

LISA P. GRANT
DEPUTY CLERK

Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6601

September 16, 2024

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle,

Pursuant to Section 502 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, I am submitting this quarterly report about the Comparative Print Suite.

As the Committee is aware, the Comparative Print Suite (compare.house.gov) is a set of applications that enables House staff to produce comparative prints showing how proposed legislation may amend law and how a bill, resolution, or amendment changes from one version to another. My staff in Legislative Computer Systems (LCS), in partnership with the House Office of the Legislative Counsel (HOLC) and our contractors, lead the project team.

All House staff have access to the Basic Edition, which includes the Bill Viewer and Bill to Bill Differences tools and access to the upload feature to Bill to Bill Differences, which previously was only available to Advanced users but was changed after listening to feedback. Users must take an online, on-demand course, available at the Chief Administrative Officer's (CAO's) Congressional Staff Academy (CSA) in order to access the Advanced Edition, which includes two versions of the How a Bill Changes Current Law tool and access to the upload feature to generate comparative print reports for How a Bill Changes Current Law. CSA routinely highlights the course in its communications to House staff.

Product Updates

Since our last report, the LCS product team and vendor:

- Released the upload feature to Bill to Bill Differences in the Basic Edition, which enables House staff to compare different versions of drafts
- Continued to improve the Natural Language Processors that drive the How a Bill Changes Current Law tool
- Upgraded production infrastructure

The product team and vendor continued addressing change requests and developing improvements, and will be conducting user engagement activities, such as user surveys to identify potential enhancements to the suite, in the 119th Congress.

Product Support and Training

To date, 400 House staff, including new users; pilot group users; and Law Revision Counsel, Clerk, and CAO staff, have access to the Advanced Edition. All 90 HOLC staff have access to the Advanced Drafter Edition, a special role implemented in 2023 that designates them as early adopters of features before the Housewide release. Support calls continue to be minimal while feedback remains positive.

Legislative Branch Access

Earlier this year, we completed the technical requirements for providing the Senate access to the Comparative Print Suite. Since the last report, we have supported our Senate counterparts as they prepare to launch the Senate Comparative Print Suite Pilot. We have provided access to a small number of early pre-pilot group participants who are working with the Office of the Secretary of the Senate to ensure a smooth start. Additionally, we are working with the appropriate staff, so they understand the suite's architecture and related safeguards, as part of the Senate's operational approval process.

Currently, 221 users from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Library of Congress (LOC), including all Legislative Analysis Services staff from the Congressional Research Service (CRS), use an instance of the application managed and located in the vendor's cloud environment. This version mirrors the Clerk's production environment and follows its release and update schedule. Since the last report, our effort to increase CBO access has been successful as users have increased from 35 to 110—a 214 percent increase.

CRS and Senate users do not have access to the CSA to take the on-demand course available to House staff. We provided training videos to CRS who posted them on an internal website for CRS and Senate staff to access. This is working well and reinforces the need for training when using the suite.

Finally, unless otherwise directed, we will send the next report on or before January 15, 2025. If you or others on the Committee have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin F. McCumber". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin F. McCumber
Acting Clerk of the House

cc: The Honorable David Valadao, Chairman, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee
The Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Ranking Member, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee