State Net ®
Federal Legislative XML Track Datafeed Documentation
for Voices for Change

Overview

Each Federal Legislative bill qualifies for inclusion in the data-feed based upon two primary criteria: 1) a new bill or resolution is introduced and/or 2) a new status is reported for a bill or resolution.

It is important to note that each legislative record <bill_profile> contains a <bill_key> which provides a unique and primary key for all information included in the <bill_profile>. Content should ALWAYS serve as a complete replacement for the data previously sent. As a full replacement it contains the most recent updates to all of the elements for each record (including any corrections since the previous transmission).

The <public_text_link> is the link for the latest State Net text version of the <bill_key>. This hyperlink will only work from the URL State Net has on file for the Voices for Change website. The links are authenticated and only authorized to function from the URL provided by Voices for Change.

Documentation

Below is a comprehensive listing of all the possible elements which may be included in the daily data-feed to Voices for Change. All elements will not be present on all legislative records.

An automatic notification email process is set-up to report any transmission problems. You may also be contact via phone regarding any delays or complications.

Schema

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
XML header, will appear as the first line of a feed.

<legtrack_feed version_id="2010-03-30-01">
root-level tag, containing an attribute labeled "version_id" with the date and version of this feed file.

- <bill_profile>   = header for each individual bill record, present on all bill records
  - <bill_key>   = header for the bill key
    - <state>   = first component of bill key - 2 character state
    - <session_id>   = second component of bill key, present on all bill records. The first 4 digits represent the "session year" of the bill. This year will be the first year of the biennium. The next 2 digits represent sessions within the biennium. 00 represents the regular session, 01 the first extraordinary session (sometimes called special session 'x'), 02 the second extraordinary (or special session 'xx'), etc. The seventh digit is reserved for special sub-session cases and is not currently implemented.
      Examples:
      2009000 = 2009 regular session
      2009010 = 2009 first extraordinary session
      2009020 = 2009 second extraordinary session
      2009030 = 2009 third extraordinary session
    - <legtype>   = third component of bill key, a 1- to 4-character legislative type (AB for Assembly Bill, SB for Senate Bill, ACR for Assembly Concurrent Resolution, etc.), present on all bill records
    - <bill_number> = fourth component of bill key - an up to 5-digit bill number, present on all bill records
  - <related_bills>   = header for the related bills section
    - <related_bill> = header for individual related bill record, each related bill will have 2 componets
      - <related_bill_key>   = header for individual related bill key record, each related bill key will have 4 components
        - <related_state>   = first component; a 2-character state abbreviation
        - <related_session_id>   = second component, a 7-digit number session_id
        - <related_legtype>   = third component, a 1- to 4-character legislative type
        - <related_bill_number>   = fourth component, up to a 5 digit bill number
      - <type_description> = second component of related bill record, short description of the relationship between the related bill and primary bill
  - <authors>   = header for authors section, present on all bill records
    - <author>   = primary author, present on all bill records

- <name> = author's last name
- <party> = author's party designation
- <house> = author's house designation
- <bill_title> = an up to 55-character title of the bill, present on all bill records
- <intro_date> = date bill was introduced
- <last_amend_date> = date bill was last amended
- <final_status> = header for the "final" status action information
  - <date> = date of "final" status action
  - <action> = type of "final" status action, i.e. Enacted, Vetoed, etc.
- <current_disposition> = current disposition of the bill, i.e. Pending, Failed, etc.
- <bill_location> = simple location used when bill is not set to be heard on floor or committee
- <chapter_number> = state's chapter number, for bills that have been enacted and received a chapter or act number
- <bill_summary> = an up to 512-character summary of the text of the bill
- <status_actions> = header for the status section of the bill
  - <status_action> = header for the individual status action
    - <action_text> = text of the status action, up to 512-characters
    - <action_date> = date of the status action
- <public_link_text> = an encrypted and authenticated URL of the latest State Net text version of the legislative record. The text link is designed to only work on the Voices for Change website URL as provided by Our Voices Ltd.

If no bills qualified for a particular run date, the following tag will display after the XML declaration and feed tags:

<empty_datafeed/>