

# The Congressional Data Task Force

Public Meeting

Thursday September 29, 2022

# The Congressional Data Task Force

The Task Force is a partnership of representatives from various Legislative Branch Agencies including the—

- House of Representatives,
- Senate,
- Library of Congress,
- Government Publishing Office,
- Government Accounting Office

that work in a cooperative manner to coordinate and accomplish openness and transparency goals.

# The Congressional Data Task Force

- The Bulk Data Task Force was created in 2012 to focus on increased dissemination of congressional information via bulk data
- *current work goes beyond bulk data*
  - meets internally with Legislative Branch organizations to coordinate projects and other transparency and modernization initiatives
  - meets with civil society organizations

*The name changed to the Congressional Data Task Force on June 21, 2022*

# Legislative Branch Innovation Hub

<https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/>

# AGENDA

1. Welcome, Background, and Announcements
2. Reports/Updates from Legislative Branch organizations
3. Reports/Updates from civil society organizations
4. Time for Discussion/Questions and Answers
5. Announcements/Closing

*Meeting ends at 4:00 pm EST*

# Housekeeping Items



*The meeting will be recorded and posted online at <https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/>*



*Use the Q&A feature to ask questions. The panelists will respond during the meeting.*



*Use the “raise hand” feature during the Q&A portion so we can unmute your mic.*



*Make sure the name displayed is you. Using the chat, please share a little about yourself. Suggestions: your name, where you work, and expectations for this meeting.*



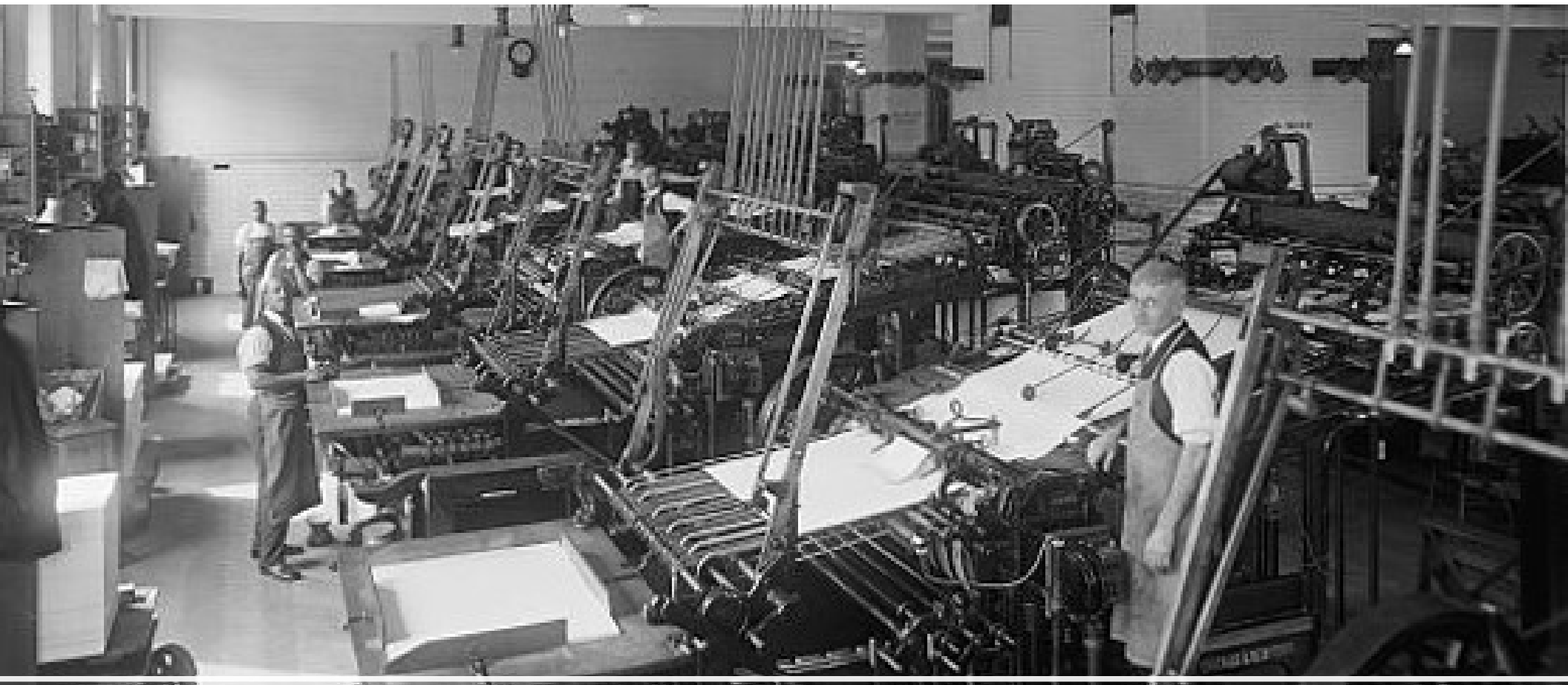
*Meeting will start at ~2:02 pm and end at 4:00 pm EST*

