Finding Bills on ProQuest Congressional

ProQuest Congressional offers access to Congressional publications such as House and Senate Reports, The Congressional Record, CRS Reports, and bills and Public Laws. The Georgetown Law Library’s subscription includes the full text of bills back to 1789, or the 1st Congress, to the present. This tutorial will show you how to retrieve a copy of a bill using the ProQuest Congressional database.


From ProQuest Congressional’s homepage, we can search for a document by number by clicking on “Legislative & Executive Publications” and selecting “Search by Number.”

Use the drop-down menus to select the appropriate Congress and Bill type. Since our bill is a House bill, we do not have to change this option, but if you were looking for a Senate bill or a resolution, you would select that here. Lastly, enter the bill number.

Our results start with the legislative history of the Act, followed by the Enacted Public Law. If we want to see earlier versions of the bill as it passed through Congress, those are presented as well. If you want an overview of the progress of the bill, consult the Bill Profile, which has a handy timeline. You can look at the full Bill Profile if you want more detail, such as the Sponsors or Committees involved.

The full text link will get you a copy of the bill as it was originally published.

If you don’t have the bill number, but need to search for a particular topic, for instance, bills on the commercialization of space, you can also conduct a keyword search.

When you start typing, the search engine will offer you defined terms. Using these generally leads to better results.

These results include mentions of “space commercialization” in any field of the document including full text, so there are a large number of documents.

To get an even more targeted list of results, go to Advanced search and search “all fields except full text.” This type of searching tends to exclude documents that merely mention your term and do not discuss it extensively.

Our results contain 623 documents, but if we look at the document types, we see there are only 12 bills.

If you have questions, please consult a librarian.