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THE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION AND STATUS SYSTEM

FOR THE
UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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APRIL 30, 1979

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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DOCUMENTS

1979

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Ninety-Sixth Congress

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(II)

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INTRODUCTION

Growing awareness throughout the Congressional constituency steadily intensifies the demand on Congressional offices for timely and accurate information concerning the progress of legislative items of interest. That demand, coupled with the increase of legislative activity and continuing changes in the legislative process, results in a significant burden of research and record-keeping for Member, committee, and leadership offices. For the Senate, of course, a comparable situation exists, and the combined information need of both Houses extends its impact to supporting organizations such as the Library of Congress.

Today, the problem of efficient legislative tracking is being addressed by a computer-based information service that encompasses the House and Senate as well as the many discrete Congressional units that contribute to and draw from the central data bases.

The Legislative Information and Status system (LEGIS) was designed and implemented within the House by the House Information Systems (H.I.S.) staff of the Committee on House Administration with direct participation by staff of the Clerk of the House, the Parliamentarian, the Committee on Rules and Administration in the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate. It is based on an earlier H.I.S. product known as the Bill Status System (1973-1977). The system provides a center for storage, retrieval and dissemination of current and historical information about legislation placed before either House of the Congress. The data bases and inquiry facilities that comprise LEGIS will accommodate searches based on one or more of the following facts: bill number (for bills, resolutions, and amendments), item number (for executive communications, presidential messages, petitions, and memorials), sponsor, co-sponsor, committee referral, date of introduction, legislative status, and subject matter.

LEGIS offers modern information processing technology, personal assistance, quick response, and printed copy for records or mailing. The system relieves a tedious, often wasteful, part of the daily workload for most Congressional offices by providing a systematic means of determining legislative status and tracking action in areas of special concern.

1. HISTORY OF THE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION AND STATUS SYSTEM

During the 89th Congress, a bill (H.R. 18428) was introduced proposing the use of electronic computers for the collection, formation, and maintenance of key information relating to each public bill before the Congress. Concerns about efficiency of operations expressed by subsequent Congresses led, in 1969, to the establishment of a Working Group on Automatic Data Processing, to serve as a professional advisory unit. Once again, in the course of the Working Group's survey of House information needs, priority was given to the improve-

ment of available information on the status of legislative items. The newly-formed House Information Systems staff, under the direction of the Committee on House Administration, then performed an evaluation of the earlier recommendations for a status tracking system. They conducted a detailed study of status information needs, and, in 1972, produced the design for the original Bill Status System. That system was put into full operation in February of 1973, and services were extended to Senate users in September of the same year. Over the next 2 years the number of telephone inquiries through the system's central operations office increased from 200 to more than 1,000 per day. The volume of printed reports produced on request grew from a few hundred to several thousand per month, and the user community for the system's automatic tracking service numbered more than 400 Congressional offices.

Despite the apparent value of that initial system, both House and Senate staffs expressed an interest in improvements to the system that would develop its potential to satisfy the broader information needs of the entire Congress. In 1974, a joint House and Senate project was initiated with the objectives of (1) providing for direct Senate access to the system's data bases and training Senate personnel to use computer terminals for that access; (2) obtaining Senate status data directly from Senate offices rather than from secondary sources; and (3) determining the requirements, design and development plan for an expanded legislative tracking system addressing the needs of the full Congress.

The initial phases of the project were completed in 1974, greatly improving the integration of Senate users and data into the status tracking system. The project was completed in February of 1977 when the new Legislative Information and Status system replaced the 4-year-old Bill Status operation. Since that time, enhancements to LEGIS have improved the quality of the data bases, and added substantive detail to the system; installation of terminals in many user offices and subsequent training have extended direct system access into the user community; and new printed reports have further demonstrated the value of centrally assembled and published information, tailored for individual users.

2. DESIGN OF THE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION AND STATUS SYSTEM

In the course of devising a solution to the legislative tracking problem, the H.I.S. staff addressed two dominant environmental factors: the complexity of the legislative process itself, and the traditional methods of tracking legislation.

Complexity of the legislative process

A multitude of individual actions and possible paths are open to each measure introduced before either Congressional body. (See Appendix A which briefly describes a basic path through the legislative process.) The variety of possible stages in the process, coupled with the volume of legislative items, established a requirement for system tools that would precisely and consistently identify different actions, permit logical validation of new actions based on review of prior path, and accommodate correction, change, and refinement with relative ease.

Traditional means of legislative tracking

Prior to the advent of the original Bill Status System, there was no centralized and comprehensive source of legislative information, nor was there a systematic method of collecting, storing, or retrieving such information. Member and committee staffs relied on experience and personal contacts—methods which often involved multiple phone calls seeking the same information, and extreme variations in the accuracy and timeliness of the information obtained. Because they also relied heavily on the availability of various publications, their research was often subject to inherent extended delays, e.g., several weeks for printed bill digests. Furthermore, the processes employed did not support sharing information among offices.

Among the sources used by Congressional personnel were the House and Senate leadership, the offices of the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate, House and Senate committees, offices of individual Representatives and Senators, the Library of Congress, and *The Congressional Record*. Often these sources provided only partial information and the consequent follow-up and repetition consumed time for both the inquiring offices and the various sources.

Concept of the Legislative Information and Status system

The method conceived by the House Information Systems staff to satisfy the requirements of legislative tracking functions relies on two basic ideas—a centralized, computer-based operation for information processing and dissemination, and acquisition of data from reliable, official sources. Accordingly, the focal point of LEGIS operation is the main LEGIS Office currently located in House Office Building Annex No. 2, where a small staff of specially trained Legislative Information Specialists handles various phases of the daily data collection and validation; queries the system through computer terminals in response to individual requests from users; and directs the production of a growing range of printed reports drawn from the LEGIS data bases.

The original concept for LEGIS went beyond the outdated Bill Status System not only in scope, but in its use of current technology. The heavy daily workload created by requests from Congressional users suggested that a network of remote terminals, installed in user offices, could smooth the utilization peaks and increase the system's value as a convenient research tool. A concurrent test project, the Pilot Member Information Network, provided an ideal vehicle for implementation of this LEGIS concept.

Computer technology is vital to LEGIS also because of the volume of information and the pace at which both data collection and responses to inquiries must proceed. A computer-based system permits implementation of a concept and design that can accommodate, with relative ease, additions and changes to the classes of legislative items or of legislative actions (i.e., status steps). From a technical viewpoint, then, a vital concept of the system is represented by the LEGIS data bases stored by the H.I.S. central computer facility.

Content of the LEGIS data bases

Each data base contains a specific body of information, such as 95th Congress bills and resolutions, or executive communications.

For each item in any data base three types of data are recorded. (1) Identification data consist of a unique number (e.g., the bill number),

person or agency authorizing the item (e.g., sponsor), the date the item was received or introduced, and title. (2) Content data, which are updated whenever the item is altered by an amendment, consist of a description of the subject matter, and for bills and resolutions, the major provisions of the measure. (3) Status data are listed next, consisting of the series of legislative steps through which the item has moved. Each step specifies:

(a) The legislative action on which the step is based (e.g., referred to committee, passed, failed, became law).

(b) The date of the action.

(c) The name of the acting legislative unit (e.g., House Committee on Armed Services).

(d) Report numbers, vote data, law numbers, et al, as applicable.

For certain items a fourth type, cross-reference data, is also entered. The status steps recorded are drawn from a list of over 250 legislative steps logically defined for the LEGIS system (see Appendix B for list of currently defined steps).

Operation of the Legislative Information and Status system

LEGIS today is a streamlined and systematic process; yet it operates on a principle derived from the traditional tracking method. Specifically, each legislative day, LEGIS Office personnel collect information directly from more than two dozen official sources by phone (see Figure 2-1 for information flow). This office depends in turn on two other H.I.S. support units: data conversion facilities to transcribe the source data into a machine readable form, and Computer Center facilities to edit, store, search, and retrieve the information maintained in the system.

The Computer Center also exchanges magnetic tapes with the Senate and Library so that status data (for the House and Senate) and bill digests (for the Library) are available to all without unnecessary duplication of effort. Maintenance processing, including addition of all new, validated information for the day just closed, is performed after the House and Senate adjourn. By the next morning, any requested reports are produced and ready for delivery, and legislative information—usually current through the close of the previous legislative day—can be made available to all users.

Information retrieval, whether handled through the LEGIS Office or directly by Congressional office staff, is performed by way of computer terminals in communication with the main H.I.S. computer. Requests for information are formulated from a special command language and entered through the terminal keyboard. The computer system interprets the request, extracts the desired information from LEGIS, and displays or prints that information at the terminal. Once the information has been retrieved, it can be relayed verbally to the requestor. In addition, printed copy of the information can be produced immediately, or overnight printing of extensive information can be specified.

The LEGIS operation includes other forms of information dissemination that are generated by schedule (e.g., the quarterly Legislative Profiles) or by specific Congressional activity (as in the case of update reports produced for Congressional offices which subscribe to the Automatic Tracking Service).

3. THE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION AND STATUS SYSTEM AS A SERVICE

LEGIS provides a central, computer-based legislative status information service replacing the decentralized manual recording and search activities previously required to trace the progress of legislative items. Although the technical details about the system may be of interest to some people, such knowledge is not necessary in order to make use of LEGIS; however, some familiarity with LEGIS (such as that provided in this committee print) is helpful in determining the kinds of questions that can be answered.

The LEGIS Office

The LEGIS Office accepts questions regarding legislative items by telephone, in person, or by mail. Answers are provided by telephone or in printed reports.

Telephone responses are provided to individuals calling the LEGIS Office and describing their requests for information to a Legislative Information Specialist (Figure 3-1). The request may be based on one or a combination of appropriate descriptors about the information being requested. For a bill or resolution, the best descriptor is the number of the bill or resolution. For items such as executive communications the best descriptor is the assigned number, or a combination of the agency transmitting the communication and the general subject matter of the communication. For a floor amendment, the best descriptors are the sponsor of the amendment and the bill to which the amendment is offered.

Several types of printed reports are available to individuals seeking information about legislative items.

