

CHERYL L. JOHNSON
CLERK

H-154 THE CAPITOL

GLORIA J. LETT
DEPUTY CLERK

ROBERT F. REEVES
DEPUTY CLERK

Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6601

October 15, 2020

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis,

As required by Section 501 of House Resolution 756, agreed to by the House on March 10, 2020, I am attaching this quarterly report: Adopting Standardized Formats for Legislative Documents.

If you or others on the committee have questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Clerk of the House

Enclosure

Adopting Standardized Formats for Legislative Documents

As required by Section 501 of House Resolution 756, agreed to by the House on March 10, 2020, the Clerk of the House submits this quarterly report about adopting standardized formats for legislative documents.

As described in the initial report, the House is standardizing its formats for legislative documents using XML (Extensible Markup Language).¹ A stable “First-Generation” schema is in use while we continue to implement the “Second-Generation” XML called USLM (United States Legislative Markup).

The current USLM-related project work involves the Statute Compilations data set maintained by the House Office of the Legislative Counsel (HOLC). Each Statute Compilation incorporates the amendments made to the underlying statute since it was originally enacted. The Government Publishing Office (GPO) leads this project with the assistance of the Office of the Clerk, the Offices of the House and Senate Legislative Counsels, the Secretary of the Senate, and other staff from the Legislative Branch XML Working Group and the House Bulk Data Task Force.

The overall goal of this effort is to provide a uniform set of laws in USLM to enable downstream processes and increase efficiencies. The goal of the first phase was to make the Statute Compilations available on GPO’s online repository govinfo.gov in PDF format, and more than 2,000 Compilations are currently available on govinfo. The second phase is currently underway to convert legacy Statute Compilation files into Beta USLM XML and provide access to those files on govinfo. This phase involves performing data-modeling activities and creating transforms to convert the Compilations into Beta USLM XML. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in 2021.

The “More Documents in USLM” roadmap is included below. We expect to work with GPO and other stakeholders on a project proposal for next steps after the completion of the Statute Compilations project.

Roadmap for Publishing Legislative Documents in USLM XML Format²

Completed	U.S. Code
Completed	Enrolled bills, Public Laws, and Statutes at Large
IN PROGRESS	HOLC/SOLC Statute Compilations
B	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>

¹ <https://cha.house.gov/sites/democrats.cha.house.gov/files/documents/Adopting%20Standardized%20Formats%20for%20Legislative%20Documents.pdf>

² This table is House-centric in many respects and can be updated to include the Senate versions of like document.