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

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U.S. Government Printing Office

January 2015

Revision History

Revision	Date	Description
1.0	January 2014	Version 1.0 – House Bill Summaries
2.0	January 2015	Version 2.0 – House and Senate Bill Summaries

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. <i>Types of Bill Summaries.....</i>	<i>1</i>
1.2. <i>Scope of Bulk Data.....</i>	<i>2</i>
1.3. <i>Bulk Data Downloads.....</i>	<i>2</i>
2. XML Descriptions.....	3
2.1. <i>Elements.....</i>	<i>3</i>
2.2. <i>Attributes.....</i>	<i>3</i>
2.3. <i>Sample Bill Summaries XML File.....</i>	<i>5</i>
3. Mapping of LOC Action Codes, Action Description Text, and Version Codes	6
4. Data Set.....	9
5. Resources Directory.....	9

1. Introduction

At the direction of the Appropriations Committee within the United States House of Representatives, in support of the Legislative Branch Bulk Data Task Force, the Government Printing Office (GPO), the Library of Congress (LOC), the Clerk of the House, and the Secretary of the Senate are making Bill Summaries 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 Summaries is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/bulkdata/BILLSUM>.

1.1. Types of Bill Summaries

Bill summaries are summaries of bills or resolutions, as well as other document types associated with the legislative history of a measure such as amendments, committee reports, conference reports, or public laws (enacted bills or joint resolutions). 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 written as a result of a Congressional action and may not always map to a printed bill version. 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 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."

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, such as claims against the Government.

Joint Resolutions

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

A joint resolution is a legislative proposal that requires the approval of both houses and the signature of the President, just as a bill does. 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). There is no real difference between a bill and a joint resolution. 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.

A joint resolution has the force of law, if approved. Joint resolutions become a part of the Constitution when three-quarters of the states have ratified them; they do not require the President's signature.

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 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.

1.2. Scope of Bulk Data

The Bill Summaries bulk data collection on FDsys includes XML bills summaries from the 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 Summaries XML files for that bill type within a specific Congress. Each Bill Summaries XML file contains summaries of legislation under consideration for a specific measure.

2. XML Descriptions

The following conventions are used in this document:

- XML element names are denoted with angled brackets and in courier. For example, `<title>` is an XML element.
- XML attribute names are denoted with a “@” prefix and in courier. For example, `@href` is an XML attribute.

2.1. Elements

Element	Description
<code><BillSummaries></code>	Root element.
<code><item></code>	Parent container for a single legislative measure.
<code><title></code>	The latest title for the measure. It may be the official title or the short title. It is contained within <code><item></code> .
<code><summary></code>	Parent container for a single summary. It may appear one or more times in the file. It is contained within <code><item></code> .
<code><action-date></code>	The date on which a particular action occurred. The format is YYYY-MM-DD. It is contained within <code><summary></code> .
<code><action-desc></code>	The description of the action that took place to prompt the bill summary to be written. It is contained within <code><summary></code> . This value is added by CRS. <i>See Section 3 of this document for a list of possible values.</i>
<code><summary-text></code>	This is the text of the summary written by the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. It is contained within <code><summary></code> . Values are enclosed in a CDATA tag and contain HTML elements.

2.2. Attributes

Attribute	Description
<code>@congress</code>	The number of the Congress. This is an attribute of <code><item></code> .
<code>@measure-type</code>	The type of measure. This is an attribute of <code><item></code> . The measure type abbreviations that can be found in bill summaries are hr, hjres, hconres, hres, s, sconres, sres, and sjres. <i>See Section 1.1 of this document for a description of each measure type.</i>

Attribute	Description
@measure-number	The number associated with the measure. This is commonly referred to as the bill number. This is an attribute of <item>.
@measure-id	<p>An ID assigned to the measure. This is an attribute of <item>.</p> <p>Convention: “id” + Congress number + measure type abbreviation + measure number</p> <p>Example: id113hr910</p> <p>The measure type abbreviations that can be found in bill summaries are hr, hjres, hconres, hres, s, sconres, sres, and sjres.</p> <p><i>See Section 1.1 of this document for a description of each measure type.</i></p>
@originChamber	The chamber in which the measure originated. This is an attribute of <item>. Value will be HOUSE or SENATE.
@orig-publish-date	<p>The first date in which the bill summary file was published.</p> <p>The format is YYYY-MM-DD. This is an attribute of <item>.</p>
@update-date	The date in which the material in the container element was last updated. The format is YYYY-MM-DD. This is an attribute of <item> and <summary>.
@summary-id	<p>An ID assigned to the individual summary. This is an attribute of <summary>.</p> <p>Convention: “id” + Congress number + measure type abbreviation + measure number + the letter “v” for version + LOC action code for summaries</p> <p>Example: id113hr910v28</p> <p>The measure type abbreviations that can be found in bill summaries are hr, hjres, hconres, hres, s, sconres, sres, and sjres.</p> <p><i>See Section 3 of this document for a list of LOC action codes for summaries.</i></p>
@currentChamber	The chamber in which the action described in the <action-desc> element occurred. This is an attribute of <summary>. Value will be HOUSE, SENATE, or BOTH.

2.3. Sample Bill Summaries XML File

```
<BillSummaries>
<item congress="113" measure-type="hr" measure-number="910" measure-
id="id113hr910" originChamber="HOUSE" orig-publish-date="2013-02-28"
update-date="2013-09-03">
<title>Sikes Act Reauthorization Act of 2013</title>
<summary summary-id="id113hr910v28" currentChamber="HOUSE" update-
date="2013-09-03">
<action-date>2013-06-24</action-date>
<action-desc>Reported to House without amendment, Part I</action-desc>
<summary-text><![CDATA[ <p><b>Sikes Act Reauthorization Act of 2013 - Reauthorizes title I
of the Sikes Act (conservation programs on military installations) for FY2015-
FY2019.</b></p>]]></summary-text>
</summary>
<summary summary-id="id113hr910v00" currentChamber="HOUSE" update-
date="2013-02-28">
<action-date>2013-02-28</action-date>
<action-desc>Introduced in House</action-desc>
<summary-text><![CDATA[ <p><b>(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced.
The summary of that version is repeated here.)</b></p> <p>Sikes Act Reauthorization Act of 2013 -
Reauthorizes title I of the Sikes Act (conservation programs on military installations) for FY2015-
FY2019.</p>]]></summary-text>
</summary>
</item>
<dublinCore xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/">
<dc:format>text/xml</dc:format>
<dc:language>EN</dc:language>
<dc:rights>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.</dc:rights>
<dc:contributor>Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress</dc:contributor>
<dc:description>This file contains bill summaries 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
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.</dc:description>
</dublinCore>
</BillSummaries>
```

3. Mapping of LOC Action Codes, 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

4. Data Set

Bill Summaries 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 Summaries 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 Summaries 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 Summaries 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 Summaries data.

Bill Summaries 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 Summaries 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 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.

5. Resources Directory

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