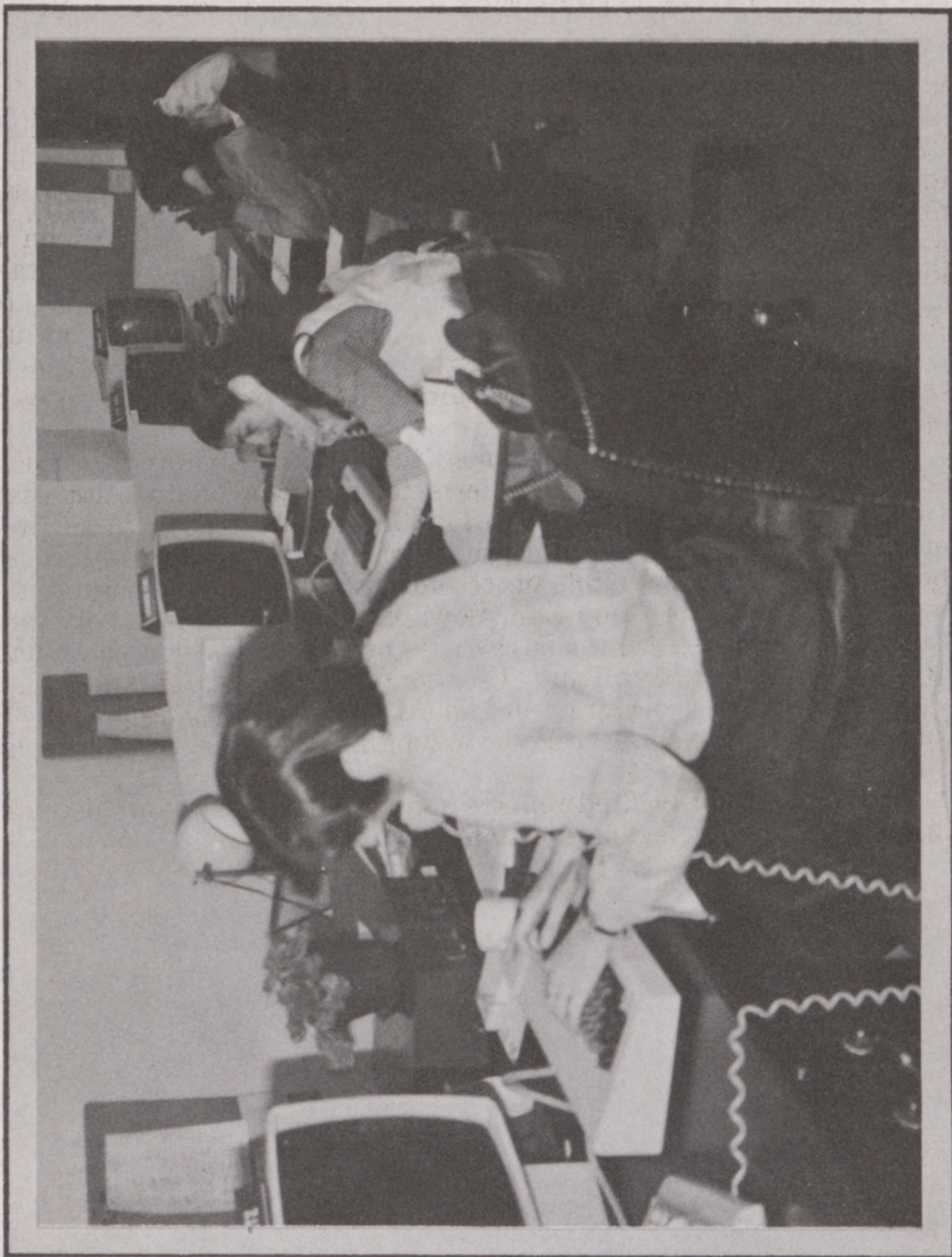


FIGURE 3-1.—The H.I.S. LEGIS Office

(a) Immediate Reports (Figure 3-2), available within minutes, are printed in the LEGIS Office. Reports may be sent to Congressional offices by way of inside mail, may be picked up by a page, or held for pick up by the caller. An immediate report is recommended primarily when information on a small number of bills is needed on the same day.

(b) Overnight Reports (Figure 3-3) contain the same type of status information as the immediate reports but are printed on a high speed printer (usually to accommodate a large amount of data). These reports are sent through the inside mail the following day to Capitol Hill offices, or can be placed in the LEGIS Office for pick up by a page, or by the caller.

Sorting of the reports may be requested by the caller for both immediate reports and overnight reports. Many sorting options are available. For example, bills and resolutions may be sorted by number, date of introduction, committee referral, sponsor, or date of the most recent activity. Executive communications, presidential messages, petitions, and memorials may be sorted by date received or committee referral. Floor amendments may be sorted by the number of the bill to which the amendment was offered, the date the amendment was offered, the sponsor of the amendment, or the date of the most recent activity.

200002

DOCUMENT=

1 OF

1

***** 95th CONG. STATUS PROFILE FOR H.R.2

BRIEF TITLE..... SURFACE MINING CONTROL AND RECLAMATION ACT

SPONSOR..... UDALL

DATE INTRODUCED... JANUARY 4, 1977

HOUSE COMMITTEE... INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

SENATE COMMITTEE.. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICIAL TITLE.... A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE COOPERATION BETWEEN
 THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE STATES
 WITH RESPECT TO THE REGULATION OF SURFACE COAL
 MINING OPERATIONS, AND THE ACQUISITION AND
 RECLAMATION OF ABANDONED MINES, AND FOR OTHER
 PURPOSES.

