



April 12, 2012

The Justice Department maintains a collection of legislative histories, and has begun to make them available to the public as part of our ongoing open government efforts. As highlighted by the [Justice Blog](#):

The "legislative history" of a law consists of documents created as a result of the legislative process during a law's consideration, passage by Congress, and signature by the president. A compiled legislative history assists in organizing the various documents that resulted in the passage of a law. Attorneys and researchers are then able to efficiently search and review the compiled legislative documents to find legal clarifications [for] specific statutory language within the law.

The [legislative history for the FOIA](#) is one of the most recent additions to this collection. This history compiles a wealth of congressional documents on the passage of the FOIA, which was signed by President Johnson on July 4, 1966. Since its original passage, the FOIA has been amended seven times and today we've updated our website to include the legislative histories from many of these subsequent amendments. These histories contain a variety of documents including House and Senate reports, debates and speeches contained within the Congressional Record, Presidential signing statements, and bills introduced and reintroduced in both chambers of Congress. We also posted two Congressional source books, which contain over 1,000 pages of additional legislative and court materials, articles, and other documents regarding the FOIA. The new materials on our website include the histories of such important pieces of legislation as the Electronic FOIA (e-FOIA) amendments of 1996 and the OPEN Government Act of 2007, and we are working to collect and post materials regarding additional amendments. You can access all of the department's posted FOIA legislative histories through [our site](#). [View all of the department's posted legislative histories](#).

Topic(s):

FOIA

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Using Metadata in FOIA Documents Posted Online to Lay the Foundation for Building a Government-Wide FOIA Library On April 9, 2012, the Department of Justice released version 2.0 of its Open Government Plan which detailed the Department's "ongoing and anticipated efforts to increase openness" and which announced new Department initiatives concerning the administration of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). A key FOIA initiative in the Department's Open Government Plan is the development of...

Resources on the use of Exemption 3

December 19, 2012

When passing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Congress recognized that there were other federal laws that provided protection for specific types of documents, either currently enacted or that could be passed in the future. As a result, Congress created Exemption 3 of the FOIA which incorporates the protection afforded by other laws into the FOIA. This category of information is the only one of the FOIA's nine exemptions which expressly references other federal laws. Because the use of...

FOIA.gov's News and Spotlight Features

April 22, 2011

On March 14, 2011, OIP announced the launch of FOIA.gov , a comprehensive public resource for government-wide FOIA information and data. In addition to the graphic display of data on agency FOIA compliance, one of the fundamental purposes of FOIA.gov is to educate the public about how the FOIA works. In keeping with this goal, the website's News feature provides up-to-date information on new developments in the FOIA community, by streaming topical news stories, and its FOIA Spotlight focuses on...

Office of Information Policy Receives ASAP's Directors' Award for Superior Public Service

December 13, 2012

The Office of Information Policy (OIP) is honored to be selected by the American Society of Access Professionals (ASAP) as the recipient its Directors' Award for Superior Public Service. The award is among the highest honors granted by ASAP and recognizes OIP's "superior contribution, sustained excellence and special benefit provided to the Society and to the public with respect to access, privacy and fair information laws, policies and practices." ASAP is an independent, nongovernmental...

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