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**U.S. Government Publishing Office  
Federal Digital System (FDsys)  
User Guide Document  
Bill Status XML Bulk Data**

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U.S. Government Publishing Office  
and the Library of Congress**

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## Revision History

Revision	Date	Description
1.0	December 2015	Version 1.0 in conjunction with release of sample Bill Status XML files in GPO's GitHub repository

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# 1. Introduction

At the direction of the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, in support of the Legislative Branch Bulk Data Task Force<sup>1</sup>, the Government Publishing Office (GPO), the Library of Congress (LOC), the Clerk of the House, and the Secretary of the Senate are making Bill Statuses in XML format available through the GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) Bulk Data repository starting with the 113th Congress. The FDsys Bulk Data repository for Bill Status information is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/bulkdata/BILLSTATUS>.

Please see <http://www.fdsys.gov> or <http://www.congress.gov> for access to individual House and Senate Congressional Bills in PDF, XML, and HTML formats.

## 1.1. Bill Types

### Bills

- House Bill (HR)
- Senate Bill (S)

A bill is a legislative proposal before Congress. Bills from each house are assigned a number in the order in which they are introduced, starting at the beginning of each Congress (first and second sessions). Public bills pertain to matters that affect the general public or classes of citizens, while private bills pertain to individual matters that affect individuals and organizations.

### Joint Resolutions

- House Joint Resolution (HJRES)
- Senate Joint Resolution (SJRES)

Like a bill, a joint resolution is a legislative proposal that requires the approval of both houses and the signature of the President. It has the force of law, if approved. Resolutions from each house are assigned a number in the order in which they are introduced, starting at the beginning of each Congress (first and second sessions). Joint resolutions generally are used for limited matters, such as a single appropriation for a specific purpose. They are also used to propose amendments to the Constitution. These types of joint resolutions do not require the President's signature if three-quarters of the states have ratified them.

### Concurrent Resolutions

- House Concurrent Resolution (HCONRES)
- Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCONRES)

A concurrent resolution is a legislative proposal that requires the approval of both houses but does not require the signature of the President and does not have the force of law. Concurrent resolutions generally are used to make or amend rules that apply to both houses. They are also

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<sup>1</sup> House Report 113-417 that accompanies H.R.4487, the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill for FY2015

used to express the sentiments of both of the houses. For example, a concurrent resolution is used to set the time of Congress' adjournment. It may also be used by Congress to convey congratulations to another country on the anniversary of its independence.

### **Simple Resolutions**

- House Simple Resolution (HRES)
- Senate Simple Resolution (SRES)

A simple resolution is a legislative proposal that addresses matters entirely within the prerogative of one house or the other. It requires neither the approval of the other house nor the signature of the President, and it does not have the force of law. Most simple resolutions concern the rules of one house. They are also used to express the sentiments of a single house. For example, a simple resolution may offer condolences to the family of a deceased member of Congress, or it may express the sense of the Senate or House on foreign policy or other executive business.

Additional information about bill types can be found at [http://www.gpo.gov/help/index.html#about\\_congressional\\_bills.htm](http://www.gpo.gov/help/index.html#about_congressional_bills.htm).

## **1.2. Scope of Bulk Data**

The Bill Status bulk data collection on FDsys includes XML bills statuses from 2013 (113th Congress) forward.

## **1.3. Bulk Data Downloads**

The Bulk Data repository is organized by Congress and bill type. A ZIP file is available for each bill type and contains Bill Status XML files for that bill type within a specific Congress. Each Bill Status XML file contains information about legislation under consideration for a specific measure.

## 2. XML Descriptions

The following conventions are used in this document:

- Top-level XML element names are denoted with angled brackets and in courier. For example, <title> is an XML element. Any children of the elements are described within the table and are not denoted with angle brackets or courier.