RELATED BILLS..... H.R.4236 (SIMILAR), H.R.5662 (SIMILAR),
 H.R.5663 (SIMILAR), H.R.5664 (SIMILAR),
 H.R.6282 (SIMILAR), S.7 (SIMILAR).

CO-SPONSORS..... TSONGAS, MILLER OF CAL, PHILLIP BURTON, BINGHAM,
 CARR, DON H CLAUSEN, JOHNSON OF COLO, ECKHARDT,
 DE LUGO, WEAVER, RONCALIO, SEIBERLING, RUPPE,
 KASTENMEIER, MEEDS, LAGOMARSINO, SANTINI.

JAN 4, 77 REFERRED TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR
 AFFAIRS.

JAN 27, 77 REFERRED TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE
 ENVIRONMENT.

JAN 27, 77 REFERRED TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS.

FEB 2, 77 EXECUTIVE COMMENT REQUESTED FROM DEPT OF INTERIOR.

FIGURE 3-2.—'Immediate' printed report

DOCUMENT NUMBER = HBILL03538

***** 95TH CONG. STATUS PROFILE FOR H.R.3538 *****

BRIEF TITLE..... HEALTH PLANNING, HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH,
STATISTICS, AND MEDICAL LIBRARIES EXTENSION ACT

SPONSOR..... ROGERS

DATE INTRODUCED... FEBRUARY 16, 1977

HOUSE COMMITTEE... INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE

OFFICIAL TITLE.... A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to
authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1978
for health planning and related programs.

CO-SPONSORS..... FLORIO, OTTINGER, MARKEY, SCHEUER, PREYER,
WAXMAN, MADIGAN, CARTER, WALGREN.

FEB 16, 77 REFERRED TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE.

FEB 17, 77 REFERRED TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE
ENVIRONMENT.

FEB 22, 77 FIRST DAY OF SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS.

FEB 24, 77 FINAL DAY OF SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS.

MAR 1, 77 FIRST DAY OF SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERATION AND
MARK-UP SESSION.

MAR 1, 77 FINAL DAY OF SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERATION AND
MARK-UP SESSION.

MAR 1, 77 FORWARDED BY SUBCOMMITTEE TO FULL COMMITTEE
AMENDED.

MAR 17, 77 SIMILAR H.R.4974 TO BE REPORTED IN LIEU.

FIGURE 3-3.—'Overnight' printed report

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

JANUARY 18, 1979

PAGE 1

H.R. 1

SPONSOR..... Mikva
 DATE INTRODUCED... January 15, 1979
 HOUSE COMMITTEE... House Administration
 OFFICIAL TITLE.... A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act
 of 1971 to provide for Financing of general
 election campaigns for the House of
 Representatives.

Jan 15, 79 Referred to House Committee on House Administration.
 CO-SPONSORS..... 130 CURRENT COSPONSORS --
 AS INTRODUCED... Anderson (IL), Foley, Conable, Udall, Wirth,
 Akaka, Albosta, Ashley, Atkinson, Aucoin, Barnes,
 Bedell, Beilenson, Bingham, Blanchard, Boland,
 Bolling, Bonior, Brodhead, Brown (CA), Chisholm,
 Conte, Conyers, Corman, Corrada, D'Amours,
 Daschle, Dellums, Dicks, Dixon, Donnelly,
 Dougherty, Downey, Drinan, Eckhardt, Edgar,
 Edwards (CA), Fascell, Fazio, Fenwick, Fisher,
 Flood, Ford (TN), Garcia, Gephardt, Gilman,
 Giaimo, Glickman, Gore, Green, Gudger, Hall (OH),
 Hanley, Harkin, Harris, Heftel, Hollenbeck,
 Howard, Hughes, Jacobs, Jeffords, Jenrette,
 Kogovsek, Kostmayer, Leach (IA), Lehman, Leland,
 Lowry, Luken, Lundine, McCloskey, McHugh, Maguire,
 Markey, Matsui, Mavroules, Mazzoli, Miller (CA),
 Mineta, Mitchell (NY), Moakley, Moffett,
 Moorhead (PA), Mottl, Murphy (PA), Murphy (NY),
 Nelson, Nolan, Oberstar, Ottinger, Panetta,
 Patterson, Pease, Pepper, Peyser, Preyer, Price,
 Pritchard, Rangel, Ratchford, Reuss, Richmond,
 Rinaldo, Rodino, Rosenthal, Roybal, Sabo, Sawyer,
 Scheuer, Schroeder, Seiberling, Shannon, Simon,
 Solarz, Spellman, St Germain, Stockman, Studds,
 Swift, Traxler, Van Deerlin, Vanik, Vento,
 Walgren, Weaver, Weiss, Williams (MT), Wolpe (MI),
 Won Pat, Yates.

HOUSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

LEGIS OFFICE(51772)

FIGURE 3-4.—Automatic tracking report

(c) Automatic Tracking (Figure 3-4) is another form of printed report prepared especially for Congressional offices that express long-term interest in specific items or areas. This special service provides printed reports automatically whenever a change occurs in the status of a bill of interest to the requesting office. These reports are delivered to the subscriber on the day following an action on a bill of interest. The options available to a Member include tracking of all bills sponsored or co-sponsored by the Member, as well as any other bills specified by number. Committee options include status reports on all bills referred to that committee or other specified bills of interest to the committee.

