

CHERYL L. JOHNSON
CLERK

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

April 17, 2023

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle,

Pursuant to Section 502 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, I am submitting this quarterly report about the Comparative Print Suite.

As the Committee is aware, the Comparative Print Suite is a set of applications that enables House staff to produce comparative prints showing how proposed legislation may amend law and how a bill, resolution, or amendment changes from one version to another. My staff in Legislative Computer Systems (LCS), in partnership with the House Office of the Legislative Counsel (HOLC) and our contractors, lead the project team.

House Release

As shared in the last report, we released the Suite at compare.house.gov in October 2022 and announced this House-wide release with an e-Dear Colleague. Staff began using the application almost immediately and registered for the required Congressional Staff Academy (CSA) training.

Product Support and Training

All House staff have access to the Basic Edition, which includes the Bill to Bill Differences and Bill Viewer tools. Users must take the required course to have access to the Advanced Edition,

which includes two versions of the How a Bill Changes Current Law tool as well as the ability to upload files to generate comparative print reports. According to CSA, from January 3 to March 31, 2023, 59 people watched the training course, bringing the total number of viewers since the October release to 219. As of April 2, 2023, 321 individuals in the House, including new users, original pilot group users, and HOLC staff, have advanced user access. Support calls have been minimal, and feedback on the Suite and the training course continue to be positive.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Office of the Clerk and HOLC released e-Dear Colleagues (attached) about the availability of the Suite on December 21, 2022, and April 4, 2023. LCS and my Office of Communications are creating informative and promotional content for the digital displays around the House buildings and on HouseNet. We are also working with CSA to highlight the on-demand course in its weekly newsletters.

HOLC and the Office of the Clerk continue to engage key stakeholders and other interested parties to build awareness of the Suite’s availability and features. HOLC routinely promotes the Suite’s availability to its clients and devoted time to it at the New Member Orientation in November 2022. LCS highlighted the tool at the February 22, 2023, Committee Clerk briefing, and my Office included information about the Suite in the *Member Reference Guide* that we provided to new Member offices the first week of this year. We are also planning to release a user survey.

Product Updates and Releases

Following the House-wide launch, the product team and the vendor have been working on backlog items that will be included in future releases. As previously reported, Clerk staff, working alongside our vendor partners, have implemented a fully agile software development process using a two-week cadence or “sprint” to design, build, test, and deliver new features and make bug fixes and other incremental updates. My Office made five release updates to the Suite during the first quarter of 2023.

The next major release, planned for the second quarter of 2023, will include a feature that shows how an amendment changes a bill or resolution and an enhancement to Bill to Bill Differences that allows for isolated comparisons of larger texts.

As reported in the past, Senate staff continue to request access to the Suite. We are having on-going discussions internally and with our House and Senate technology partners about how to best enable such access.

Pilot Group

Pilot group users outside the House—Congressional Budget Office, Library of Congress, and Joint Committee on Taxation—use an instance of the application managed and located in the vendor’s cloud environment. This instance mirrors the Clerk’s production environment and

follows its release and update schedule. All Legislative Analysis Services staff from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) have access to the tool, and this month we granted access to an additional 40 CRS staff. There are 105 individuals who access the vendor's cloud environment. Similar to the Senate request, we are having internal discussions about how to best move this group of users out of the vendor environment and into the Clerk's production environment.

Procurement

The current obligation of funds will be expended in June or July 2023, and work is underway to obligate fiscal year 2023 appropriated funds.

Finally, unless otherwise directed, we will send the next report on or before October 15, 2023. If you or others on the Committee have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk of the House

Enclosures

- Office of the Clerk and House Office of the Legislative Counsel e-Dear Colleague—
April 4, 2023
- Office of the Clerk and House Office of the Legislative Counsel e-Dear Colleague—
December 21, 2022

cc: The Honorable Mark Amodei, Chairman, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee
The Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Ranking Member, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee

Use the Comparative Print Suite to Compare Legislation



Sending Office: Office of the Clerk
Sent By: cheryl.johnson@mail.house.gov



Dear Members and staff:

You can use the Comparative Print Suite (compare.house.gov) to display legislative changes in context, including how a bill changes law and how two versions of a legislative proposal differ.

All House staff have immediate access to the Basic Edition of the Comparative Print Suite, which includes the Bill to Bill Differences and Bill Viewer tools.

To use the Advanced Edition, staff need to take the required Comparative Print Suite course available through the CAO's Congressional Staff Academy website.

Advanced users can

- View how a bill changes law,
- Upload files to generate comparative print reports, and
- Store comparative prints.

After completing the on-demand course, staff will be granted advanced access, which may take up to 48 hours to process, excluding weekends and holidays.

For questions about legislative drafting, contact the Office of the Legislative Counsel at (202) 225-6060 or legcoun@mail.house.gov.

For assistance using the Comparative Print Suite, contact Legislative Computer Systems at Clerk-Support-ComparativePrint@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Cheryl L. Johnson and E. Wade Ballou Jr. in black ink.

Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk of the House

E. Wade Ballou Jr.
Legislative Counsel

The Comparative Print Suite is available House-wide



Sending Office: Office of the Clerk
Sent By: cheryl.johnson@mail.house.gov



Dear Members and Staff:

On October 26, 2022, the offices of the Clerk and the Legislative Counsel released the **Comparative Print Suite** at compare.house.gov to all House users.

The **Comparative Print Suite** is a set of applications that display legislative changes in context, including how a bill might change current law and how two versions of a legislative proposal are different.

All House staff have immediate access to the Basic Edition of the Comparative Print Suite with access to the **Bill to Bill Differences** and **Bill Viewer** tools.

To use the Advanced Edition, staff will need to take the required Comparative Print Suite course available through the CAO's [Congressional Staff Academy website](#). However, we encourage everyone to review the training course as it includes learning objectives for both the Basic and Advanced Editions of the Comparative Print Suite.

In addition to the tools that are available in the Basic Edition, advanced users will have access to two versions of the **How a Bill Changes Current Law** tool as well as the ability to upload files to generate comparative print reports. Advanced users will also have a **My Reports** feature that stores comparative prints generated from uploaded documents.

After completing the on-demand course, staff will be granted advanced access, which may take up to 48 hours to process, excluding weekends or holidays, after course completion.

For questions about legislative drafting, contact the Office of the Legislative Counsel at (202) 225-6060 or legcoun@mail.house.gov.

For assistance using the Comparative Print Suite, contact Legislative Computer Systems at Clerk-Support-ComparativePrint@mail.house.gov.

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Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk of the House

E. Wade Ballou Jr.
Legislative Counsel