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**PREPARE**





**MANAGE**



**DISTRIBUTE**



**ARCHIVE/PRESERVE**

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. R. 3712

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

### A BILL

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. JAMES M. & THOMAS W.L. ASHLEY CUSTOMS

#### BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURT-

#### HOUSE

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, shall be known as the “James M. & Thomas

2

1 W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Court-  
2 house”.

3 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-  
4 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United  
5 States to the Federal building and United States court-  
6 house referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be  
7 a reference to the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Cus-  
8 toms Building and United States Courthouse”.

○

The paper  
version is the  
official document  
of record.





**Adding a digital layer to a  
centuries-old paper process**

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88TH CONGRESS  
2d Session

# H. R. 7152

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 1964

Ordered printed as passed the House

## AN ACT

To enforce the constitutional right to vote, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the United States to provide injunctive relief against discrimination in public accommodations, to authorize the Attorney General to institute suits to protect constitutional rights in public facilities and public education, to extend the Commission on Civil Rights, to prevent discrimination in federally assisted programs, to establish a Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity, and for other purposes.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That this Act may be cited as "The Civil Rights Act of



**Online means more  
than just the  
electronic  
representation of  
the paper document**

# The Solution

## Structured Data

Formats: XML, JSON, HTML...

*GPO Developer Hub at [GovInfo.gov/developers](http://GovInfo.gov/developers)*

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The three characteristics that documents share:

- **Presentation:** how the content looks
- **Structure:** how the content is organized
- **Semantics:** what does it mean

# The Solution: XML USLM schema

## Legislative Branch Innovation Hub

[About the Hub](#)[Leadership Support](#)[Data Standardization](#)[Reports](#)[Events](#)[Resources](#)

### Reports

#### Standardized Formats for Legislative Documents, USLM

- **Initial Report** - Required by Section 501 of House Resolution 756 of the 116th Congress - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 1 - October 15, 2020 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 2 - January 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 3 - April 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 4 - July 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 5 - October 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 6 - January 15, 2022 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 7 - April 15, 2022 - [PDF](#)

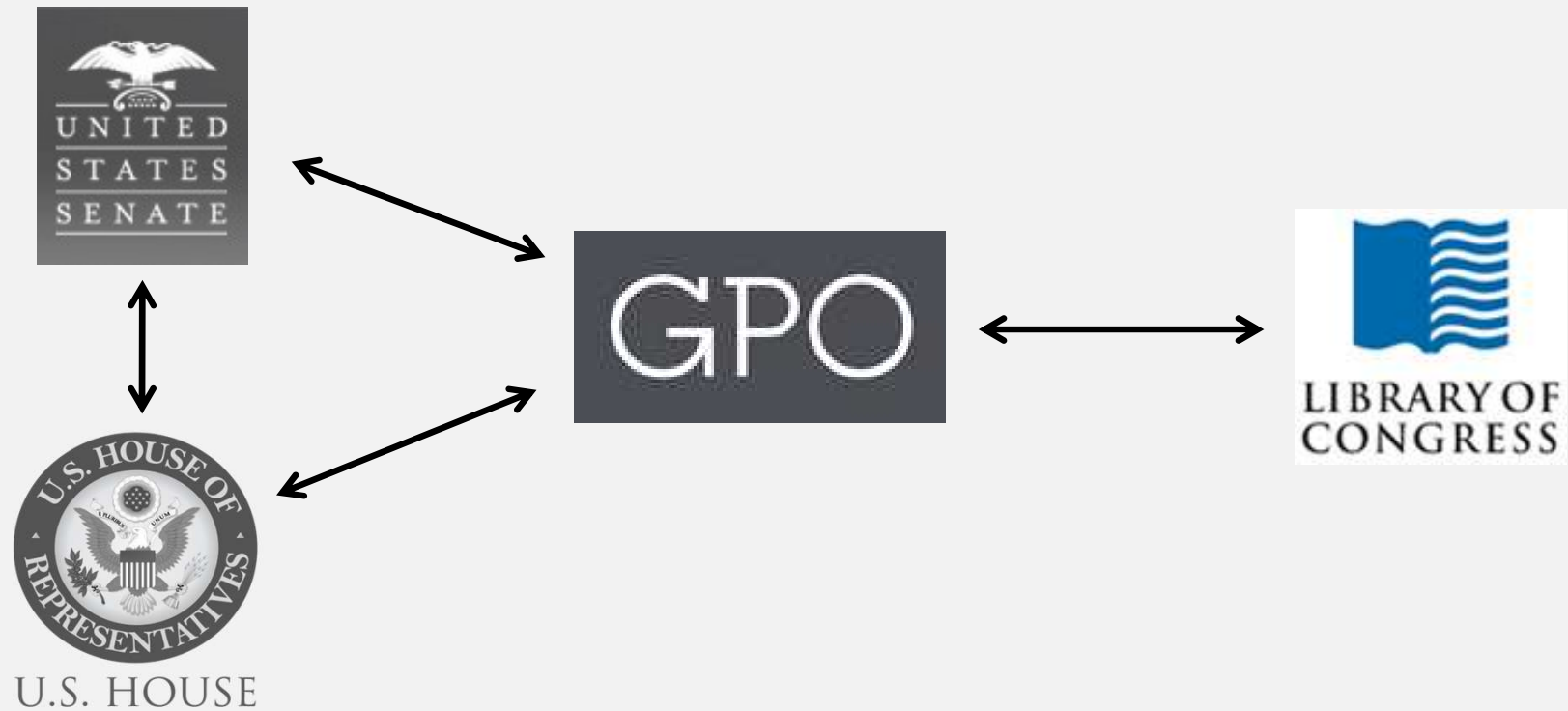
[//usgpo.github.io/innovation/reports/](https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/reports/)



