

## PROFESSIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH

The federal legislative process—what happens to a bill as it wends its way through Congress—is a complex process. Nevertheless, it is important to understand each step in the process in order to piece together the legislative history of a statute. The tabbed Legislative History–Federal page on Westlaw contains a graphical presentation of the congressional lawmaking process with links to useful databases. This quick reference guide shows you how to use this tabbed page to research the legislative history of a federal law.

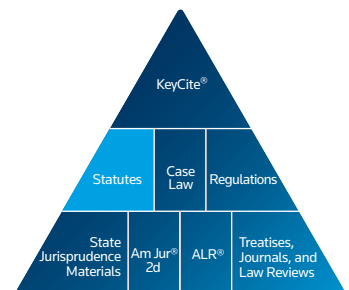
**Category:**

Research Fundamentals

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The Westlaw Research Pyramid

**Using the Westlaw  
Research Pyramid**

Statutes are the second category of primary legal sources.

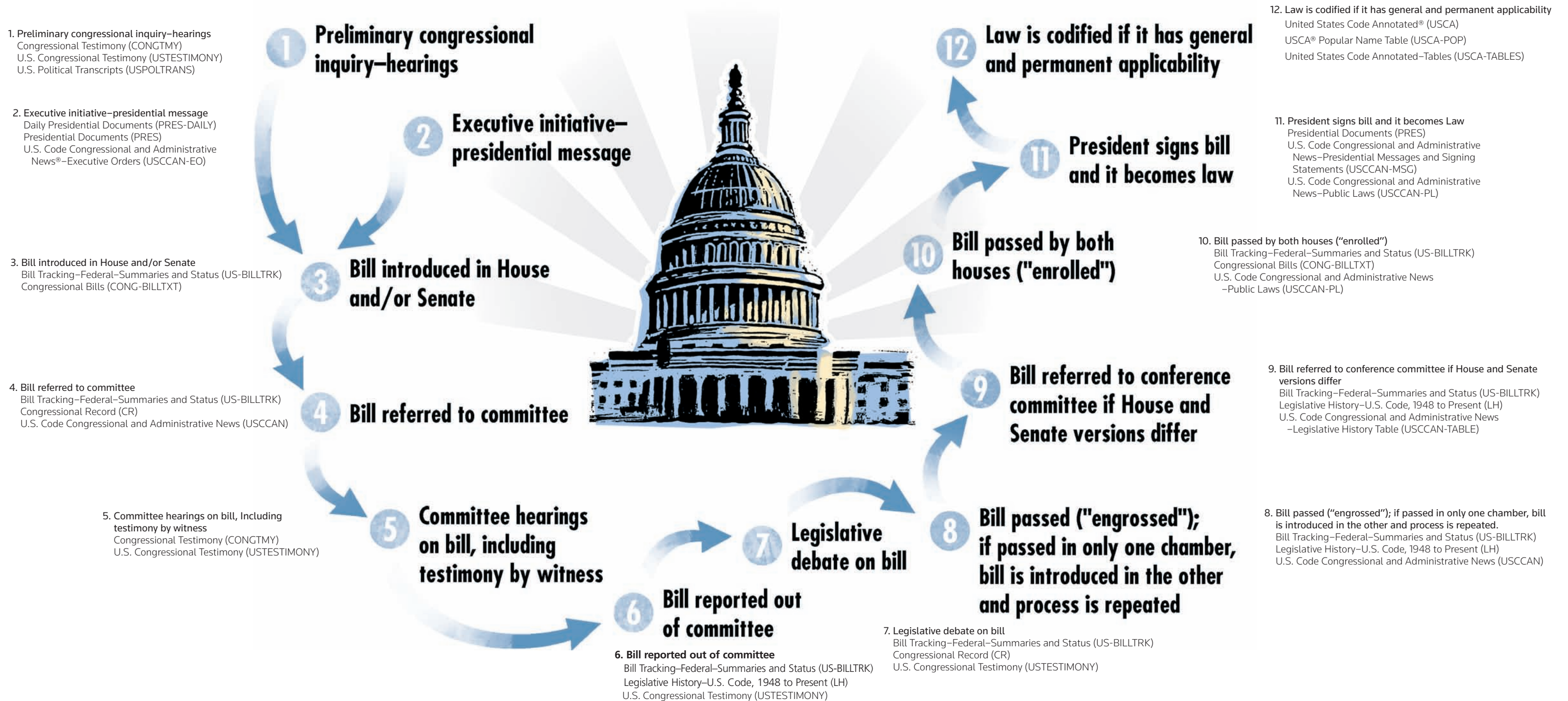
Statutes on Westlaw are annotated to help you find relevant case law that interprets or applies the statutes.

## Congressional Lawmaking Process Databases

The names and identifiers of selected databases pertinent to each step in the lawmaking process are listed below.

Law School Legislative History - Fed

# Congressional Lawmaking Process



For assistance using Westlaw, call 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378).  
For free reference materials, visit [west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides](http://west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides).

