaign Financial Data	1989 - current	Monthly during even-numbered years; quarterly during odd-numbered year	FEC (Fed. Election Comm.)
CIS Indexing & Abstracts	1970 - current	Monthly	CIS
CIS Legislative Histories	1970 - current	Annually	CIS
Code of Federal Regulations	Current	Every two weeks	Michie
Committee Information	Current	As Available	LexisNexis
Committee Reports	1990 - current	Daily when Congress is in session	LexisNexis
Congressional Committee Schedules	1996 - current	Daily	FNS (Federal News Service)
Congressional Indexes, 1789-1969	1789-1969	Archive	CIS
Congressional Record	1985 - current	Daily when Congress is in session	LexisNexis
Congressional Testimony	1988 - current	Daily	FDCH (Fed. Doc. Clearing House) and FNS
Federal Register	1980 - current	Daily	LexisNexis
Hot Bills and Topics	Current	Monthly	CIS
House & Senate Documents	1995 - current	Monthly	LexisNexis
Key Votes in Congress	1987 - current	As Available	LexisNexis
Member Financial Disclosures	1991 - current	Annually	LexisNexis
Member Information	Current	As Available	LexisNexis
Profiling of Congressional Membership	Current	As Available	LexisNexis
Public Laws	1988 - current	Within 2 weeks after a law is passed	LexisNexis
Roll Call	1989 - current	Semi-weekly	Roll Call, Inc.
Rules	Current	As Available	LexisNexis
Select Committee Prints	1993 - current	Monthly	CIS
The Hill	1995 - current	Weekly	The Hill
United States Code	Current	Monthly	LexisNexis
Voting Records in Congress	1988 - current	Daily	LexisNexis
Washington Post	1977 - current	Daily	Washington Post