ProQuest® Legislative Insight is an online resource available for congressional legislative history research.

Choose Search Option

- **HOME**- finds Legislative Histories
- **QUICK SEARCH**- finds Legislative Histories and/or other doc types
- **GUIDED SEARCH**- finds Legislative Histories and/or other doc types using fields and Boolean connectors
- **SEARCH BY NUMBER**- uses a known citation or publication number to find Legislative Histories and/or other doc types

On the **HOME** screen, the researcher can begin typing key words such as the topic or popular name or short title of the law at interest in the **SEARCH FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE HISTORIES** search field. The type-ahead matching suggests items in the Legislative Insight database of hand-compiled legislative histories - such as matching law names, documents titles in a compiled history, and index terms that have been applied to all histories. This box will search the histories and return matching compilations in relevance ranking.

The researcher may also enter a citation as a starting point - the Public Law number if known, a bill number if known or a Statue at Large citation. You can verify that the bill has been enacted into public law by entering the number in the “Citation Checker”.

The researcher can also browse the histories by listed numerically by Congress and view the list of Popular Law names covered in Legislative Insight by clicking on the hyperlink “Popular Names of Laws List.”
The QUICK SEARCH option finds Legislative Histories (or other document types selected using the check boxes) by using keyword searches. You can use Boolean connectors to clarify or restrict your terms.

Quick Search retrieves all legislative history materials and allows limiting search results to specific publications from a specific Congress or year.

If you know the Popular Name of the Law, you can access it in Quick Search via the Popular Names of Laws List.

Guided Search

Via dropdown menus, a GUIDED SEARCH allows the use of Boolean connectors and field specific searching. Limiting searches to specific publications and congresses is also available.
Use the **Search by Number** option when you know the Public Law number of the law you are researching, or a publication number. Select the radio button for Public Law Number, select the appropriate Congress from the dropdown menu, enter the PL number and run the search.

**Sample Legislative History Search**

You are researching the **Pay It Back Act** which is **Title XIII of the Dodd-Frank WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**, Public Law 111-203. Employing the **Search by Number** Option we may easily retrieve the law.

The legislative history of PL 111-203 contains 317 publications. You are only interested in the materials that deal with one provision of the act, the **Pay It Back Act**. In order to narrow your results to this one act, type your additional terms into the “Find terms in full text publications” box which allows you to search within the full text of the 317 publications.
By searching with the phrase “pay it back act” in the full text publications, the result is narrowed down to a more manageable 10 publications.

Clicking the box, *Only show pubs. matching full text search* will pull up the full text publications only. The citations to full text hits are highlighted in a yellow box.

Another way to find a legislative history when you know the Public Law number is to put the PL number in the Citation Checker on the *Legislative Insight* Homepage, then click, the *Go to Legislative History* button.