### 2.1. Elements

Element	Description
<billstatus>	Root element.
<bill>	Parent container for a single legislative measure.
<actions>	<p>Parent container for actions. The “Actions” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• actionByCounts <i>See Note</i>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ houseOfRepresentatives</li><li>○ senate</li><li>○ bothChambers</li></ul></li><li>• actionTypeCounts <i>See Note</i>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Various children such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ actionStageOverride</li><li>▪ becamePublicLaw</li><li>▪ committeeReportOfABill</li><li>▪ generalDebate,</li><li>▪ passedAgreedToInHouse</li><li>▪ passedSenate</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• actions<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ item<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ actionCode – <i>See Action Codes (page 15)</i>.</li><li>▪ actionDate (e.g. 2014-02-11)</li><li>▪ actionTime (e.g. 06:16PM; <i>Note: Only present for House floor actions</i>)</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>

Element	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• name</li> <li>• systemCode (e.g. ssju00). See <a href="https://www.congress.gov/help/field-values/current-committees">https://www.congress.gov/help/field-values/current-committees</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ name (e.g. Roll no. 60)</li> <li>○ url (e.g. <a href="http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll060.xml">http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll060.xml</a>; <a href="https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2015/senate-section/page/S2613-2625">https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2015/senate-section/page/S2613-2625</a>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ sourceSystem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• code (Possible values are 0, 1, 2, and 9.)</li> <li>• name (Possible values are House, House committee actions, Senate, and Library of Congress.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ text (e.g. Motion to table the veto message to accompany S. J. Res. 8 agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 96 - 3. Record Vote Number: 172. (consideration: CR S2644))</li> <li>▪ type actionCode – See Action Codes (page 16)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: &lt;actionbyCounts&gt;, &lt;actionTypeCounts&gt;, and &lt;type&gt; elements support Congress.gov facets and data processing; they do not represent House nor Senate legislative process activities.</i></p> <p><i>Note: &lt;sourceSystem&gt; and &lt;type&gt; are often required to disambiguate Action Codes.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Type elements content will be changed in 2016 to match this documentation.</i></p>
<amendments>	<p>Parent container for amendments. The Amendments element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amendment</li> </ul>

Element	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ congress (e.g. 114)</li> <li>○ description</li> <li>○ latestAction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ actionDate (e.g. 2015-03-24)</li> <li>▪ text (e.g. Amendment SA 498 agreed to in Senate by Yeas-Nays Vote. 75 - 24. Record Vote Number: 83.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ number (e.g. 498)</li> <li>○ purpose (e.g. To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to legislation submitted to Congress by President Obama to protect and strengthen Social Security.)</li> <li>○ type (e.g. SAMDT)</li> </ul>
<b>&lt;billNumber&gt;</b>	Numerical bill number.
<b>&lt;billType&gt;</b>	Bill type (Possible values are H, S, HRES, SRES, HJRES, SJRES, HCONRES, and SCONRES).
<b>&lt;calendarNumbers&gt;</b>	<p>Parent container for House or Senate calendar numbers. The "Calendar Numbers" element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ calendar (e.g. Senate Calendar of Business, Senate Executive Calendar)</li> <li>○ number (e.g. 0192, U00134, H00002, P00021, D00001)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note: House calendar codes are U=Union, H=House, P=Private, and D=Discharge.</i></p>
<b>&lt;cboCostEstimates&gt;</b>	<p>Parent container for Congressional Budget Office cost estimates. The "Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimates" element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ rptPubDate (e.g. 2015-10-08T19:37:56Z)</li> <li>○ rptTitle (e.g. S. 1300, Adoptive Family Relief Act)</li> <li>○ rptUrl (e.g. <a href="http://www.cbo.gov/publication/50883">http://www.cbo.gov/publication/50883</a>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>&lt;constitutionalAuthorityStatementText&gt;</b>	<p>Constitutional authority statement about the legislative measure (e.g. <code>&lt;![CDATA[&lt;pre&gt;From the Congressional Record Online through the Government Publishing Office [<a &gt;www.gpo.gov&lt;="" .="" .''_____="" 45.congress="" [page="" ``the="" a&gt;]by="" amendments="" arizona:h.j.="" both="" code="" congress,whenever="" constitution="" constitution:="" deem="" enact="" following:article="" franks="" h2310]&lt;="" has="" houses="" href="http://www.gpo.gov" it="" legislation="" mr.="" necessary,shall="" of="" power="" pre&gt;]]&gt;<="" propose="" pursuantto="" res.="" shall="" the="" thirds="" this="" to="" two="" u.s.="" v="">)</a></code></p>

