Legislative Data and Transparency Conference

Federal Hall on Wall St. N.Y.——and Washington's installation 1789.

Public Galleries: available in April, 1789

PREPARE

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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".

1   *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 **SECTION 1. JAMES M. & THOMAS W.L. ASHLEY CUSTOMS**
4   **BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURT-**
5   **HOUSE.**
6   (a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United
7 States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in
8 Toledo, Ohio, shall be known as the "James M. & Thomas

---

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.

Today's House Chamber

Kiosks
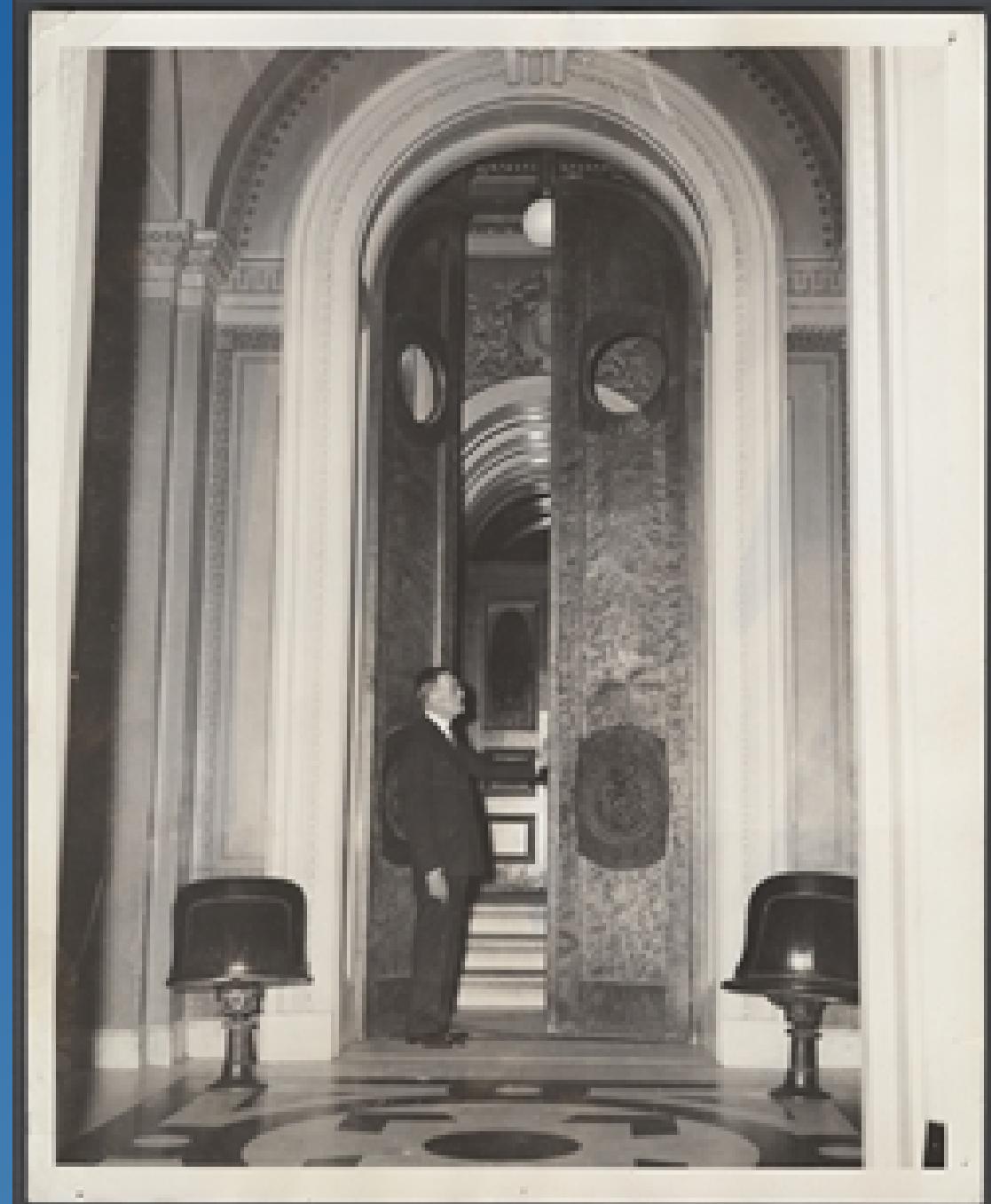
Digital displays

http://history.house.gov/mediacontent/Video/capitol/capitol-house-chamber-symbols.jpg