Legislative Profiles (Figure 3-5) are provided to Members of the House of Representatives. Each profile lists the title, date of introduction, most recent activity, and committee referral for each measure sponsored or co-sponsored by the Member. Legislative Profiles are printed quarterly but may be requested more frequently from the LEGIS Office.

Hours of operation for the LEGIS Office are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Member Information Network

Committees and offices of Members of the House of Representatives have access, through the Member Information Network, to information that is maintained in the Legislative Information and Status system. Any committee or Member office with a suitable computer terminal may arrange for access to a number of computerized data bases, including LEGIS. House staff members are then able to retrieve the information they desire either for display at their terminals or to be printed and delivered the following day. House offices interested in gaining access to the Member Information Network should call the H.I.S. User Assistance Office at (202) 225-6002.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

LEGISLATIVE PROFILE

PREPARED FOR
THE HONORABLE CHARLES ROSE
OF
THE 7TH DISTRICT
OF
NORTH CAROLINA
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 15, 1979 TO MAY 16, 1979

HOUSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

FIGURE 3-5.—Legislative Profile report

4. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEGIS SYSTEM

Improvements to the LEGIS system are under development constantly in order to meet changing Member requirements. Greater depth of information, more convenient access, and more efficient data collection are always major areas of concern.

Currently, the House, the Senate, and the Library of Congress are active in a cooperative effort that includes refinement and standardization of the legislative status step definitions. Later, this effort will address fully automated transfer of data among these three Congressional bodies to eliminate much of the remaining redundant data collection.

The Senate plans to increase coverage for its users by adding such items as treaties, nominations, petitions and memorials, executive communications, and presidential messages. Of course, once the Senate adds these items, the information will become available through the House LEGIS system.

Concurrently, the House is studying several enhancements for LEGIS which would provide:

- improved tracking by subject;
- improved cross-referencing information;
- inclusion of amendment digests; and
- from the Library of Congress, inclusion of information on the disposition of rescissions and deferrals submitted by the President.

Action on implementation of these or any other improvements to LEGIS in the 96th Congress will be decided based upon a study of the need and cost effectiveness of such services and the availability of effective alternative sources of the needed information.

APPENDIX A

FLOW OF MEASURES THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

A measure enters the legislative process through formal introduction by a Member of Congress. Legislative measures fall into four classes, depending upon the purpose for which the measure is intended. These classes are: a simple resolution (H. Res., S. Res.), a bill (H.R., S.) a joint resolution (H.J. Res., S.J. Res.), and a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res., S. Con. Res.). Within each class the measures are numbered sequentially in their order of introduction. A simple resolution requires only the approval of the originating Chamber to be effective. Joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and bills must pass both bodies in order to take effect. Bills and most joint resolutions also require Presidential approval.

To provide a general description of the measure's path through the legislative process, the following exposition deals with a bill introduced in the House of Representatives. A more comprehensive treatment of all classes of measures is found in *How Our Laws Are Made*, U.S. House of Representatives, H. Doc. 95-259.

At the time of introduction the bill is referred to the House committee under whose jurisdiction the bill falls. It may then be further referred to a subcommittee having a more specialized jurisdiction over its consideration. At either level of referral, hearings may be held on the bill. Committee hearings are not always "bill specific"; for example, the House Ways and Means Committee holds hearings primarily on subject areas instead of on specific bills. (In some cases hearings concerning a bill may be held prior to its formal introduction.)

At the conclusion of hearings the committee may meet to consider disposition of the bill. Such a committee meeting is referred to as a "mark-up" session, and results in one of several possible committee actions: to report the bill for full House consideration (amended or not), to table (not report) the bill, or to include portions of it in another measure. If a decision is made to proceed with the bill, a written report is filed with the Clerk of the House, and the bill is assigned to one or more of the House calendars. While assignment to a calendar is a requisite first step, it does not guarantee that a bill will be considered on the House Floor. The rules of the House and the House leadership determine when a bill will be considered on the Floor.

During Floor consideration, parts of the bill may be altered by the adoption of amendments. If the bill (as amended) is approved by the House, it is then referred to as an "act" and sent to the Senate for consideration. Upon introduction to the Senate, the act may follow the same legislative procedure outlined above: referral to committee and subcommittee, hearings, committee action, and Senate Floor consideration. However, if a similar bill is currently pending in the Senate, the act passed by the House may be held at the desk of the Senate's presiding officer, to be held—removed from consideration—until after the similar bill is dealt with.

If final passage of the bill by the Senate is an amended version of the act passed by the House, the House may agree to the Senate version of the bill. If the differences between the House-passed version and the Senate-passed version are substantial or controversial, a conference between the two bodies may be requested. The presiding officers of the House and the Senate appoint three or more members from their respective bodies to a conference committee. Those conferees meet to work out a satisfactory compromise. If the conferees reach agreement, a conference report is issued containing the conference recommendations. This conference report becomes the matter for consideration before each house. If either body does not agree to the conference report a second conference may be requested.