Element	Description
	<i>Note: Value is enclosed in CDATA.</i>
<b>&lt;committee Reports&gt;</b>	<p>Parent container for committee reports. The “Committee Reports” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• committeeReport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ citation (e.g. H. Rept. 114-182)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note: This element will be empty unless a measure has associated reports.</i></p>
<b>&lt;committees&gt;</b>	<p>Parent container for committees. Committees, subcommittees, and references to reports associated with a legislative measure are included here, as well as the nature and date of <a href="#">committee-related activity</a> and <a href="#">Congressional report</a> number. The “Committees” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• billCommittees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ date (e.g. 2015-03-27T08:20:51Z)</li> <li>○ name (e.g. Discharged from)</li> <li>○ reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• citation (e.g. S. Rept. 114-123)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ chamber (e.g. House)</li> <li>▪ name (e.g. Energy and Commerce Committee)</li> <li>▪ subcommittees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• date (e.g. 2013-07-11T20:29:02Z)</li> <li>• name (e.g. reporting)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ name (e.g. Energy and Power Subcommittee)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Element	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ systemCode (e.g. hsif03)</li> <li>▪ systemCode (e.g. hsif00)</li> <li>▪ type (e.g. standing)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: The &lt;committees&gt; element will be empty unless a measure has received committee-related action.</i></p>
<congress>	The number of the Congress (e.g. 114).
<cosponsors>	<p>Parent container for cosponsors. The “Cosponsors” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ firstName (e.g. Pedro)</li> <li>○ middleName (e.g. Lee)</li> <li>○ lastName (e.g. Zinke)</li> <li>○ isOriginalCosponsor (e.g. True)</li> <li>○ name (e.g. Pierluisi, Pedro R.)</li> <li>○ sponsorshipDate (e.g. 2013-01-03)</li> <li>○ sponsorshipWithdrawnDate</li> <li>○ identifiers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ bioguideId (e.g. P000596)</li> <li>▪ gpold (e.g. 8138)</li> <li>▪ lisID (e.g. 1953)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note: This element will be empty unless a measure has cosponsors.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Values contained in &lt;sponsorshipWithdrawnDate&gt; include House cosponsor deleted dates and Senate cosponsor withdrawn dates.</i></p> <p><i>Note: See the <a href="#">Congress.gov Glossary</a> for more information about cosponsors.</i></p>
<createDate>	The date the record was created for Congress.gov.
<introduced Date>	The date the legislative measure was introduced, submitted, offered or proposed (e.g. 2013-01-03). This element corresponds with the first action date element in the XML file for an introduced measure.