https://geobrava.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/8787-
mobile_2d00_device_2d00_security.jpg
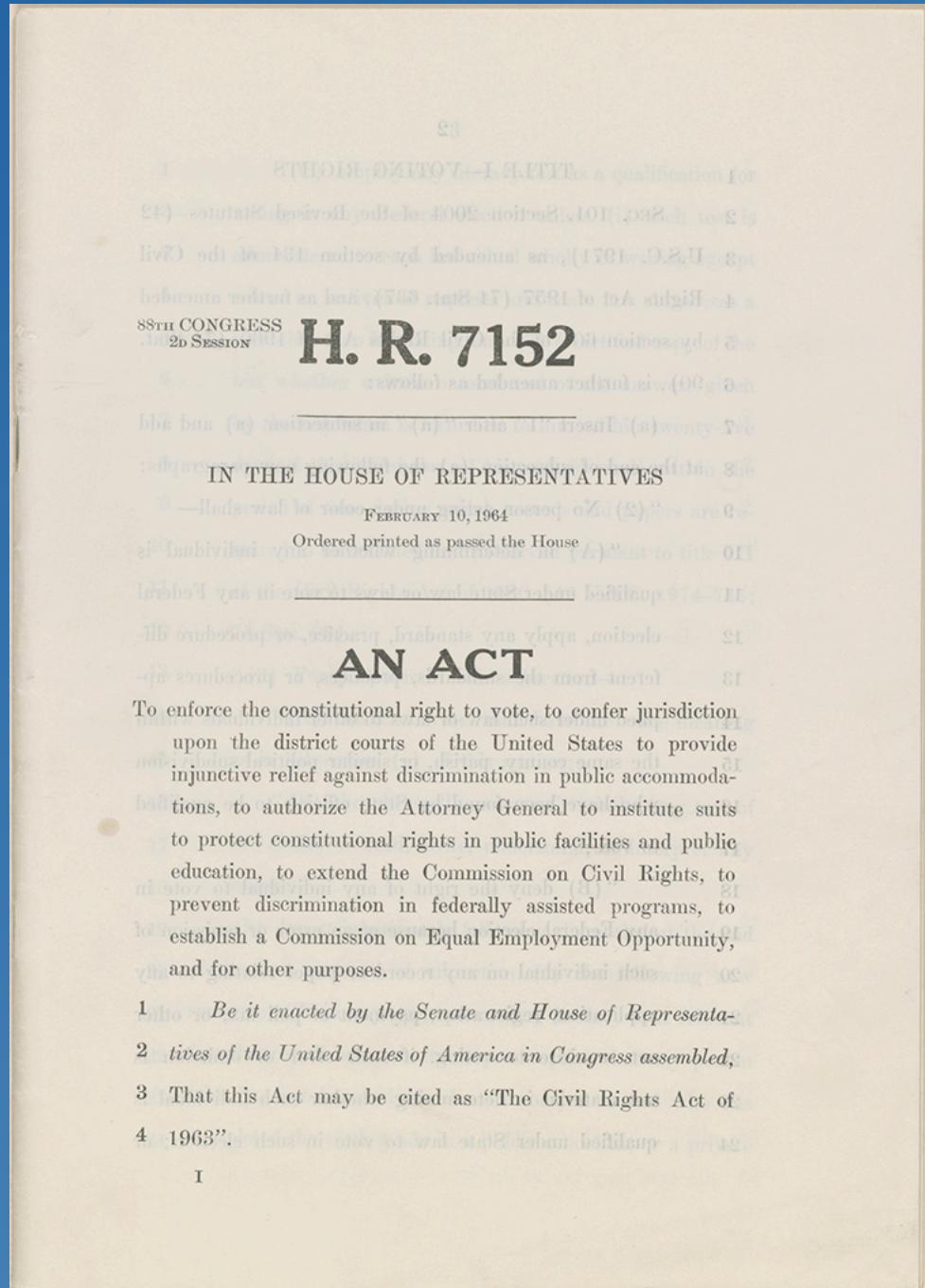
Opening the doors of Congress