When a bill has been approved in identical form by both bodies of Congress, it is enrolled and delivered to the White House for Presidential consideration. The President may take one of three actions: he may sign the bill, thus making it a law; he may veto the bill and return it to Congress with his stated objections attached; or, if he does not sign or veto the bill in ten days after delivery (excluding Sundays), the bill becomes law. However, if Congress adjourns within ten days of the bill's delivery to the President, and the President has taken no action, the bill does not become law (a "pocket" veto). A bill vetoed by the President may still become law if passed over the President's objections by a two-thirds vote of both bodies. If either body fails to pass the bill by that margin, the bill does not become law.

APPENDIX B

LEGISLATIVE STATUS STEPS

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION	INITIAL FLOOR ACTIONS	SENATE STEP DEFINITION
		Introduced in Senate and read first time.
Motion to discharge committee filed by (Member name). Discharge Petition No: (petition number).		
Motion referred to calendar of motions to discharge committees.		
Motion to discharge failed by (vote data).		
House Committee on (name) discharged by (petition/resolution/suspension of rules/unanimous consent/motion).		Senate Committee on (name) discharged (by unanimous consent/by motion).
House Committee on (name) reported an original measure. Report No: (number).		Senate Committee on (name) reported an original measure. [Report No: (number).]
Referred to House Committee on (name) [instructions].		Referred to Senate Committee on (name) (by unanimous consent/by motion) [instructions].

INITIAL FLOOR ACTIONS		SENATE STEP DEFINITION	
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION			
Recommitted by House to House Committee on (name) by (vote data) [by virtue of objection made on call of private calendar/by unanimous consent] [instructions].		Recommitted by Senate to Senate Committee on (name) by (vote data) (by unanimous consent/by motion).	
Rereferred to House Committee on (name) [instructions].		Rereferred to Senate Committee on (name) (by unanimous consent/by motion).	
House Committee on (name) granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than (date).		Senate agreed by unanimous consent that the Committee on (name) have until (date) to file report.	

ADDITIONAL FLOOR STEPS FOLLOW:

COMMITTEE STEPS

SUBCOMMITTEE STEPS

HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE STEPS

COMMITTEE ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
		Senate Committee on (name) ordered to be reported an original measure.
Hearings held by Committee on (name) [free text].		Hearings held on the subject prior to introduction and referral of legislation.
		Committee on (name). Hearings held on the subject prior to measure being received from House and referred to committee.
		Committee on (name). Hearings held on the subject prior to committee ordering to be reported an original measure.
For previous action see (bill number).		
Referred to Subcommittee on (name).		Referred to Subcommittee on (name).
Rereferred to Subcommittee on (name).		Rereferred to Subcommittee on (name).
Recommitted to Subcommittee on (name).		Recommitted to Subcommittee on (name).
Executive comment requested from (agency, ...).		Executive comment requested from (agency, ...).

COMMITTEE
ACTIONS

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
[Favorable/Unfavorable] Executive Comment received from (agency).		[Favorable/Unfavorable] Executive Comment received from (agency).
Subcommittee on (name) discharged.		Subcommittee on (name) discharged.
Date of scheduled committee hearings.		Date of scheduled committee hearings.
Committee hearings held.		Committee hearings held.
Committee hearings adjourned subject to call of the chair.		Committee hearings adjourned subject to call of the chair.
Committee hearings resumed.		Committee hearings resumed.
Date of scheduled committee consideration and mark-up session.		Date of scheduled committee consideration and mark-up session.
Committee consideration and mark-up session held.		Committee consideration and mark-up session held.
Committee consideration and mark-up adjourned subject to call of the chair.		

COMMITTEE ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Committee consideration and mark-up resumed.		
		Considered by Committee on (name). (free text).
Text of (bill number) substituted as an amendment to this measure.		Text of (bill number) substituted as an amendment to this measure.
[Provisions of] (bill number) incorporated in this measure as a committee amendment.		
Tabled by committee.		
Postponed by committee until (date).		
Postponed indefinitely by committee.		
Motion to report measure defeated by (vote data).		
Ordered to be reported [unfavorably/without recommendation] [amended].		Ordered to be reported [unfavorably/without recommendation] [amended].
		Committee on (name) incorporated provisions of related measures (measure numbers) in reported measure.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Committee reconsidered measure [free text].		
Clean bill to be reported in lieu.		
Original measure to be reported in lieu.		
(Similar/Identical/Other measure/Clean bill/ Original measure) (bill number) reported in lieu.		(Similar/Identical/Other measure/Clean bill/ Original measure) (bill number) to be reported in lieu.
[Provisions of] measure incorporated into (bill number) [free text].		Provisions of measure incorporated into measure ordered to be reported.
Text of this measure substituted as an amend- ment to (bill number).		
House Committee on (name) approved further amendments to measure previously reported.		Committee reconsidered its action on measure previously reported and ordered to be reported with further amendments.
For further action see (measure number).		

SUBCOMMITTEE
ACTIONS

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Hearings held by subcommittee on (name) [free text].		Hearings held on the subject prior to introduction and referral.
		Hearings held on subject prior to the measure being received from the House.
		Hearings held prior to introduction.
		Hearings held on the subject prior to the subcommittee ordering to be reported an original measure.
Date of scheduled subcommittee hearings.		Date of scheduled subcommittee hearings.
Subcommittee hearings held.		Subcommittee hearings held.
Subcommittee hearings adjourned subject to call of the chair.		Subcommittee hearings adjourned subject to call of the chair.

