



United Nations



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



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World e-Parliament Conference 2008

25 - 26 November 2008 // European Parliament // Brussels



Drafting Legislation Using XML in the U.S. House of Representatives

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House of Representatives of the United States of America

For more information: <http://xml.house.gov>



110th CONGRESS
2d Session

H. R. ____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{action-date}

M. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1. This is a Section Header.

(a) This is a subsection header.—This is subsection text.

(b) This is a subsection header.—This is subsection text.

(1) This is a paragraph.

(2) This is a paragraph.

Who uses the XML editor?

House Office of Legislative Counsel

- Main drafters of House legislation, est. in 1919;
- 3,108 bills and resolutions introduced in 2008;
- 35 attorneys and 15 support staff;
- Attorneys are non-partisan; Attorneys develop expertise in particularly areas of the law, as well as legislative drafting expertise.

House Enrolling Clerks

- Prepare official engrossed version that passed the House and the official enrolled version that passed both chambers;
- 978 bills and resolutions passed the House in 2008; 99 bills originating in the House, passed both chambers, and were enacted into law.

Government Printing Office

- Prepares and publishes copies of the legislation for use by Congress; makes copies available to libraries and the general public.

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3712

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. JAMES M. & THOMAS W.L. ASHLEY CUSTOMS

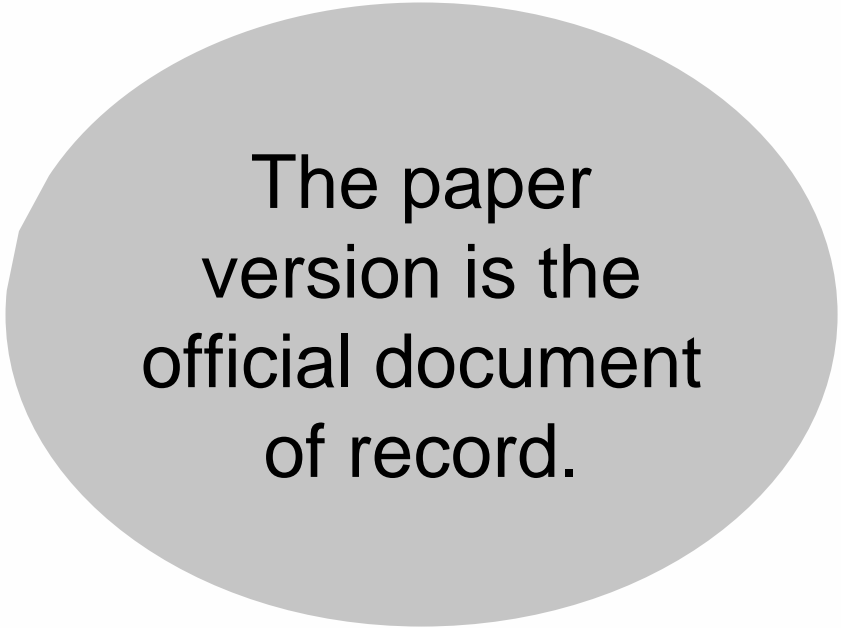
4 BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURT-

5 HOUSE

6 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United
7 States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in
8 Toledo, Ohio, shall be known as the “James M. & Thomas

1 W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Court-
2 house”.

3 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
4 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
5 States to the Federal building and United States court-
6 house referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be
7 a reference to the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Cus-
8 toms Building and United States Courthouse”.



The paper
version is the
official document
of record.

Simple Document Workflow



U.S. HOUSE



- The House Office of Legislative Counsel drafts a bill for a legislator;
- The legislator introduces the bill on the House floor;
- The floor staff prepare the bill and transmit it to the Government Printing Office (GPO).
- GPO publishes the bill and makes it available to the public and the Legislative Branch in paper and electronic format;
- GPO transmits the bill to the Library of Congress.
- The Library posts the bill online and provides additional information about the status of the bill.