Today's Challenge:
How do parliaments modernize their systems to utilize today's newer technologies to help citizens access free & timely legislative & legal information?

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

Qualities of Government Data

Government Data Should Be:

- **ACCESSIBLE**
- **ACCURATE**
- **COMPLETE**
- **DESCRIBED**
- **FREE**
- **MACHINE-READABLE**
- **PERMANENT**
- **SEARCHABLE**
- **TIMELY**
- **USABLE**

- **ACCESSIBLE** also includes **available, discoverable, and online**

Where do members of parliament, staff, and the public access legislative information? It is available? Easy to find? How and where? Accessible data also implies that the data is online and discoverable by humans and computers.

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- **ACCURATE** also includes **trusted**

Are the documents and data accurate? Do they tell the story of the legislative process in manner that is understandable to a broad audience? Can it be trusted? How is it authenticated? Parliaments should be the authoritative source for their records and ensure that information released to the public is accurate and trusted.

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- **COMPLETE** also includes **detailed**

It is complete? Detailed? Legislative processes are complex. Legislative information needs to be as complete as possible, reflecting the entirely of the legislative actions, subject only to narrowly defined exceptions.

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- **DESCRIBED**

Is the legislative information described for all parties using the information? When publishing structured formats, such as XML, a user guide and/or data dictionary defining the formats is a must.

Government Data Should Be:

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- **FREE**

Data should be available free of charge and in a non-discriminatory manner.

Government Data Should Be:

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- **MACHINE-READABLE**

Can a computer read and analyze the data using data models that are understood by the widest possible audience? Are best practices being used?

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- **PERMANENT**

Is the legislative information available permanently? Are URLs and URIs durable? Predictable? Permanent? Persistent?

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- **SEARCHABLE**

Can the data be searched? And to what degree?

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- **USABLE**

- **TIMELY**

Is it timely? Can it be provided in real time? Legislative information should be released publicly as quickly as it is available internally to members and staff.

Government Data Should Be:

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- **USABLE**

- **USABLE**

Is it usable? Has the legislative data been published in a manner that is usable by all parties using the information?

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- **FREE**
- **MACHINE-READABLE**
- **PERMANENT**
- **SEARCHABLE**
- **TIMELY**
- **USABLE**

