

# Public Laws Data Codebook

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Policy Agendas Project  
2014

## ***Contact Information***

Visit [www.policyagendas.org](http://www.policyagendas.org) or contact us at [policyagendas@gmail.com](mailto:policyagendas@gmail.com).

## ***Citation Guidelines***

Please visit [www.policyagendas.org/page/how-cite](http://www.policyagendas.org/page/how-cite) for guidelines on how to cite the use of this or other Policy Agendas Project datasets.

# Overview of the Dataset

This dataset contains information about each public law passed since 1948. Data are compiled from the lists of public laws included in each annual edition of the CQ Almanac.

## Content Coding

We have coded each entry by policy content, along with other variables of interest. We employed the standard Policy Agendas Project topic scheme in our policy content coding, and each entry was assigned one and only one content code. This allows researchers to trace activity on a particular topic across the period. The full description of our content categories may be found in the major topics codebook at <http://www.policyagendas.org/page/topic-codebook>.

## Variable Names and Descriptions

### ***KeyID***

This column records the unique identifier for each observation. It has no substantive application.

### ***Source***

The alphanumeric number of the public law in the United States Code (i.e. P.L. 80242)

### ***PublicLawNo***

The number of the public law in the United States Code (i.e. 80242)

### ***Year***

The year covered in the CQ Almanac.

### ***Congress***

The number of the Congress.

### ***HouseBill***

The bill that became law.

### ***SenateBill***

The bill that became law.

### ***HouseReportNo***

The number of the report from the House committee markup(s). If a House report number is not mentioned and a conference report number is mentioned, then the conference report is coded.

### ***SenateReportNo***

The number of the report from the Senate committee markup(s). If a Senate report number is not mentioned and a conference report number is mentioned, then the conference report is coded.

### ***Democrat***

1 if the representative or Senator introducing the bill is a Democrat; 0 otherwise.

***Introduced***

The name of the representative or Senator who introduced the legislation. In cases where more than one name is listed, only the first person is coded.

***House Committee, HouseCommittee2***

The House committee(s) that reported the bill (up to two). See the Committee Codebook for a complete list of committee and subcommittee codes.

***Senate Committee***

The Senate committee that reported the bill. See the Committee Codebook for a complete list of committee and subcommittee codes.

***Conference***

1 if the bill had a House-Senate conference committee; 0 otherwise.

***Vetoed***

1 if vetoed by the president (meaning Congress overrode it); 0 otherwise.

***Commemorative***

1 if the legislation is commemorative in nature (e.g. proclamations for theme weeks like National Potato Week, naming a federal building after someone); 0 otherwise.

***Description***

The concise description copied from the CQ Almanac.

***MajorTopic***

This column records the Policy Agendas Project's major topic code that corresponds to the information found in the Description column. The codes and examples for this column are found in the Major Topics Codebook on the Policy Agendas Project website.

***SubTopicCode***

This column denotes the Policy Agendas Project's subtopic code that corresponds to the information found in the Description column. The codes and examples for this column are found in the Major Topics Codebook on the Policy Agendas Project website.

***CAPMajorTopic***

This column records the Comparative Agendas Project's major topic code that corresponds to the existing Policy Agendas Project topic code. Please visit the Comparative Agendas Project website ([www.comparativeagendas.info](http://www.comparativeagendas.info)) for more information.

***CAPSubTopicCode***

This column records the Comparative Agendas Project's subtopic topic code that corresponds to the existing Policy Agendas Project topic code. Please visit the Comparative Agendas Project website ([www.comparativeagendas.info](http://www.comparativeagendas.info)) for more information.

***Link***

For each law from the 93rd Congress forward, a link to the bill summary and status is made available through THOMAS (note: we will be updating the 2008-2010 data to include this link very soon). From the second session of the 102nd Congress forward, the full text of the public law is also available.

***DateIntroduced***

Beginning with observations in 2008, the date the public law was introduced as a bill.

***DatePassedHouse***

Beginning with observations in 2008, the date the public law was passed the House.

***DatePassedSenate***

Beginning with observations in 2008, the date the public law was passed the Senate.

***DateSigned***

Beginning with observations in 2008, the date the public law was signed into law.