Element	Description
<b>&lt;isByRequest&gt;</b>	<p>A designation on a measure indicating that the member has introduced the measure on behalf of someone else (e.g. the President or an executive branch agency), or pursuant to statutory requirements, and may not necessarily support its provisions. Possible values are False and True.</p> <p><i>Note: Please see the <a href="#">Congress.gov Glossary</a> for more information about the designation “by request”.</i></p>
<b>&lt;isReserved&gt;</b>	<p>In recent Congresses, the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives allow for the Speaker of the House and the Minority Leader to reserve bill numbers for later assignment.</p> <p>Possible value is False.</p> <p><i>Note: See the <a href="#">Congress.gov Glossary</a> for more information about reserved bill numbers.</i></p>
<b>&lt;lastAction&gt;</b>	<p>Parent container for the last action. The “Last Action” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• actionDate (e.g. 2015-10-16)</li> <li>• links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ name (e.g. Public Law No: 114-70)</li> <li>▪ url (e.g. <a href="https://www.congress.gov/114th-congress/senate-bill/261/text/pl">https://www.congress.gov/114th-congress/senate-bill/261/text/pl</a>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• text (e.g. Became Public Law No: 114-270.)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Data from this element also appears within &lt;actions&gt; element.</i></p>
<b>&lt;laws&gt;</b>	<p>Parent container for the public or private law citation. The “Laws” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ number (e.g. 113-235)</li> <li>○ type (Possible values are Public Law and Private Law.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note: This element will be empty unless a measure has been enacted into law and the public law number has been assigned.</i></p>
<b>&lt;RecordedVotes&gt;</b>	<p>Parent container for recorded votes. The “Recorded Votes” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recordedVote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ chamber (e.g. Senate, House)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Element	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ congress (e.g. 114)</li> <li>○ date (e.g. 2015-05-05T22:33:54Z)</li> <li>○ fullActionName (e.g. MOTION TO CONSIDER)</li> <li>○ rollNumber (e.g. 66, 563)</li> <li>○ sessionNumber (e.g. 1, 2)</li> <li>○ url (e.g. http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?&amp;congress=114&amp;session=1&amp;vote=00066)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: When constructing links to Senate roll call votes, the formatting of the ampersand may need to be transformed as in the example below.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?&amp;congress=113&amp; session=2&amp;vote=00354</li> </ul>
<notes>	<p>Parent container for notes. The “Notes” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• name (e.g. H.Res.776)</li> <li>• url (e.g. https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-resolution/776/)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ text (e.g. &lt;![CDATA[&lt;a href="https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/113th-congress/house-report/655"&gt;House Report 113-655&lt;/a&gt; (accompanying H.Res.776), &lt;a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CPRT-113HPRT91668/pdf/CPRT-113HPRT91668.pdf"&gt;Rules Committee Print 113-59&lt;/a&gt;, and the &lt;a href="https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2014/12/11/house-section/article/H9307-1"&gt;explanatory statement&lt;/a&gt; printed in the December 11, 2014, Congressional Record provide additional details related to the bill as agreed to by the House on 12/11/2014.]] The “Text” element is enclosed in CDATA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ name (e.g. H.Res.776)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• url (e.g. <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-resolution/776/">https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-resolution/776/</a>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Element	Description
	<p><a href="#">congress/house-resolution/776</a>)</p> <p><i>Note: See the <a href="#">Congress.gov Glossary</a> for more information.</i></p>
<originChamber>	The chamber in which the measure originated. Possible values are House and Senate.
<primarySubject>	<p>Parent container for primary subjects. There are 33 policy area terms which span across all legislation from 1973 to the present. Legislative analysts at the Library of Congress closely examine each bill and resolution to assign a <a href="#">policy area term</a> that best describes the entire legislative measure. This policy area term can be found in the &lt;name&gt; element (e.g. Economics and Public Finance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>parentSubject</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See the <a href="#">Congress.gov Glossary</a> for more information about policy area terms.</i></p>
<relatedBills>	<p>Parent container for related bills. A related bill may be a <a href="#">companion measure</a>, an <a href="#">identical bill</a>, a <a href="#">procedurally-related measure</a>, or one with <a href="#">substantive similarities</a>. Legislative analysts at the Library of Congress closely examine bills and resolutions to assign bill relationships. Bill relationships may also be identified by the House or Senate. Bill relationships refer only to same-congress measures. The “Related Bills” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>congress (e.g. 113)</li> <li>latestAction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>actionDate (e.g. 2014-12-19)</li> <li>text (e.g. Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>latestTitle (e.g. Omnibus Territories Act of 2013)</li> <li>number (e.g. 1237)</li> <li>relationshipDetails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifiedBy (e.g. CRS)</li> <li>type (e.g. Related Bill)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>type (e.g. S.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note: The following patterns can be used to build links to related bills. Bill &lt;type&gt; will need to be normalized into {normalized type} that removes punctuation and converts to lower case (ie. h, s, hres, sres, hjres, sjres, hconres, or sconres).</i></p> <p>FDsys Bill Text XML</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://api.fdsys.gov/link?collection=bills&amp;billtype={normalized type}&amp;billnum=&lt;number&gt;&amp;congress=&lt;congress&gt;&amp;link-type=xml">http://api.fdsys.gov/link?collection=bills&amp;billtype={normalized type}&amp;billnum=&lt;number&gt;&amp;congress=&lt;congress&gt;&amp;link-type=xml</a></li> </ul>