Hopper

Clerk Seal
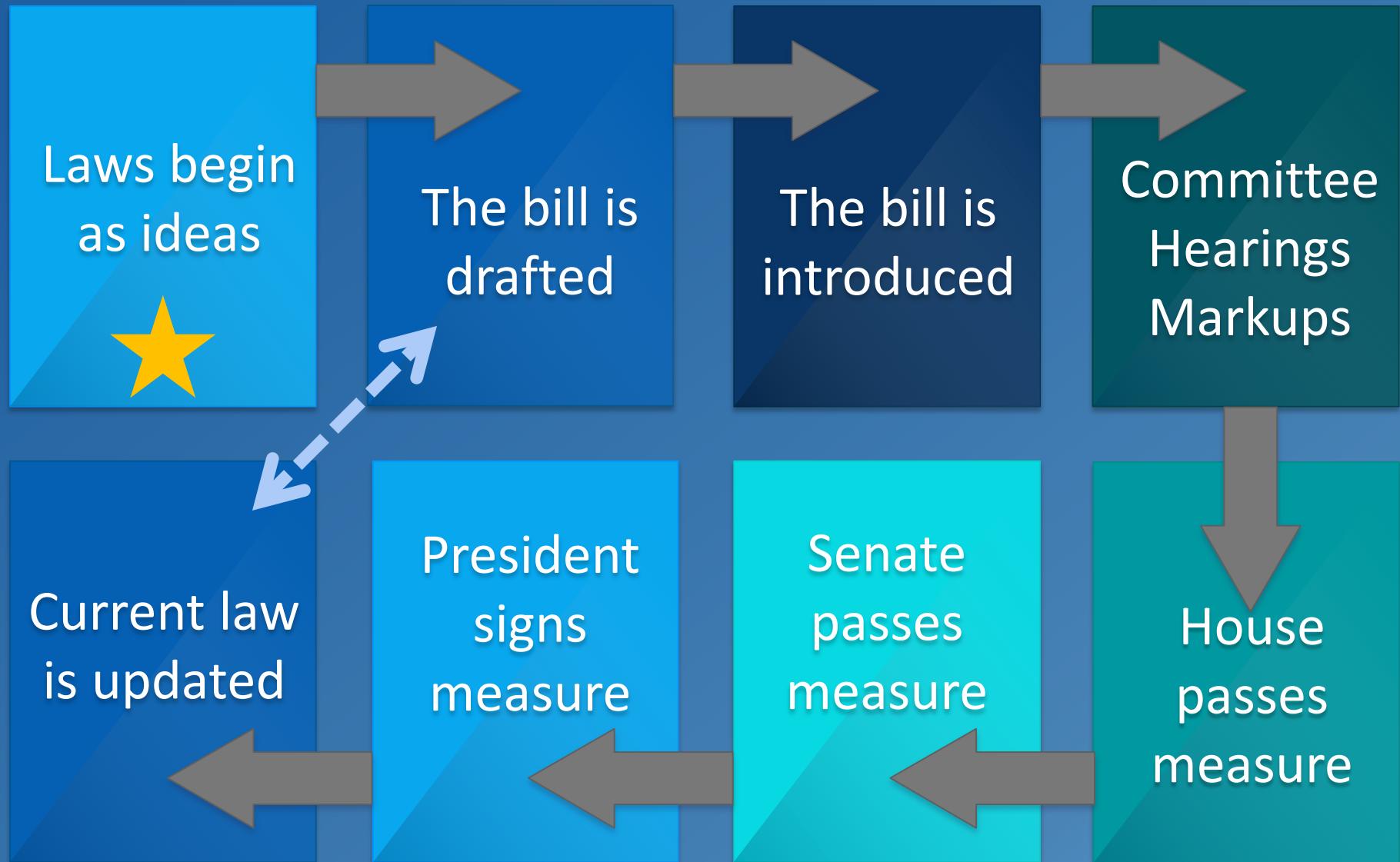
The Challenge

Systems to create, manage and distribute legislative data and documents must-

- be quick and flexible;
- have no interruptions, no failures, no risk, and no to little cost;
- meet the changing needs of the members and the public.

