Federal Legislative History
Legislative History

Why

When
Documents

1. Bills
2. Committee Mark-ups
3. Hearing
4. Committee Prints
5. Committee Reports
6. House or Senate Documents
7. Debates/Proceedings
Documents
1. Committee Reports (esp. Conference Report)
2. Hearings
3. Debates/Proceedings
4. Committee Prints (p. 229)
5. House or Senate Documents (p. 230)
6. Bills
7. Committee Mark-ups
Finding Legislative History
Step One

- Find:
  - Public Law Number (P.L.), or
  - Bill number for unenacted legislation
History

18 § 3

§ 3. Accessory after the fact

Whoever, knowing that an offense against the United States has been committed, receives, relieves, comforts or assists the offender in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial or punishment, is an accessory after the fact.

Except as otherwise expressly provided by any Act of Congress, an accessory after the fact shall be imprisoned not more than one-half the maximum term of imprisonment or (notwithstanding section 3571) fined not more than one-half the maximum fine prescribed for the punishment of the principal, or both; or if the principal is punishable by life imprisonment or death, the accessory shall be imprisoned not more than 15 years.

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**Fishery Conservation Zone Transition Act**


Short title, see 16 USCA § 1801 note

**Current USCA classifications:**

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<td>3(1)</td>
<td>16 USCA § 1826</td>
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*This list contains only sections enacted by this Public Law. For all sections affected by this law, see Pub.L. 95–6 in the USCA-TABLES database and the enacting credit set out below.*

Table of Contents for current USCA classifications:

16 USCA § 1826

**Enacting law:**


**Amending laws:**

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Step Two

- **Compiled** Legislative Histories
- No way out – do it yourself
Congressional (Lexis)

- Legislative Histories 1970 – date
  - Microfiche set
- Full text mid-1990’s forward
- Old stuff (before 1970) the Serial Set
Congressional

- Also: Congressional Research Service Reports
- Full text of laws
Thomas

- Coverage – 1973 to date
- Recent - includes reports, links to Congressional Record
- Other web sites – GPO Access, House or Senate and some Committees
Westlaw

- USCCAN/GAO
- Federal Legislative History Tab
- Federal Material - Legislative History & Bill Tracking (mostly current)
- Check coverage dates
Lexis

- All Sources: Federal Legal - U.S.: Legislative Histories & Materials
- CIS index material also from 1970, others from 1990’s