Element	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://api.fdsys.gov/link?collection=bills&amp;billtype=hr&amp;billnum=83&amp;congress=113&amp;link-type=xml">http://api.fdsys.gov/link?collection=bills&amp;billtype=hr&amp;billnum=83&amp;congress=113&amp;link-type=xml</a></li> </ul> <p>FDsys Bill Text PDF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://api.fdsys.gov/link?collection=bills&amp;billtype={normalized type}&amp;billnum=&lt;number&gt;&amp;congress=&lt;congress&gt;&amp;link-type=pdf">http://api.fdsys.gov/link?collection=bills&amp;billtype={normalized type}&amp;billnum=&lt;number&gt;&amp;congress=&lt;congress&gt;&amp;link-type=pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://api.fdsys.gov/link?collection=bills&amp;billtype=hr&amp;billnum=83&amp;congress=113&amp;link-type=pdf">http://api.fdsys.gov/link?collection=bills&amp;billtype=hr&amp;billnum=83&amp;congress=113&amp;link-type=pdf</a></li> </ul> <p>FDsys Bill Status XML</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/bulkdata/BILLSTATUS/&lt;congress&gt;/{normalized type}/BILLSTATUS-&lt;congress&gt;{normalized type}&lt;number&gt;.xml">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/bulkdata/BILLSTATUS/&lt;congress&gt;/{normalized type}/BILLSTATUS-&lt;congress&gt;{normalized type}&lt;number&gt;.xml</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/bulkdata/BILLSTATUS/113/hr/BILLSTATUS-113hr83.xml">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/bulkdata/BILLSTATUS/113/hr/BILLSTATUS-113hr83.xml</a></li> </ul> <p>Congress.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/&lt;congress&gt;/&lt;type&gt;/&lt;number&gt;">https://www.congress.gov/bill/&lt;congress&gt;/&lt;type&gt;/&lt;number&gt;</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/113/hr/83">https://www.congress.gov/bill/113/hr/83</a></li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See the <a href="#">Congress.gov Glossary</a> for more information about related bills.</i></p>
<sponsors>	<p>Parent container for sponsors. The “Sponsors” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ firstName (e.g. Charles)</li> <li>○ middleName (e.g. B.)</li> <li>○ lastName (e.g. Rangel)</li> <li>○ identifiers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ bioguideId (e.g. R000053)</li> <li>▪ gpold (e.g. 9803)</li> <li>▪ lisID (e.g. 944)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Name elements will be changed in 2016 to match this documentation</i></p>
<subjects>	<p>Parent container for subjects. <a href="#">Legislative subject terms</a> like those found in &lt;otherSubjects&gt; describe a measure’s substance and effects. There are approximately 1,000 issue-oriented, entity, and geographic terms. The “Subjects” element may include the following children:</p>

Element	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• billSubjects               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ otherSubjects                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ item                       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• name (e.g. Alternative and renewable resources)                           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ parentSubject                               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ name (e.g. Energy)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ primarySubjects                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ name (e.g. Economics and Public Finance)                       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parentSubject                           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ name</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See the <a href="#">Congress.gov Glossary</a> for more information about legislative subject terms.</i></p>
<summaries>	<p>Parent container for summaries. Upon introduction of a bill or resolution in the House or Senate, legislative analysts in the <a href="#">Congressional Research Service</a> of the Library of Congress write a short summary that objectively describes the measure's significant provisions. Introduced version summaries are subject to length limitations as a matter of policy.</p> <p>When a measure receives action (e.g. it is reported from a committee or passed by the House or Senate), the analysts then write an expanded summary, detailing the measure's effect upon programs and current law. Bill summaries are written as a result of a congressional action and may not always correspond to a document published by the <a href="#">Government Publishing Office</a>. A final public law summary is prepared upon enactment into law.</p> <p>Each summary description identifies the date and version of the measure, and indicates whether there have been amendments: e.g. Passed House amended (07/19/2013).</p> <p>See item 3 (below) for Mapping of LOC Action Codes for Summaries, Action Description Text, and Version Codes. The “Summaries” element may include the following children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• billSummaries               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ item                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ actionDate (e.g. 2013-01-03)</li> <li>▪ actionDesc (e.g. Introduced in House)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Element	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ text (e.g. &lt;![CDATA[&lt;p&gt;Requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to: (1) develop an energy action plan addressing the energy needs of each of the insular areas (American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands) and Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau); and (2) assist each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States in implementing such plan.&lt;br&gt; &lt;/p&gt; &lt;p&gt;Requires such plan to include: (1) recommendations to reduce reliance and expenditures on imported fossil fuels, to develop indigenous, nonfossil fuel energy sources, and to improve performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency; (2) a schedule for implementation of such recommendations and identification and prioritization of specific projects; (3) a financial and engineering plan for implementing and sustaining projects; and (4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward implementation.&lt;/p&gt;]]&gt;). The “Text” element is enclosed in CDATA.</li> <li>▪ lastSummaryUpdateDate (e.g. 2013-06-24T21:11:48Z)</li> <li>▪ name (e.g. Introduced in House)</li> <li>▪ updateDate (e.g. 2013-01-03T05:00:00Z)</li> <li>▪ versionCode (e.g. 00)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Bill Summaries are also available as a separate collection on the FDsys Bulk Data repository.</i></p>
<title>	Parent container for titles.
<titles>	<p>Parent container for additional titles.</p> <p>In addition to an official title, a bill may be assigned one or more short titles upon introduction, committee or chamber action, or enactment. Titles may apply to all or portions of a measure's content. Titles may change as a measure moves through the legislative process.</p> <p>The “Titles” element may include the following children:</p>