Well-equipped and well-trained staff can and do handle these constraints well.
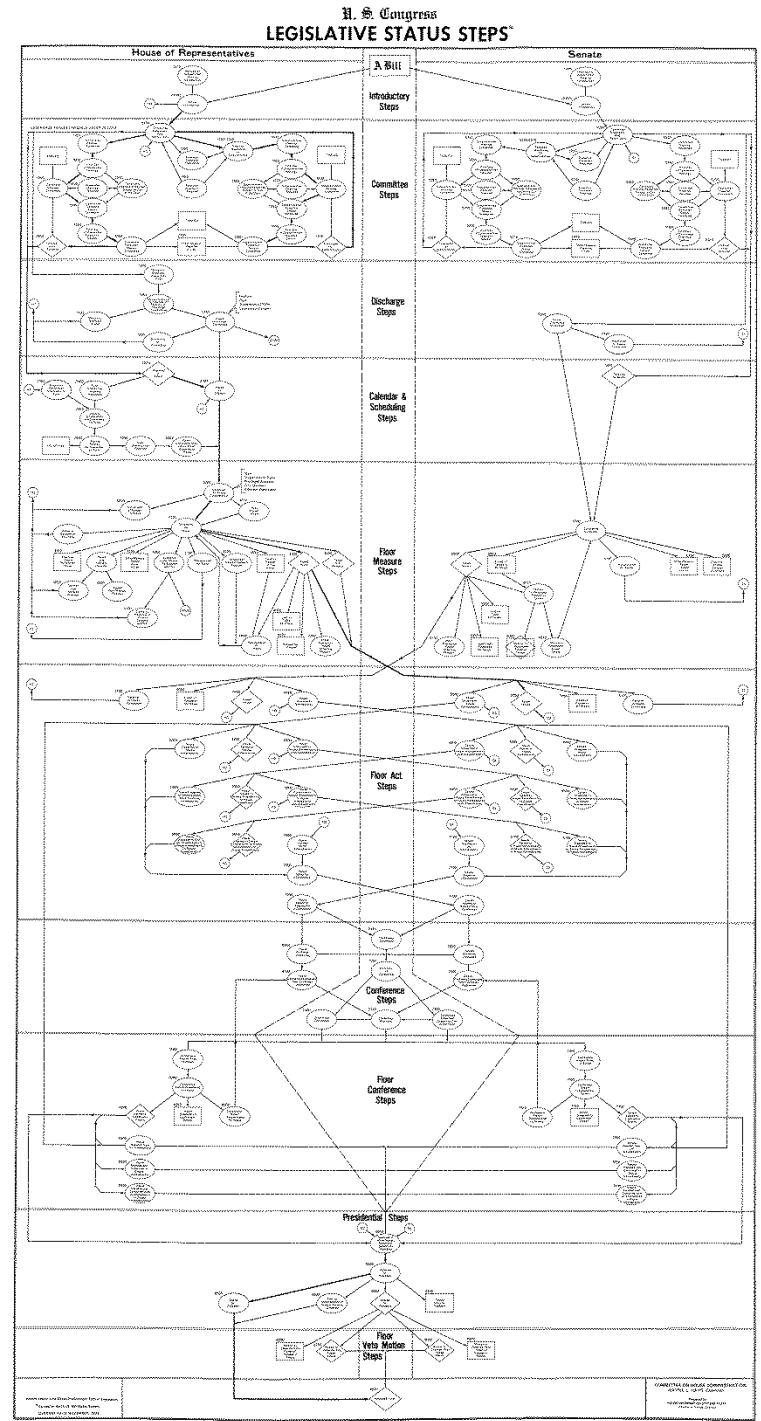
How a Bill Becomes the Law

Laws begin as ideas ⭐	→	The bill is drafted	→	The bill is introduced	→	Committee Hearings Markups
Current law is updated	←	President signs measure	←	Senate passes measure	←	House passes measure

FLO-0035-2DA-8N

The legislative process is complicated and rarely predictable.

The shortest success path for a bill to become law is twenty decision points

How Our Laws Are Made
Legislative Process Workflows

Copies available in the foyer

The Solution: Structured Data Formats: XML, JSON, HTML

JSON (early version of draft model)

```json
{
    type:"Person",
    id:"http://clerkapi.house.gov/Members/A000374",
    usCongressBio:"A000374",
    familyName:"Abraham",
    sortName:"Abraham",
    unaccentedName:"Abraham",
    address:{
        type:"Organization",
        addressRegion:"LA",
        district:""
    },
    memberOf:{
        type:"Organization",
        id:"",
        identifier:"R",
        name:"Republican Party"
    },
    vote:"Yea"
}
```

XML Basics

Element

Attribute

```xml
<recorded-vote>
<legislator name-id="C001101" party="D">
Ms. Clark</legislator>
<vote>Yea</vote>
</recorded-vote>

<recorded-vote>
           name-id="B001250" party="R">
Mr. Bishop</legislator>
<vote>Yea</vote>
</recorded-vote>
```

XML – snippet from H.R. 3663

```xml
18 <legis-num display="yes">H. R. 3663</legis-num>
19 <current-chamber display="no"></current-chamber>
20 <legis-type>AN ACT</legis-type>
21 <official-title display="yes">To designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans
   Affairs in Huntington, West Virginia, as the Hershel <quote>Woody</quote> Williams VA
   Medical Center.</official-title>
22 </form>
23 <legis-body id="H44101C58E6DD4670A1B9462D5BB186BC" style="OLC">
24 <section id="H9C04732FA2DC4AC481BA294A2F4CD1B3" section-type="section-one"><enum>1.</enum>
   <header>Designation of Hershel <quote>Woody</quote> Williams VA Medical Center in
   Huntington, West Virginia</header>
25 <subsection id="H470330FDC2DC4C0DB7EE1339377B5BB5"><enum>(a)</enum>
   <header>Designation</header><text>The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs
   in Huntington, West Virginia, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known
   and designated as the <quote>Hershel <quote>Woody</quote> Williams VA Medical
   Center</quote>.</text></subsection> <subsection id="H0C901D45703B42C08618D73BF26D0AA6">
```

Structured data
provides a means to publish
raw data and for others to add value.

XML is a markup language that defines a set of rules for encoding documents in a format that is both human-readable and machine-readable.

Documents
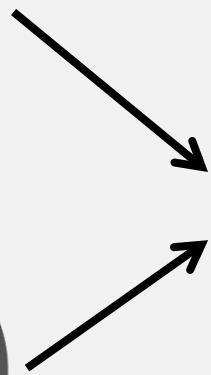
- Documents have three characteristics:
  - Presentation: how it looks
  - Structure: how is it organized
  - Semantics: what does it mean

Simple Workflow

Finding Legislative Information
United States House

DOCS.HOUSE.GOV
Text of legislation being considered now

CLERK.HOUSE.GOV & clerkpreview.house.gov
House information

CONGRESS.GOV
House and Senate data and documents

GOVINFO.GOV
all government documents

www.githhub.com/usgpo

www.govinfo.gov/bulkdata

Technology Timeline

http://xml.house.gov/resources/TechTimeline.htm

Thank you
Merci
Gracias

Kirsten Gullickson

Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

Kirsten.Gullickson@mail.house.gov
Twitter: @GullicksonK

For more information:
XML.HOUSE.GOV

Legislative Data and Transparency Conference

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Deputy Clerk

U.S. House of Representatives

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The House Bulk Data Task Force

The Bulk Data Task Force is a partnership of representatives from the various Legislative Branch Agencies such as:

- 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 House Bulk Data Task Force

- created in 2012 to focus on increased dissemination of congressional information via <u>bulk data</u>

- meets internally with Leg. Branch organizations to coordinate projects and other transparency initiatives

- meets with civil society organizations

CLERK | UNITED STATES HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Projects

PAST:

- 2013 Bills in XML in bulk
- 2013 US Code in XML
- 2013 docs.house.gov repositories
- 2014 Bill Summaries in XML in bulk
- 2014 Member data in XML
- 2014 Data Challenges
- 2015 Bill Status in bulk.

Roadmap for More Docs in USLM

Completed	U.S. Code
Current Stage	Enrolled bills, Public Laws, and Statutes at Large
A	HOLC/SOLC compilations (non-positive law)
B	Remaining bill/resolution versions (introduced, reported, engrossed, all amendments, et. al.)
C	Committee Reports
D	House portions of the *Congressional Record*, including the *Daily Digest*
E	Hearing Record
F	House Calendar
G	*Precedents of the U.S. House of Representatives*
H	*House Journal*

*excerpt from Clerk Karen Haas testimony before the
Committee on House Administration, October 11, 2017