SUBCOMMITTEE
ACTIONS

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Subcommittee hearings resumed.		Subcommittee hearings resumed.
Date of scheduled subcommittee consideration and mark-up session.		Date of scheduled subcommittee consideration and mark-up session.
Subcommittee consideration and mark-up session held.		Subcommittee consideration and mark-up session held.
Subcommittee consideration and mark-up adjourned subject to call of the chair.		
Subcommittee consideration and mark-up resumed.		
		Considered by subcommittee on (name). [free text].
Tabled by subcommittee.		
Postponed by subcommittee until (date).		
Postponed indefinitely by subcommittee.		

SUBCOMMITTEE
ACTIONS

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Forwarded by subcommittee to full committee [amended] [unfavorably/without recommendation].		Forwarded by subcommittee to full committee [amended].
Clean bill to be forwarded to full committee in lieu.		
Original measure to be forwarded by subcommittee to full committee in lieu.		
(Similar/Identical/Other measure/Clean bill/Original measure) (measure number) forwarded by subcommittee to full committee in lieu.		Subcommittee on (name) reported original measure to full committee.
Subcommittee reconsidered measure [free text].		

RULES ACTIONS BY
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION	SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Rules Committee hearing requested.	
Hearing scheduled by Committee on Rules.	
Rules Committee action postponed.	
Hearings held by Committee on Rules.	
Committee on Rules voted to deny a rule.	
Rule granted (providing an open rule/ providing a closed rule/providing a partially closed rule/providing a modified rule) with (number of hours) hour(s) of debate. [Waiver of points of order/ partial waiver of points of order].	
Committee on Rules agreed to a motion to reconsider measure.	
Rules Committee granted a rule [free text].	

FLOOR ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Reported to House [amended] by House Committee on (name). Report No: (number) [part number].		Reported to Senate (unfavorably/without recommendation) [amended] by Senate Committee on (name). Report No: (number) [part number].
		Senate Committee on (name) reported further amendments to measure previously reported.
Placed on (Union/House/Private/Consent) Calendar No: (number).		Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under (section). Calendar No: (number).
Rules Committee resolution (number) reported to House.		
Date scheduled for House consideration (by rule/as D.C. business/as privileged matter/by special order/under suspension of rules).		
Discharged from (Union/House/Private/Consent) Calendar.		Taken from Senate Legislative Calendar under (section) and placed under (section), by unanimous consent.

FLOOR
ACTIONS

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Received in the House and held at the desk.		Received in Senate, and by unanimous consent held at desk.
		Motion to proceed to consideration of measure (entered/debated) in Senate.
		Motion to proceed to consideration of measure withdrawn in Senate.
		Motion to proceed to consideration of measure agreed to in Senate by (vote data).
		Motion to proceed to consideration of measure not agreed to in Senate by (vote data).
		Motion to proceed to consideration of measure tabled in Senate by (vote data).
		Committed to Committee on (name) (by unanimous consent/by motion) [instructions].
H. Res. (number) referred to Committee on Rules.		

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION	FLOOR ACTIONS	SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Rule passed House.		
Rule failed of passage in House.		
Unanimous consent request rejected in House.		
Called up by House (by special order/ under suspension of rules/on Calendar Wednesday/during morning hour/as privileged matter/by unanimous consent/as D.C. business/ on call of Private Calendar/on call of Calendar of Motions to Discharge Committee/on call of Consent Calendar/by rule).		
Measure considered in House as in the Committee of the Whole.		
Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment.		
The Clerk reported committee amendments.		
House agreed to amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.		
Separate vote demanded on amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.		

FLOOR ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Considered by House [free text].		Considered by Senate [free text].
		Measure laid before Senate (by unanimous consent/by motion).
Failed to receive 2/3's vote to suspend and pass by (vote data).		
Passed over by House without prejudice.		
		Cloture Motion presented in Senate.
		Cloture Motion tabled in Senate by (vote data).

FLOOR ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
		Cloture not invoked in Senate by (vote data).
		Cloture invoked in Senate by (vote data).
Stricken from Consent Calendar.		
Enacting clause stricken by House by (vote data).		Enacting clause stricken by Senate by (vote data).
Proceedings vacated in House.		Senate vitiated previous passage.
Passed House [amended] by (vote data).		Passed Senate [amended] by (vote date).
Resolution agreed to in House [amended] by (vote data).		Resolution agreed to in Senate [amended] by (vote data).

FLOOR
ACTIONS

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
House ordered measure printed as passed.		Senate ordered measure printed as passed.
House ordered measure printed as passed with amendments of the Senate numbered.		Senate ordered measure printed as passed with amendments of the Senate numbered.
Passed House via omnibus measure (measure number).		
Failed of passage in House by (vote data).		Failed of passage in Senate by (vote data).
Motion to table made in House.		Motion to table made in Senate.
Motion to table withdrawn in House.		Motion to table withdrawn in Senate.
Motion to table agreed to in House by (vote data).		Motion to table agreed to in Senate by (vote data).
Motion to table rejected in House by (vote data).		Motion to table rejected in Senate by (vote data).
Motion to reconsider made in House.		Motion to reconsider entered in Senate.
Motion to reconsider withdrawn in House.		Motion to reconsider withdrawn in Senate.