Element	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ chamberCode (e.g. H)</li> <li>○ chamberName (e.g. House)</li> <li>○ parentTitleType (e.g. Official Titles - House of Representatives, Short Title)</li> <li>○ title (e.g. To require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.)</li> <li>○ titleType (e.g. Official Titles as Amended by House, Short Titles on Other Versions for portions of this bill)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Popular Titles are informal, unofficial names for legislation that may be assigned by the House, Senate, or CRS to improve access. Popular titles are usually not found within official legislative texts (e.g. the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is commonly known as the health care reform bill).</i></p> <p><i>Note: See the <a href="#">Congress.gov Glossary</a> for more information about titles.</i></p>
<updateDate>	The date the record metadata was updated for Congress.gov.
<dublinCore>  xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/"	Parent container for Dublin Core metadata. The "Dublin Core" element may include the following children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dc:format (value is text/xml)</li> <li>• dc:language (value is EN)</li> <li>• dc:rights (value is Pursuant to Title 17 Section 105 of the United States Code, this file is not subject to copyright protection and is in the public domain.)</li> <li>• dcLcontributor (value is Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress)</li> <li>• dc:description (value is This file contains bill summaries and statuses for federal legislation. A bill summary describes the most significant provisions of a piece of legislation and details the effects the legislative text may have on current law and federal programs. Bill summaries are authored by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress. As stated in Public Law 91-510 (2 USC 166 (d)(6)), one of the</li> </ul>



Element	Description
	duties of CRS is "to prepare summaries and digests of bills and resolutions of a public general nature introduced in the Senate or House of Representatives". For more information, refer to the User Guide that accompanies this file.)

### 3. Action Codes Element Possible Values

This list is representational of the codes that are available to map actions on a measure and other data. It is provided as a courtesy; a complete, authoritative list of action codes does not exist. In general, expect action codes when source system is 2 (House floor) or 9 (Library of Congress).

Various code sets are used by multiple systems in the House, Senate, and Library of Congress by legislative clerks and data editors for functions independent of this bulk data set. As new codes and systems were developed, there was no coordinated effort to retroactively apply new codes to old records. Many codes are concatenated with other codes or elements, or utilize free text. Codes in one set may be redundant with a different code in another code set. Additionally, some codes may have been used and re-used over the years for different purposes further complicating the ability to create an authoritative list.

The original code set can be found at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/ppmsca.33996/>.

Code	Text in the <actionCode> Element
<b>B00100</b>	Sponsor introductory remarks on measure
<b>E20000</b>	Presented to President
<b>E30000</b>	Signed by President
<b>E40000</b>	Became Public Law No: 114-47
<b>H11100</b>	Referred to the Committee
<b>H11200</b>	Sequential committee referral
<b>H12100</b>	Committee report of an original measure
<b>H12200</b>	Committee reported
<b>H12300</b>	Committee discharged
<b>H12410</b>	Union Calendar assignment
<b>H14000</b>	Received in the House
<b>H15000</b>	Held at the desk
<b>H17000</b>	Motion to Discharge Committee
<b>H1L210</b>	Rule provides for consideration of
<b>H25200</b>	Conference report [free text] filed
<b>H37300</b>	Final Passage Under Suspension of the Rules Results
<b>H38310</b>	Motion To Reconsider Results