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★ **LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION**   **MEMBER INFORMATION**   **COMMITTEE INFORMATION**   **DISCLOSURES**   **ABOUT THE CLERK** ★

115TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION

HOUSE NOT IN SESSION

Next Session: Tomorrow at 10:00 AM

FEEDBACK

HOUSE FLOOR	BILLS	VOTES	COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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FLOOR SUMMARY: TODAY

TIME ▼	BILL NUMBER ⬍	ACTIVITY ⬍
07:28:15 PM		The House adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on July 12, 2018.
07:28:14 PM		On motion to adjourn Agreed to by voice vote.

CLERK | UNITED STATES HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

‹ WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2018

Version **ALPHA**

| Activity **100** | Bills **6** | Votes **6** |

⬇ Download ▼ All bills

🔍 Filter by name or keyword

Time ▾	Bill ⬍	Activity ⬍
7:28:15 PM		The House adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on July 12, 2018.
7:28:14 PM		On motion to adjourn Agreed to by voice vote.
7:28:08 PM		Mr. Gohmert moved that the House do now adjourn.
6:10:00 PM		SPECIAL ORDER SPEECHES - The House has concluded all anticipated legislative business and has proceeded to Special Order speeches.
5:57:05 PM		ONE MINUTE SPEECHES - The House proceeded with further one minute speeches.
5:55:28 PM		Mr. Collins (GA) filed a report from the Committee on Rules on **H. Res. 989**.
5:54:44 PM	**H.R. 200**	UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST - Mr. Young (AK) asked unanimous consent that the engrossment of the bill, **H.R. 200**, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes to the bill. The technical corrections was place at the desk and reads as follows: Page 14, line 15, strike "'including'". Agreed to without objection.
5:54:26 PM	**H.R. 200**	Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
5:54:24 PM	**H.R. 200**	On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 222 - 193 **(Roll no. 321)**

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✖

CURRENT PROJECTS

CLERK | UNITED STATES HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Legislative Branch Innovation Hub
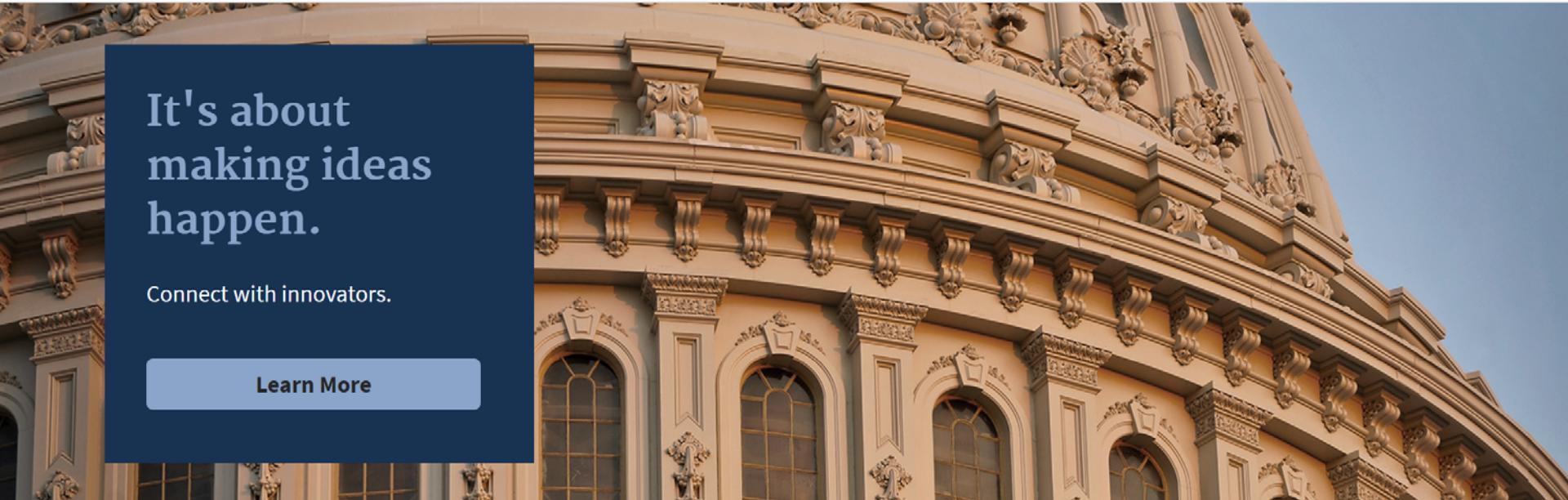
About the Hub   Leadership Support   Data Standardization   Events   Resources

