

LISA P. GRANT
DEPUTY CLERK

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

April 15, 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.

As shared in previous reports, the Comparative Print Suite was released Housewide in October 2022 following a Committee pilot group phase. Support calls are minimal while feedback continues to be positive.

All House staff have access to the Basic Edition, which includes the Bill to Bill Differences and Bill Viewer tools. Users must take the required online, on-demand course, available at the Congressional Staff Academy (CSA) to have access to the Advanced Edition, which includes two versions of the How a Bill Changes Current Law tool as well as the ability to upload files to generate comparative print reports. CSA routinely highlights the course in its weekly newsletters.

Product Updates and User Engagement

Since our last report, we released two new features for the Advanced Edition:

- **How an Amendment Changes a Bill** allows staff to upload amendments drafted by HOLC and view a track changes-like outline of how the amendment would change the underlying bill or resolution if the amendment were to be adopted.
- **Bill to Bill Differences Provision Select** is a part of the Bill to Bill Differences tool and allows staff to select a provision to compare across two bills, for example a Title or Division in a large bill to a stand-alone, smaller bill. This allows for isolated comparisons of larger texts. An excellent example of this feature is the comparison showing the differences between H.R. 1023 RH and Section 10015 of H.R. 1 EH in the Bills to be Considered on the House Floor section of the U.S. Document Repository for the week of March 18.¹

To better manage user access, all House users, including Basic Edition users, are now required to sign in with their House credentials. The Suite's landing page was updated to alert users about this change.

Our offices sent e-Dear Colleagues (enclosed here) on April 4, 2023; February 2, 2024; and March 18 and 19, 2024, to promote the Suite and its new features, notify users about the log-in requirement, and present opportunities to learn more about the tool. LCS and HOLC staff held informational sessions on February 13 and March 19 of this year to build awareness of the tool and answer questions. We expect to host more informational sessions in the future.

The product team and the vendor continue to work on backlog items that will be included in future releases. We are also working on adding the upload feature to Bill to Bill Differences in the Basic Edition, which will enable staff to compare different versions of drafts provided to them by HOLC.

Product Support and Training

We are working with HOLC and CSA to update the required Advanced Edition training course based on user feedback and the knowledge we have gained. We began initial work the first quarter of this year.

As of April 2, 2024, 372 individuals in the House, including new users, original pilot group users, and Law Revision Counsel, Clerk, and Chief Administrative Officer staff, have advanced user access to the Suite. In addition, all 82 HOLC staff members have access to the Advanced Drafter Edition, a special role implemented in 2023 that designates them as early adopters of features before Housewide release. Support calls continue to be minimal while feedback remains positive.

¹ https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20240318/BILL-TO-BILL_118hr1023rh_to_118hr1eh%20-%20SEC.%2010015.pdf.

Pilot Groups

Since the last report, we have completed and validated technical requirements for providing access to the Senate. We are working with the Senate offices of the Secretary and the Legislative Counsel to establish a Senate pilot group and determining how participants will be trained and supported. We are excited about this progress and will continue to update the Committee on this work.

Users outside the House and Senate—the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Library of Congress (LOC), and Joint Committee on Taxation—use an instance of the application managed and located in the vendor’s cloud environment. This instance mirrors the Clerk’s production environment and follows its release and update schedule. All Legislative Analysis Services staff from the Congressional Research Service, as well as others from LOC, have access to the tool. Since our last report, we have made an intentional effort to increase the number of CBO users, with the goal of helping them reduce the time it takes to produce cost estimates for bills. There are approximately 150 users who access the vendor’s cloud environment: 94 from the LOC, 35 from the CBO, and three from the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Procurement

Since the last report, fiscal year 2023 appropriated funds for this project were obligated and are in use. We anticipate additional procurement-related tasks to obligate fiscal year 2024 appropriated funds soon.

Finally, unless otherwise directed, we will send the next report on or before September 15, 2024. If you or others on the Committee have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kevin F. McCumber
Acting Clerk of the House

Enclosures

- Office of the Clerk and House Office of the Legislative Counsel e-Dear Colleague—April 4, 2023
- Office of the Clerk and House Office of the Legislative Counsel e-Dear Colleague—February 2, 2024
- Office of the Clerk and House Office of the Legislative Counsel e-Dear Colleague—March 18, 2024

- Office of the Clerk and House Office of the Legislative Counsel e-Dear Colleague—
March 19, 2024

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

Use the Comparative Print Suite to Compare Legislation



Sending Office: Office of the Clerk

Sent By: cheryl.johnson@mail.house.gov



Dear Members and staff:

You can use the **Comparative Print Suite** (compare.house.gov) to display legislative changes in context, including how a bill changes law and how two versions of a legislative proposal differ.