<b>H30000</b>	Consideration by House
<b>H8D000</b>	DEBATE
<b>H81000</b>	Point of order against a motion
<b>1000</b>	Introduced in House
<b>2000</b>	Referred to House committee
<b>5000</b>	Reported to House
<b>8000</b>	Passed/agreed to in House
<b>10000</b>	Introduced in Senate
<b>11000</b>	Referred to Senate committee
<b>13100</b>	Senate committee/subcommittee hearings
<b>13200</b>	Senate committee/subcommittee markups
<b>14000</b>	Reported to Senate
<b>14500</b>	Senate committee discharged
<b>14900</b>	Senate committee report filed after reporting
<b>17000</b>	Passed/agreed to in Senate
<b>28000</b>	Presented to President.
<b>36000</b>	Became Public Law

#### 4. Actions Type Element Possible Values

This list of action types primarily represents legislative process stages or categories of more detailed actions. Most types condense actions into sets. Some types are used for data processing, and do not represent House nor Senate legislative process activities.

Text in the <type> Element
Actions by the President
Actions Related to President
Actions Related to Veto
Amending Actions
BecameLaw
Calendars
Chamber Actions
Chamber Consideration Actions
Committee
Committee Actions
Conference Actions
Discharge
Floor
ForwardY-N

House Actions
Introduced in House
Introduced in Senate
IntroReferral
NotUsed
President
Procedural
ResolvingDifferences
Senate Actions
Significant Actions
Unknown
VARIES

## 5. Mapping of LOC Action Codes for Summaries, Action Description Text, and Version Codes

LOC Action Code for Summaries	Chamber	Text in the <action-desc> Element	LOC Version Code
00	HOUSE	Introduced in House	IH
00	SENATE	Introduced in Senate	IS
01	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended	RS
02	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended, 1st committee reporting	RS
03	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended, 2nd committee reporting	RS
04	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended, 3rd committee reporting	RS
05	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended, 4th committee reporting	RS
06	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended, 5th committee reporting	RS
07	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended, 6th committee reporting	RS
08	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended, 7th committee reporting	RS
09	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended, 8th committee reporting	RS
10	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended, 9th committee reporting	RS
11	SENATE	Reported to Senate amended, 10th committee reporting	RS

12	SENATE	Reported to Senate without amendment, 1st committee reporting	RS
13	SENATE	Reported to Senate without amendment, 2nd committee reporting	RS
14	SENATE	Reported to Senate without amendment, 3rd committee reporting	RS
15	SENATE	Reported to Senate without amendment, 4th committee reporting	RS
16	SENATE	Reported to Senate without amendment, 5th committee reporting	RS
17	HOUSE	Reported to House amended	RH
18	HOUSE	Reported to House amended, Part I	RH
19	HOUSE	Reported to House amended, Part II	RH
20	HOUSE	Reported to House amended, Part III	RH
21	HOUSE	Reported to House amended, Part IV	RH
22	HOUSE	Reported to House amended, Part V	RH
23	HOUSE	Reported to House amended, Part VI	RH
24	HOUSE	Reported to House amended, Part VII	RH
25	HOUSE	Reported to House amended, Part VIII	RH
26	HOUSE	Reported to House amended, Part IX	RH
27	HOUSE	Reported to House amended, Part X	RH
28	HOUSE	Reported to House without amendment, Part I	RH
29	HOUSE	Reported to House without amendment, Part II	RH
30	HOUSE	Reported to House without amendment, Part III	RH
31	HOUSE	Reported to House without amendment, Part IV	RH
32	HOUSE	Reported to House without amendment, Part V	RH
33	HOUSE	Laid on table in House	LTH
34	SENATE	Indefinitely postponed in Senate	IPS
35	SENATE	Passed Senate amended	ES
36	HOUSE	Passed House amended	EH
37	SENATE	Failed of passage in Senate	FPS
38	HOUSE	Failed of passage in House	FPH
39	HOUSE	Senate agreed to House amendment with amendment	ATS
40	SENATE	House agreed to Senate amendment with amendment	ATH
41	HOUSE	Senate disagreed to House amendment with amendment	NAT
42	SENATE	House disagreed to Senate amendment with amendment	NAT
43	HOUSE	Senate disagreed to House amendment	NAT