# The Solution: JSON HTML

- Continued excitement about*
  - the release of the Congress.gov API*
- upcoming release of responsive HTML for bill text*
- Work being done regarding USLM and data modeling*

# Data Exchange: Simple



More comprehensive workflows can be found on the Innovation Hub:  
<https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/resources/>



**Adding a digital layer to a  
centuries-old paper process**

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...since the  
last meeting

- 9/21/2022: virtual forum on Congress.gov
  - Release of Congress.gov API
  - Congress.gov is ten years old!
- Introduction of H. Res. 1331, ModCom recommendations

# The Congressional Data Task Force

Name Change

As the Bulk Data Task Force continues its work to increase transparency, identify efficiencies and modernize data in the legislative branch, its name should reflect its current mission and activities. The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress recommended changing the Task Force name to the Congressional Data Task Force.<sup>2</sup> The Committee on House Administration agrees with this recommendation, and hereby directs the Office of the Clerk to change the Task Force name to the Congressional Data Task Force.

## Name change

Excerpt: letter from Committee on House  
Administration date June 16, 2022

# Next on the Agenda

## *Legislative Branch organizations*

- Library of Congress
- House
  - Clerk
  - CAO
- Senate Secretary's Office
- GPO

*time for discussion*

# Q&A/Discussion



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Upcoming  
Product  
Releases



# Congressional Redistricting

## Gain one

- Five
- Colorado
  - Florida
  - Montana
  - North Carolina
  - Oregon

## Gain two

- One
- Texas

## Stay the Same

37

## Lose one

- Seven
- California
  - Illinois
  - Michigan
  - New York
  - Ohio
  - Pennsylvania
  - West Virginia

70 current members, if elected, will have different district numbers in the 118<sup>th</sup> than they did in the 117<sup>th</sup>.

# Unique Identifiers

## Members

BioGuide IDs

— A000370

<https://bioguide.congress.gov/search/bio/A000370>

<https://clerk.house.gov/members/A000370>

## House Committees/Subcommittees

Historic four-digit code

— AG00

<https://clerk.house.gov/committees/AG00>

<https://clerk.house.gov/committees/AG14>

# Q&A/Discussion



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*Roadmap for Publishing Legislative Documents in USLM XML Format<sup>1</sup>*

Completed	U.S. Code
Completed	Enrolled bills, public laws, and the Statutes at Large
Completed	HOLC/SOLC statute compilations
IN PROGRESS <i>Initiated</i>	Remaining bill/resolution versions (introduced, reported, engrossed, all amendments, et. al.)
C	Committee Reports
D	House portions of the <i>Congressional Record</i> , including the <i>Daily Digest</i>
E	Hearing record
F	House Calendar
G	<i>Precedents of the U.S. House of Representatives</i>
H	<i>House Journal</i>

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3. Reports/Updates from LOC, GPO, Clerk, Secretary
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*Meeting ends at 4:00 pm EST*

## Resources

**<https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/>**

Next  
Meeting

Tuesday, December 13  
2:00 to 4:00 pm EST

# Thank you

**Kirsten Gullickson**

Office of the Clerk  
U.S. House of Representatives

[Kirsten.Gullickson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kirsten.Gullickson@mail.house.gov)

For more information:  
[USGPO.GITHUB.IO/INNOVATION/](https://USGPO.GITHUB.IO/INNOVATION/)



# Thank you for attending!

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