It's about making ideas happen.

Connect with innovators.

Learn More

Welcome innovators!

The Innovation Hub seeks to highlight Legislative branch activities that use technology to cultivate collaboration, foster data standardization, and increase transparency.

Innovate. Communicate. Legislate.

Upcoming Events

- [Legislative Data and Transparency Conference](#)
  07/12/2018

Posey Comparative Prints

CLERK | UNITED STATES HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

A New House Rule

The House Rules call for greater transparency and accessibility to legislative documents.

Clause 12 to House Rule XXI

- currently being called the Posey Comparative Print rules.

Posey Comparative Print rules

Clause 12(a) calls for a document that illustrates changes a bill is making to current law.

- *How does H.R. 123 change the Social Security Act (non-positive law) and 38 USC 321 (positive law)?*

Clause 12(b) calls for a document-to-document comparison between different versions of bill language.

- *How does the Rules Committee Print differ from the bill reported from committee?*

Short Term Work

- Meet the December 31, 2017 deadline
- Post the comparative print (PDF and HTML formats) on the docs.house.gov website

Long term vision

Deploy a platform so all House staff (and potentially others) can create on-demand static comparative prints that illustrate the changes between:

- Two versions of a bill, resolution, or amendment (document to document comparison)

- Current law and current law as proposed to be changed by amendments contained in a bill, resolution, or amendment to current law (positive and non-positive law)

- A bill or resolution and the bill or resolution as proposed to be modified by amendments

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Sample screen shot

"(5) shall have no effect on the authority of the Secretary to conduct an inspection or otherwise determine *whether* the requestor : ~~ha~~s co~~nformance~~*mplied* with the applicable requirements of this Act; and

"(6) ~~shall be considered to~~*may* be revoked ~~if~~*by* the Secretary ~~provides written notific~~*upon a determin*ation t~~o~~*hat* the ~~certified~~ requestor ~~that it~~'s quality system ~~does not satisfy the certification criteria~~*no longer meets the criteria specified in the guidance* issued under subsection (a)(5) with respect to the in-scope devices at issue~~, such that the applicable submission requirements specified in subsection (a)(1)(C) must be met for changes made after receipt of such written notifi~~.

"(d) NOTICE OF REVOCATION.— *The Secretary shall provide written notification to the requestor of a revocation pursuant to subsection (c)(6) not later than 10 business days after the determination described in such subsection. Upon receipt of the written notification, the requestor shall satisfy the applicable submission requirements specified in subsection (a)(1)(C) for any device-related changes effectuated after the date of such determination. After such revo*cation, ~~wit~~*such* re~~spect to such devices.~~ *questor is eligible to seek re-certification under this section of its quality system.*

*Excerpt of 114 HR 6 compared to Rule Committee Print 114-22

Links to production work

http://docs.house.gov/floor/Default.aspx?date=2018-01-15

- http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20180115/CP-115RCP115-55-COMPARED-CurrentLaw.pdf

http://docs.house.gov/floor/Default.aspx?date=2018-01-08

- http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20180108/CP-115S140rh-COMPARED-RCP115-54.pdf

- http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20180108/CP115S140rhCOMPAREDRCP11554.html

Thank you

Kirsten Gullickson

Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

Kirsten.Gullickson@mail.house.gov

For more information:
XML.HOUSE.GOV