44	SENATE	House disagreed to Senate amendment	NAT
45	SENATE	Senate receded and concurred with amendment	AES
46	HOUSE	House receded and concurred with amendment	EAH
47	SENATE	Conference report filed in Senate	CONF-S
48	HOUSE	Conference report filed in House	CONF-H
49	BOTH	Public Law	LAW
50	BOTH	Private Law	LAW
51	BOTH	Line item veto by President	LINEITEMVETO
52	SENATE	Passed Senate amended, 2nd occurrence	ES
53	SENATE	Passed Senate amended, 3rd occurrence	ES
54	HOUSE	Passed House amended, 2nd occurrence	EH
55	HOUSE	Passed House amended, 3rd occurrence	EH
56	SENATE	Senate vitiated passage of bill after amendment	PAV
57	HOUSE	House vitiated passage of bill after amendment	PAV
58	SENATE	Motion to recommit bill as amended in Senate	MOTION_R-S
59	HOUSE	Motion to recommit bill as amended in House	MOTION_R-H
60	SENATE	Senate agreed to House amendment with amendment, 2nd occurrence	ATS
61	SENATE	Senate agreed to House amendment with amendment, 3rd occurrence	ATS
62	HOUSE	House agreed to Senate amendment with amendment, 2nd occurrence	ATH
63	HOUSE	House agreed to Senate amendment with amendment, 3rd occurrence	ATH
64	SENATE	Senate receded and concurred with amendment, 2nd occurrence	AES
65	SENATE	Senate receded and concurred with amendment, 3rd occurrence	AES
66	HOUSE	House receded and concurred with amendment, 2nd occurrence	EAH
67	HOUSE	House receded and concurred with amendment, 3rd occurrence	EAH
70	HOUSE	Hearing scheduled in House	HRG-SCD-H
71	SENATE	Hearing scheduled in Senate	HRG-SCD-S
72	HOUSE	Hearing held in House	HRG-H
73	SENATE	Hearing held in Senate	HRG-S
74	HOUSE	Markup in House	MKUP-H
75	SENATE	Markup in Senate	MKUP-S
76	HOUSE	Rule reported to House	RULE-H
77	HOUSE	Discharged from House committee	CDH

78	SENATE	Discharged from Senate committee	CDS
79	HOUSE	Reported to House, without amendment	RH
80	SENATE	Reported to Senate without amendment	RS
81	HOUSE	Passed House, without amendment	EH
82	SENATE	Passed Senate, without amendment	ES
83	SENATE	Conference report filed in Senate, 2nd conference report	CONF-S
84	SENATE	Conference report filed in Senate, 3rd conference report	CONF-S
85	SENATE	Conference report filed in Senate, 4th conference report	CONF-S
86	HOUSE	Conference report filed in House, 2nd conference report	CONF-H
87	HOUSE	Conference report filed in House, 3rd conference report	CONF-H
88	HOUSE	Conference report filed in House, 4th conference report	CONF-H

## 6. Data Set

Bill Status data is provided to GPO by the Library of Congress, and XML files are available for bulk data download on the FDsys Bulk Data repository starting with the 113th Congress (2013-2014). Bill Status XML files are not available through FDsys search or browse; they are only available in the FDsys Bulk Data repository.

In general, there are no restrictions on re-use of information in the Bill Status data set because U.S. Government works are not subject to copyright protection and are in the public domain. GPO and its legislative branch data partners do not restrict downstream uses of Bill Status data, except that independent providers should be aware that only GPO and its legislative branch data partners are entitled to represent that they are the providers of official Bill Status data.

Bill Status XML files can be manipulated and enriched to operate in the various applications that users may devise. GPO and its legislative branch data partners cannot vouch for the authenticity of data that is not under GPO's control. GPO is providing free access to Bill Status XML files for display in various applications and mash-ups outside the FDsys domain. GPO does not endorse third party applications, and does not evaluate how the original legal or legislative content is displayed on other sites. Consumers should form their own conclusions as to whether the downloaded data can be relied upon within an application or mash-up.

## 7. Resources Directory

The resources directory at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/bulkdata/BILLSTATUS/resources> contains the *User Guide for Bill Status XML Bulk Data*.