[Bill Stage: Pre-Introduction]
{author-note}

[Discussion Draft]

H.L.C.
{reintroduction-code}

(Original Signature of Member)

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

{first-page-date}

I

110th CONGRESS
2d Session

H. R. ____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{action-date}

M. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1. James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse.

(a) Designation.—The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, shall be known as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

(b) References.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in **subsection (a)** shall be deemed to be a reference to the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3712

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JAMES M. & THOMAS W.L. ASHLEY CUSTOMS BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, shall be known as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

Goals for drafting in XML

- Minimize drafters' attention to typesetting;
- Maximize drafters' consideration of the legislative language itself;
- Provide “just-in-time” knowledge support during the drafting process;
- Provide a tags-off environment;
- Reduce training effort, and;
- Improve quality of output.

H. R. ____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{action-date}

M. ____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1. This is a Section Header.

(a) This is a subsection header.—This is subsection text.

(b) This is a subsection header.—This is subsection text.

(1) This is a paragraph.

(2) This is a paragraph.

(A) This is a subparagraph

(B) This is a subparagraph—

(i) This is a clause

(ii) This is a clause—

(I) This is a subclause.

(II) This is a subclause.

(aa) This is a item.

(bb) This is a item.

</congress> 110TH CONGRESS </congress>

</session> 1st Session </session>

</legis-num> H. R. 3712 </legis-num>

</current-chamber> IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES </current-chamber>

</action>

</action-date> October 1, 2007 </action-date>

</action-desc> </sponsor> Ms. Kaptur </sponsor> introduced the following bill; which was referred to the </committee-name> Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure </committee-name> </action-desc>

</action>

</legis-type> A BILL </legis-type>

</official-title> To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the </quote> “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse” </quote> . </official-title>

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</legis-body> *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

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</subsection> </enum> (a) </enum> </header> Designation.— </header> </text> The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, shall be known as the </quote> “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse” </quote> . </text> </subsection>

</subsection> </enum> (b) </enum> </header> References.— </header> </text> Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in </internal-xref> subsection (a) </internal-xref> shall be deemed to be a reference to the </quote> “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse” </quote> . </text> </subsection>

</section>

</legis-body>

</bill>

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<quote>James M. &amp; Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse</quote></official-title>
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a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in
<internal-xref idref="H17736CF2972A4D70B7A400F7826EEA5" legis-path="1.(a)">subsection (a)</internal-xref> shall be deemed to be a reference to the
<quote>James M. &amp; Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse</quote></text> </subsection></section>
28: </legis-body>
29: </bill>

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Smart Authoring

- Context sensitive;
- Auto-renumbering;
- Auto-regeneration of table of contents;
- Absence of typesetting rules while author drafts;
- Ability to move legislative structures around;
- Simple keystrokes.

M. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1. This is a Section Header.

This is the table of contents:

- Sec. 1. This is a Section Header.
- Sec. 2. This is another Section Header.
- Sec. 3. This is another Section Header.

Sec. 2. This is another Section Header.

Sec. 3. This is another Section Header.

(a) **This is a subsection header.**—This is subsection text.

(b) **This is a subsection header.**—This is subsection text.

(1) This is a paragraph.

(2) This is a paragraph.

(A) This is a subparagraph

(B) This is a subparagraph—

(i) This is a clause

(ii) This is a clause—

(I) This is a subclause.

(II) This is a subclause.

(aa) This is a item.

Lessons Learned

- An XML editor can be created that meets the needs of the author, so the goals of consistent formatting, better search, and the ability to publish in multiple formats are achieved.
- Authors do not always like working in a structured editor. Ensure that the XML editor improves their document. Provide “smart authoring”.
- A “tags-off” environment requires little XML knowledge by the authors.
- When naming elements, use easy to understand tag names.

Other Semantic Technologies

Library of Congress

- Persistent identifiers using Handles technology.
- <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/handles/help.html>

The Government Printing Office

- Authentication using Digital Signatures.
- <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/authentication/>

For more information

- http://thomas.loc.gov/home/xml_help.html
- <http://xml.house.gov>

