US GAO Federal Legislative Histories on Westlaw® (FED-LH)

No more time-consuming searches for rare, scattered documents. With one search in FED-LH, get the compiled history of virtually every statute passed by Congress between 1985 and 1995 — with links to original historical documents in PDF format.

Thanks to an exclusive contract with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), Westlaw now offers you hundreds of federal legislative histories compiled by GAO law librarians:

- **Initial Release**: More than 1,800 compiled histories
  - Coverage of most federal public laws enacted between 1985 and 1995
  - Original documents in PDF format

- **Planned Release Over Four Years**: More than 20,000 compiled histories
  - Coverage from 1915 to 1995
  - Nearly one million legislative documents — in PDF format

**Get complete federal legislative histories.**

Legislative history for a public law includes original versions of all documents leading up to the passage of the law, including but not limited to:

- Bill Text
- Bill Tracking and Summaries
- Public Laws
- Committee Reports
- Congressional Record
- Testimony
- Presidential Statements and Messages
- Committee Schedules
- U.S. Code (U.S.C.A.)
- Executive Orders

**See Sample Document**

**Advantages of US GAO Federal Legislative Histories on Westlaw**

- Gain the persuasive edge in discussions of vaguely worded statutes
  - Discern congressional intent
  - Demonstrate precise definitions of terms
- In seconds, retrieve legislative histories that might otherwise have taken you days
  - The GAO law librarians have already done all the compilation for you
- Find documents that would have been impossible to find in the past
  - Legislative documents are often rare, scattered and difficult or impossible to locate. In FED-LH, they’re at your fingertips!
- Get a first-hand view of history
  - View original documents in PDF format!