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New & Notable Sources of Government Information
December 2018

[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)



Bills Recently Signed in Laws

H.R. 5087 (115th Congress) – Assault Weapons Ban of 2018

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5087>

This bill amends the federal criminal code to make it a crime to knowingly import, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon (SAW) or large capacity ammunition feeding device (LCAFD). Read the whole page for more details.

H.R. 1242 (115th Congress) – 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act
(Signed into law on January 8, 2018)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1242>

This bill establishes the 400 Years of African-American History Commission to develop and carry out activities throughout the United States to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619.

H.R. 6157 (115th Congress) – Departments of Defense, Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019

(Signed into law on September 28, 2018)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6157>

This bill provides appropriations to the agencies listed above. A detailed explanation is on the web site.

H.R. 3359 (115th Congress) – Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Act of 2018

(Signed into Law on November 16, 2018)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3359>


On November 16, 2018, President Trump signed into law the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act of 2018. This landmark legislation elevates the mission of the former National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) within DHS and establishes the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

- CISA leads the national effort to defend critical infrastructure against the threats of today, while working with partners across all levels of government and in the private sector to secure against the evolving risks of tomorrow.
- The name CISA brings recognition to the work being done, improving its ability to engage with partners and stakeholders, and recruit top cybersecurity talent.

CISA will be responsible for leading cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection programs, developing associated policy, and coordinating with federal and private sector entities on security matters. CSA will also be responsible for performing DHS' responsibilities in regards to anti-terrorism measures

	for chemical plants. In short, CISA will be held accountable for protecting the nation's critical infrastructure from physical and cyber threats.
H.R. 6784 (115th Congress) – Manage Our Wolves Act https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6784	This bill addresses the protection of the gray wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Specifically, the Department of the Interior must issue a rule to remove the gray wolf in the contiguous 48 states from the list of endangered or threatened species and reinstate a rule that removed the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes region from the list. The bill exempts those rules from judicial review as well as a rule that removed the gray wolf in Wyoming from the list.
These three bi-partisan bills aim to amend the criminal code to include reasonable sentencing and keep dangerous and violent criminals off the street.	
H.R. 3356 (115th Congress) – Prison Reform and Redemption Act https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3356	This bill directs the Department of Justice to develop the Post-Sentencing Risk and Needs Assessment System for use by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to assess prisoner recidivism risk; guide housing, grouping, and program assignments; and incentivize and reward participation in and completion of recidivism reduction programs and productive activities.
H.R. 5682 (115th Congress) – First Step Act https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5682	This bill amends the federal criminal code to direct the Department of Justice to establish a risk and needs assessment system to assess and classify the recidivism risk of prisoners; to guide housing, grouping, and program assignments; and to incentivize and reward participation in and completion of recidivism reduction programs and productive activities.
S. 2724 (115th Congress) – Solitary Confinement Reform Act https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2724	This bill aims to reform the use of solitary confinement and other forms of restrictive housing in the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

<p>Govinfo.gov</p>	
<p>World War I documents now available on GovInfo https://www.govinfo.gov/app/search/%7B%22query%22%3A%22United%20States%20Army%20in%20the%20World%20War%2C%201917-1919%22%2C%22offset%22%3A0%7D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volumes 1 and 2 focus on the formation and organization of the American Expeditionary Forces • Volume 3 looks at the training and use of American units in the British and French armies • Volumes 4-8 provide documents on military operations • Volume 9 focuses on operations in the Meuse-Argonne • Volumes 10 and 11 are documents related to the Armistice and American occupation of Germany • Volumes 12-15 contain reports of the Commander-in-Chief, AEF <p>The final two volumes, 16 and 17, contain bulletins from the General Headquarters of the AEF</p>

<p>The Library of Congress</p>  <p>LIBRARY OF CONGRESS</p>	
<p>Today in History</p>	
<p><i>December 1, 1955</i> Rosa Parks was arrested https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-01</p>	<p>An African American, was arrested for disobeying an Alabama law requiring black passengers to relinquish seats to white passengers when the bus was full. Blacks also were required to sit at the back of the bus. Her arrest sparked a 381-day boycott of the Montgomery bus system and led to a 1956 Supreme Court decision banning segregation on public transportation.</p>
<p><i>December 2, 1942</i> Nuclear Fission https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-02</p>	<p>On the afternoon of December 2, 1942, the Atomic Age began inside an enormous tent on a squash court under the stands of the University of Chicago's Stagg Field. There, headed by Italian scientist Enrico Fermi, the first controlled nuclear fission chain reaction was engineered. The result—sustainable nuclear energy—led to creation of the atomic bomb and nuclear power plants—two of the twentieth century's most powerful and controversial achievements.</p>

<p><i>December 4, 1783</i> George Washington's farewell to his troops at Fraunces Tavern in New York https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-04#goodbye-to-general-washington</p>	<p>Located at the corner of Pearl & Broad Street in lower Manhattan, Faunces is a landmark museum and tavern in one of the city's oldest buildings. For Washington's good read the entire entry on the internet.</p>
<p><i>December 5, 1776</i> Phi Beta Kappa was founded https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-05</p>	<p>Organized by five students at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, Phi Beta Kappa, America's most prestigious undergraduate honor society, was the nation's first Greek letter society. From 1776 to 1780, members met regularly at William and Mary to write, debate, and socialize. They planned the organization's expansion and established the characteristics typical of American fraternities and sororities: an oath of secrecy, a code of laws, mottoes in Greek and Latin, a badge and a seal, a special handclasp, and an elaborate initiation ritual.</p>
<p><i>December 6, 1884</i> The Washington Monument's last stone is laid https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-06#the-washington-monument</p>	<p>Workers placed the 3,300-pound marble capstone on the Washington Monument and topped it with a nine-inch pyramid of cast aluminum, completing construction of the 555-foot Egyptian obelisk. Nearly fifty years earlier, the Washington National Monument Society choose Robert Mills' design to honor first American president and founding father George Washington. The privately funded organization laid the monument's cornerstone on Independence Day, 1848, in Washington, D.C. When construction was completed in 1884, the Washington Monument was the world's tallest masonry structure.</p>
<p><i>December 7, 1941</i> Air raid on Pearl Harbor https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-07</p>	<p>On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory, killing more than 2,300 Americans. The U.S.S. Arizona was completely destroyed and the U.S.S. Oklahoma capsized. A total of twelve ships sank or were beached in the attack and nine additional vessels were damaged. More than 160 aircraft were destroyed and more than 150 others damaged. A hurried dispatch from the ranking United States naval officer in Pearl Harbor, Admiral Husband Edward Kimmel, Commander in Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet, to all major navy commands and fleet units provided the first official word of the attack at the ill-prepared Pearl Harbor base. It said simply: AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NOT DRILL.</p>
<p><i>December 9, 1971</i> Ralph Bunche died https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-09</p>	<p>U.S. diplomat Ralph Bunche, a key member of the United Nations(UN) for more than two decades, and winner of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize for his successful negotiation of a truce between Arabs and Jews in Palestine the previous year, died on December 9, 1971, in New York City. He was the first African-American awarded a PhD. from Harvard University.</p>

<p><i>December 14, 1799</i> Death of George Washington https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-14</p>	<p>George Washington died at his Mt. Vernon home after five decades of service to his country. His last words reportedly were: "I feel myself going. I thank you for your attentions; but I pray you to take no more trouble about me. Let me go off quietly. I cannot last long." Washington was sixty-seven years old.</p>
<p><i>December 15, 1791</i> Bill of Rights ratified by the new United States https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-15</p>	<p>The first ten amendments to the Constitution form the fundamental rights of its citizens The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, speech, and the press, and the rights of peaceful assembly and petition. Other amendments guarantee the rights of the people to form a "well-regulated militia," to keep and bear arms, the rights to private property, fair treatment for accused criminals, protection from unreasonable search and seizure, freedom from self-incrimination, a speedy and impartial jury trial, and representation by counsel.</p>
<p><i>December 17, 1903</i> Wilbur and Orville Wright's First Flight https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-17</p>	<p>On the fourth and final flight of the day, Wilbur traveled 852 feet, remaining airborne for 59 seconds. That morning, the brothers became the first people to demonstrate sustained flight of a heavier-than-air machine under the complete control of the pilot.</p>
<p><i>December 21, 1921</i> The Hoover Dam https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-21</p>	<p>President Calvin Coolidge signed the Boulder Canyon Project Act for "...controlling the floods, improving navigation and regulating the flow of the Colorado River, providing for storage and for the delivery of the stored waters thereof for reclamation of public lands and other beneficial uses exclusively within the United States, and for the generation of electrical energy..."</p>
<p><i>December 23, 1783</i> George Washington resigns his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-23</p>	<p>Although the British had recognized American independence with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, British troops did not evacuate New York until December 4. After the last British ships left the harbor, Washington bid an emotional farewell to his officers and set out for Annapolis. On the journey south he was met with throngs of well-wishers paying him tribute for his role in the nation's military victory over Great Britain.</p>
<p><i>December 23, 1913</i> The Federal Reserve is established by Woodrow Wilson https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-23#the-federal-reserve-system</p>	<p>The Federal Reserve consists of a board of governors, nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate to serve fourteen-year terms of office, twelve regional Federal Reserve Districts—or regions, and branches of Federal Reserve banks in twenty-five other cities. The Federal Open Market Committee sets the Fed's monetary policy—carried out through the trading desk of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The Federal Advisory Council, the Consumer Advisory Council, and the Thrift Institutions Advisory Council advise the Federal Reserve Board directly on its various responsibilities.</p>

December 25

Welcome Christmas

<https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-25>

On December 25, Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Christ. The origins of the holiday are uncertain; by the year 336, however, the Christian church in Rome observed the Feast of the Nativity on December 25. At that time, Christmas coincided approximately with the winter solstice and the Roman Festival of Saturnalia. Today, observations of Christmas incorporate the secular and religious traditions of many cultures, from the ancient Roman practice of decorating homes with evergreens and exchanging gifts at the New Year to the Celtic Yule log.

National Wildlife Parks



Although these national treasures are too cold to visit in winter, you can start planning your spring and summer vacation in the unspoiled wilderness. We have brochures for them on the Second Floor.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Michigan

<https://www.nps.gov/piro/index.htm>

Wild Beauty on the Shores of Lake Superior
Unlike any other place on Lake Superior, Pictured Rocks offers the opportunity to explore miles of pristine beaches, hike nearly 100 miles of trails, view towering sandstone cliffs, and experience the serenity of northern woodlands.

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Minnesota and Wisconsin

50th Anniversary 1968-2018

<https://www.nps.gov/sacn/index.htm>

It is possible remain to witness centuries of history along the Riverway. You can see sites that reflect the cultures of prehistoric people, American Indians, and European Americans. Structures in the rivers illustrate the logging and navigation past.
The St. Croix and Namekagon remain focal points for people who live in and visit the area. The rivers attract paddlers, boaters, and anglers. Historic river towns bustle with activity. The scenery and wildlife draw hikers, artists, and nature enthusiasts

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Empire, Michigan

<https://www.nps.gov/slbe/index.htm>

This is a land of legend, change, and survival. Ice, wind, and water shaped this place and continue to create a dynamic landscape – piercing blue lakes, immense stretches of dunes, and lush, deep forests. Explore the shores, lakes, islands and forests Relax. Enjoy. Make memories and a connection to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.