FLOOR ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Motion to reconsider agreed to in House by (vote data).		Motion to reconsider agreed to in Senate by (vote data).
Motion to reconsider rejected in House by (vote data).		Motion to reconsider not agreed to in Senate by (vote data).
Motion to reconsider tabled in House by (vote data).		Motion to reconsider tabled by Senate by (vote data).
Reconsidered in House by (vote data).		
Measure indefinitely postponed in House by (vote data).		Indefinitely postponed in Senate by (vote data).
Laid on table in House by (vote data).		Laid on table by Senate.

FLOOR ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
		Resolution (number) agreed to in Senate relating to this measure.
Other resolution passed House affecting measure. Resolution No: (resolution number).		Other measure (number) passed Senate affecting measure.
		Measure amended in Senate (by unanimous consent/by motion) after passage by (vote data).
House struck all after the enacting clause and substituted the language of (measure number) [as amended].		Senate struck all after the enacting clause and substituted the language of (measure number) [as amended].
Other measure (number) passed House in lieu.		
House incorporated this measure in (measure number) as an amendment.		Senate incorporated this measure in (measure number) as an amendment.
House incorporated (measure number) in this measure as an amendment.		Senate incorporated (measure number) in this measure as an amendment.

FLOOR
ACTIONS

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
House agreed to Senate amendments to House amendments by (vote data).		Senate agreed to House amendments to Senate amendments by (vote data).
House concurred in Senate amendments to House amendments with amendments by (vote data).		Senate concurred in House amendments to Senate amendments with amendments by (vote data).
House disagreed to Senate amendments to House amendments by (vote data).		Senate disagreed to House amendments to Senate amendments by (vote data).
House agreed to Senate amendments (numbers) by (vote data).		Senate agreed to House amendments by (vote data).
House concurred in Senate amendments (numbers) with amendments by (vote data).		Senate concurred in House amendments with amendments by (vote data).
House disagreed to Senate amendments (numbers) by (vote data).		Senate disagreed to House amendments by (vote data).
House agreed to Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate amendments (numbers) by (vote data).		Senate agreed to House amendments to Senate amendments to House amendments by (vote data).

FLOOR ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
House disagreed to Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate amendments (numbers) by (vote data).		Senate disagreed to House amendments to Senate amendments to House amendments by (vote data).
House insisted on its amendments by (vote data).		Senate insisted on its amendments by (vote data).
House conferees instructed [free text] by (vote data).		Senate conferees instructed [free text] by (vote data).
House requested a conference and Speaker appointed conferees: (names).		Senate requested a conference and appointed conferees: (names).
		Senate disagreed to House amendments, requested a conference, and appointed conferees: (names).
House agreed to request for conference and Speaker appointed conferees: (names).		Senate agreed to request for conference and appointed conferees: (names).

JOINT HOUSE/SENATE
CONFERENCE ACTIONS

STEP DEFINITION
Date of scheduled conference.
Conference held.
Conference adjourned subject to call of chair.
Conference resumed.
Conferees agreed to file conference report.

FLOOR ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Conference report (number) filed in House.		Conference report (number) filed in Senate.
Conference report ruled out of order.		
Conference report considered in House.		Conference report considered in Senate.
Conference report recommitted by House by (vote data).		Conference report recommitted by Senate.
House conferees discharged by (vote data). New conferees appointed by the Speaker: (names).		Senate conferees discharged, new conferees appointed. (names).
House conferees further instructed [free text] by (vote data).		Senate conferees further instructed.
House agreed to conference report by (vote data).		Senate agreed to conference report by (vote data).

FLOOR ACTIONS		
HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
House disagreed to conference report by (vote data).		Senate disagreed to conference report by (vote data).
House further insisted on its amendments.		Senate further insisted on its amendments.
House insisted on its amendments and requested further conference.		Senate further insisted on its amendments and asked for a further conference.
House insisted on its disagreement to Senate amendments (numbers) and requested further conference.		Senate disagreed to the conference report and asked for further conference.
House agreed to further conference.		Senate agreed to further conference.
		Senate receded from its disagreement to House amendments.
		Senate receded from its disagreement to House amendments, and agreed thereto with amendments (numbers).
House receded from its amendments.		Senate receded from its amendments (numbers).
House receded and concurred in Senate amendments (numbers).		Senate receded and concurred in House amendments.

FLOOR
ACTIONS

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION		SENATE STEP DEFINITION
House receded and concurred with an amendment in Senate amendments (numbers).		Senate receded and concurred with an amendment in House amendments.
House insisted on its disagreement to Senate amendments (numbers).		
House insisted on its amendments to Senate amendments (numbers).		
House further insisted on its disagreement to Senate amendments (numbers).		
Cleared for White House.		Cleared for White House.

FINAL
ACTIONS
STEP DEFINITIONS

Presented to President.
Signed by President.
Sent to Administrator of General Services unsigned.
Vetoed by President.
Pocket vetoed by President.

HOUSE STEP DEFINITION			SENATE STEP DEFINITION
Veto message and bill referred to House Committee on (name).			
House consideration of veto message postponed until (date).			
Passed House over veto by (vote data).			Passed Senate over veto by (vote data).
Failed of passage in House over veto by (vote data).			Failed of passage in Senate over veto by (vote data).
Became (public/private) law no: (number).			

