



J. MICHAEL GOODSON LAW LIBRARY

DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Research Refresher: Statutes & Legislative History

I. Ask a Librarian

- **Your firm's library:** librarians can be your best friend when you need help!
- **Goodson Law Library** (<http://www.law.duke.edu/lib>): open Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. over the summer. Call, e-mail, IM or find us on the web/Facebook.

II. Finding Federal Bills and Statutes

- **Lexis** (<http://www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool/>): Legal>Federal Legal-U.S.>Find Statutes, Regulations, Administrative Materials & Court Rules>**United States Code Service (USCS) Materials** (includes the USCS, Popular Names Table, and U.S. Statutes at Large)
- **Westlaw** (<https://lawschool.westlaw.com>): Useful databases include **USCA** (United States Code Annotated), **USCA-POP** (Popular Name Table), and **USCAAN** (United States Code Congressional & Administrative News)
- **HeinOnline's United States Code Database** (<http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00693>): Provides PDF versions of the United States Code from 1925-present
- **Thomas** (<http://thomas.loc.gov>): Library of Congress website that provides the full text of bills dating back to 1989, and Bill Summary & Status information from 1973-present

III. Federal Legislative History Materials

- **Duke Federal Legislative History Research Guide** (<http://www.law.duke.edu/lib/researchguides/fedleg>): frequently updated guide featuring easy-to-use table of contents and comprehensive information on both print and electronic legislative history resources
- **HeinOnline's U.S. Federal Legislative History Library and U.S. Congressional Documents Library** (<http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00693>):
- **Lexis** (<http://www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool/>): Legal>Federal Legal-U.S.>Find Statutes, Regulations, Administrative Materials & Court Rules>**Legislative History Materials**
- **Westlaw** (<https://lawschool.westlaw.com>): **LH** and **FED-LH** databases
- **LexisNexis Congressional** (<http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00841>): Select full-text includes Congressional reports from 1995-present, and PDFs for hearings from 1800s-present
- **Thomas** (<http://thomas.loc.gov>): "All Congressional Actions" portion of Bill Summary & Status information useful for determining what legislative history materials exist for a particular law, and will link to any available reports and debates (generally 1994-present)
- **GPO Access [soon to be GPO Federal Digital System – Fdsys]** (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov>): Includes committee reports, selected hearings, and the daily *Congressional Record* with coverage from 1994-present

IV. State Legislative History Materials

- **Look at Websites of State-specific Law Libraries and Legislative Libraries**
 - For North Carolina, try UNC Katherine R. Everett Law Library's Research Guides (http://library.law.unc.edu/research/nc_legal_databases.html#lhg) and the North Carolina Legislative Library's Research Guides (<http://www.ncleg.net/library/Guides/guides.html>)
- **Westlaw** (<https://lawschool.westlaw.com>): **STATE-LEGHIST** database