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New & Notable Sources of Government Information
September 2018

Congress.gov



The Most Viewed Bills

H.R. 5515 (115th Congress) – John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (*Signed into law on August 13, 2018*)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5515>

This bill authorizes FY2019 appropriations and sets forth policies for Department of Defense (DOD) programs and activities, including military personnel strengths. It does not provide budget authority, which is provided in subsequent appropriations legislation. The bill authorizes appropriations to DOD for: (1) Procurement, including aircraft, missiles, weapons and tracked combat vehicles, ammunition, shipbuilding and conversion, and space procurement; (2) Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation; (3) Operation and Maintenance; (4) Working Capital Funds; (5) Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction; (6) Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities; (7) the Defense Inspector General; (8) the Defense Health Program; (9) the Armed Forces Retirement Home; (10) Overseas Contingency Operations; and (11) Military Construction.

The bill also authorizes the FY2019 personnel strength for active duty and reserve forces and sets forth policies regarding military personnel, acquisition policy and management, international programs, and National Guard and Reserve Forces facilities.

H.R. 5181 (114th Congress) – Countering Foreign Propaganda and Disinformation Act of 2016 (*Introduced in the House May 16, 2016*)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5181>


Foreign governments like China and especially Russia use disinformation and other propaganda tools to undermine the national security objectives of the United States and key allies and partners. The U.S. government should develop a comprehensive strategy to counter foreign disinformation and propaganda and assert leadership in developing a fact-based strategic narrative, an important element of which should be to promote an independent press in countries vulnerable to foreign disinformation.


H.R. 392 (115th Congress) – Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2017 (*Introduced in the House on January 10, 2017*)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/392>

This proposal basically calls for the augmentation of the number of immigrants from countries that have reached their limit. Those wishing a visa can apply to enter the U.S., if those persons wishing to immigrate have skills to offer and sponsors.

<p>H.R. 6147 (115th Congress) - Interior, Financial Services and General Government, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2019 (<i>Introduced in the House on June 19, 2018</i>) https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6147</p>	<p>This bill, which has passed in the House and the Senate, is awaiting approval by the President; it appropriates sums of money to various agencies for necessary expenses.</p>
<p>Current Bills of Bi-Partisan Interest</p>	
<p>H.R. 8 (115th Congress) - Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (<i>Introduced in the House on May 18, 2018</i>) https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/8</p>	<p>To provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes</p>
<p>New Electronic Titles of Bi-Partisan Interest</p>	
<p>America’s Affordable Housing Crisis: Challenges and Solutions http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo107081</p>	<p>This is an important issue, with the intent of mitigating this long-time set of problems on our society. The last time there was a comprehensive revision of the tax code was in 1986. At that time, affordable housing tax incentives were baked into statute. However, solutions on affordable housing remain as elusive as ever. This is a problem that should be ready for a bi-partisan solution. The problem is a five-alarm fire across America. Experienced and well-educated witnesses provide substance to this hearing.</p>
<p>Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Improving Water Quality Through Integrated Planning https://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo107020</p>	<p>Public wastewater and clean drinking water services are necessary to sustain public health, support our economy, and protect the environment. However, our Nation’s ability to provide clean water is being challenged, as our existing national wastewater infrastructure is aging.</p>

<p>Govinfo.gov</p>	
<p>S. 3348 (115th Congress) – The Accountable Capitalism Act (<i>Introduced in the Senate on August 15, 2018</i>) https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3348</p>	<p>Elizabeth Warren’s new bill would compel corporations to dump “maximizing” shareholder value” and put worker representatives on their boards.</p>

<p>The Library of Congress</p>	
<p>Today in History</p>	
<p><i>September 2, 1935</i> George Gershwin signed his name to the completed orchestral score of the opera, <i>Porgy and Bess</i> https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/september-02/</p>	<p>The composer called the 700-page score his masterpiece and never ceased to marvel that he had created it. Many critics consider <i>Porgy and Bess</i> to be the first and finest American opera. The 1959 film version of <i>Porgy and Bess</i> was added to the National Film Registry in 2011.</p>