All House staff have immediate access to the Basic Edition of the Comparative Print Suite, which includes the **Bill to Bill Differences** and **Bill Viewer** tools.

To use the Advanced Edition, staff need to take the required Comparative Print Suite course available through the CAO's [Congressional Staff Academy website](#).

Advanced users can

- View how a bill changes law,
- Upload files to generate comparative print reports, and
- Store comparative prints.

After completing the on-demand course, staff will be granted advanced access, which may take up to 48 hours to process, excluding weekends and holidays.

For questions about legislative drafting, contact the Office of the Legislative Counsel at (202) 225-6060 or legcoun@mail.house.gov.

For assistance using the Comparative Print Suite, contact Legislative Computer Systems at Clerk-Support-ComparativePrint@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the
House



E. Wade Ballou Jr., Legislative
Counsel

New Comparative Print Suite Advanced Features and Log-in Requirements



Sending Office: Office of the Clerk

Sent By: Kevin.McCumber@mail.house.gov



Dear Members and Staff:

The offices of the Clerk and the Legislative Counsel are pleased to announce two new features for the Advanced Edition of the **Comparative Print Suite** (compare.house.gov):

- **How an Amendment Changes a Bill** allows staff to upload amendments drafted by the Office of Legislative Counsel and view a track changes-like outline of how the amendment would change the underlying bill or resolution if the amendment were to be adopted.
- **Bill to Bill Differences Provision Select** is a part of the **Bill to Bill Differences** tool and allows staff to select a provision to compare across two bills, for example a Title or Division in a large bill to a stand-alone, smaller bill.

To view a demonstration of the Comparative Print Suite, ask questions, or meet the product support team, please stop by the following open houses at the Congressional Staff Academy in B249 Longworth House Office Building:

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
1:00-2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

All House staff have immediate access to the Basic Edition of the Comparative Print Suite, which includes the **Bill to Bill Differences** and **Bill Viewer** tools.

To use the Advanced Edition, staff must take an on-demand Comparative Print Suite course through the [Congressional Staff Academy website](https://congressionalstaffacademy.house.gov). Advanced access will be granted approximately two business days after course completion.

In addition to the tools that are available in the Basic Edition and the two new features detailed above, advanced users have access to two versions of the **How a Bill Changes Current Law** tool as well as the ability to upload files to generate comparative print reports. Advanced users also have a **My Reports** feature that stores

comparative prints generated from uploaded documents.

Starting today, February 2, all users will be required to sign in with their House credentials using the blue login box.

For questions about legislative drafting, contact the Office of the Legislative Counsel at (202) 225-6060 or legcoun@mail.house.gov.

For assistance using the Comparative Print Suite, contact Legislative Computer Systems at Clerk-Support-ComparativePrint@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of
the House



E. Wade Ballou Jr., Legislative
Counsel

Tomorrow: See the Comparative Print Suite in the Longworth Cafeteria



Sending Office: Office of the Clerk

Sent By: Catherine.Cooke@mail.house.gov



March 18, 2024

Dear Members and Staff:

Stop by the Longworth Cafeteria **tomorrow, March 19, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**, to learn more about the **Comparative Print Suite** (compare.house.gov). See a demonstration, ask questions, and meet the product support team and Office of Legislative Counsel staff.

The Comparative Print Suite is a set of applications that display legislative changes in context, including how a bill might change current law and how two versions of a legislative proposal are different.

For questions about legislative drafting, contact the Office of the Legislative Counsel at (202) 225-6060 or legcoun@mail.house.gov.

For assistance using the Comparative Print Suite, contact the Clerk's product support team at Clerk-Support-ComparativePrint@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kevin F. McCumber in black ink.

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of
the House

Handwritten signature of E. Wade Ballou Jr. in black ink.

E. Wade Ballou Jr., Legislative
Counsel

Today: See the Comparative Print Suite in the Longworth Cafeteria



Sending Office: Office of the Clerk

Sent By: Catherine.Cooke@mail.house.gov



March 19, 2024

Dear Members and Staff:

Stop by the Longworth Cafeteria **today, March 19, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**, to learn more about the **Comparative Print Suite** (compare.house.gov). See a demonstration, ask questions, and meet the product support team and Office of Legislative Counsel staff.

The Comparative Print Suite is a set of applications that display legislative changes in context, including how a bill might change current law and how two versions of a legislative proposal are different.

For questions about legislative drafting, contact the Office of the Legislative Counsel at (202) 225-6060 or legcoun@mail.house.gov.

For assistance using the Comparative Print Suite, contact the Clerk's product support team at Clerk-Support-ComparativePrint@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kevin F. McCumber in black ink.

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of
the House

Handwritten signature of E. Wade Ballou Jr. in black ink.

E. Wade Ballou Jr., Legislative
Counsel