<p><i>September 3, 1783</i> The Treaty of Paris was signed https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/september-03</p>	<p>Putting an end to the American Revolutionary War. With this treaty, Great Britain recognized American independence and agreed upon borders for the new nation.</p>
<p><i>September 5, 1847</i> Jesse James was born https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/september-05</p>	<p>With his older brother, Frank, and several others, the infamous James gang robbed their way across the Western frontier targeting banks, trains, stagecoaches, and stores from Iowa to Texas. Eluding even the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, the gang escaped with thousands of dollars.</p>
<p><i>September 6, 1901</i> President McKinley was assassinated https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/september-06</p>	<p>He was shot twice in the stomach by Leon Czolgosz, a Polish citizen associated with the Anarchist movement. McKinley died on September 14, whispering the words of his favorite hymn, “Nearer my God to Thee, Nearer to Thee.” He was succeeded by his vice president, Theodore Roosevelt.</p>
<p><i>September 13</i> Francis Scott Key composed <i>The Star Spangled Banner</i> https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/september-13</p>	<p>His experience during the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British in the War of 1812 inspired him to pen the words.</p>
<p><i>September 14, 1638</i> John Harvard left his library and half his estate to a local college https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/september-14</p>	<p>The school adopted the name Harvard College. Today it is America’s oldest institution of higher learning.</p>
<p><i>September 18, 1895</i> Booker T. Washington delivered his famous “Atlanta Compromise” speech https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/september-18</p>	<p>Booker T. Washington was the first African-American man ever to address a racially mixed Southern audience. Weary of the violence and turbulence that attended Reconstruction in the South, Washington’s philosophy of self-help, political gradualism, and accommodation to the ideology of race appealed to most white and many black Americans. Also known as the “Atlanta Exposition Speech”.</p>
<p><i>September 21, 1784</i> The Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser began publication https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/september-21#the-first-newspaper</p>	<p>This was the nation’s first daily newspaper. With this article there is a bit more on the history of newspapers in the U.S.</p>
<p><i>September 22, 1862</i> The Emancipation Proclamation https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/september-22#the-emancipation-proclamation</p>	<p>President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, threatening to free all the slaves in the states in rebellion if those states did not return to the Union by January 1, 1863.</p>
<p><i>September 26, 1775</i> Johnny Appleseed was born https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/september-26</p>	<p>Jonathan Chapman, who was born in Leominster, Massachusetts on September 26, 1775, came to be known as “Johnny Appleseed”. Chapman lived in Mansfield, Ohio, for about twenty years. Before the Homestead Act he acquired about 1,000 acres of farmland in Mansfield, Ohio through a local homestead arrangement. Chapman used the land to develop apple-tree nurseries. His reputation as a conservationist, a brave frontiersman, and as an eccentric (in dress as well as mannerisms) grew, as did stories of his kindness to animals and his heroic exploits. Chapman was an ambulant man. Each year he traveled hundreds of miles on foot—wearing clothing made from sack cloth and carrying a cooking pot that he is said to have worn like a cap. His travels took him through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana. Legend and folklore have transformed Johnny Appleseed into a folk hero—the patron saint of horticulture. Every September, when apples are ripe, Fort Wayne hosts an annual festival to commemorate the life of Johnny Appleseed.</p>

National Park Service



National Scenic and Wildlife Parks

Arcadia National Park, Maine

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

Crown Jewel of the North Atlantic Coast, Acadia National Park protects the natural beauty of the highest rocky headlands along the Atlantic coastline of the United States.

Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky

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

The longest cave system known in the world

Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta Canada

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/waterton/>

Small, but mighty, Waterton Lakes is the smallest national park in the Rockies, but that just means more awesome per square kilometer. This is the only spot you will find a UNESCO World Heritage site, an international peace park, a dark sky preserve, and a biosphere preserve.

Yellowstone National Park, Idaho/Montana/Wyoming

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

Every corner of Yellowstone reveals the park's rich array of nature and history: wildlife, a supervolcano which feeds the world's largest group of hydrothermal features, and of course, Old Faithful.