



American Association of Law Libraries
MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF THE LAW LIBRARY COMMUNITY SINCE 1906

The Law Library of Congress

Legislation in the 111th Congress: The *William Orton Law Library Improvement and Modernization Act* ([H.R. 2728](#)) would provide increased funding for the Law Library of Congress. There is no companion bill in the Senate.

Committees: [House Committee on House Administration](#); [Senate Committee on Rules and Administration](#)

Current Status: H.R. 2728 was favorably reported out of committee and sent to the House floor on June 19, 2009.

Original Sponsors: Rep. Zoe Lofgren (CA-16) and Rep Daniel E. Lungren (CA-3)

Message for every member of the House: AALL has worked for many years with the American Bar Association to ensure that the Law Library of Congress has the funding it needs to become the Nation's law library. We strongly support H.R. 2728 and ask that you vote in favor of the bill when it reaches the House floor.

If your House representative is a member of the Committee on House Administration:

- Thank him or her for their support of H.R. 2728.

Message for Senate: Since no bill has been introduced yet, we are only targeting members of the committee of jurisdiction.

If your senator is a member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration:

- Ask your senator to introduce a companion bill in the Senate to provide increased funding for the Law Library of Congress.

Background:

AALL has worked closely for many years with the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress to advocate for more funding for the Law Library of Congress, and we strongly support H.R. 2728. This bill will provide the funding and support needed to put the Law Library in a position to become the first-class institution that Congress, legal researchers and members of the public deserve.

The bill, as reported out of committee, is similar to last year's legislation, (the *Charles H.W. Meehan Law Library Improvement and Modernization Act*, [H.R. 6589](#)). It includes the following provisions:

- Sec. 2 authorizes a one-time additional appropriation of \$3.5 million, some of which is to catalog the huge backlog of volumes into the K classification system;
- Sect. 3 authorizes the Librarian of Congress to include a separate line item for the Salaries and Expenses of the Law Library in his annual budget request, effective FY 2011;
- Sec. 4 establishes the “William Orton Law Library Support Program” that will allow the ABA to move forward on their fund-raising efforts under the current Library of Congress Trust Fund Board; and
- The new Sec. 5, as amended by Rep. Lofgren during mark-up and reported out by the committee, designates the Law Library of Congress as the ‘National Law Library.’

H.R. 2728 would provide the Law Library with the funding it needs to offer enhanced services such as inter-library loan and electronic document delivery to law libraries throughout the country. Most importantly, the enactment of this bill would demonstrate the Law Library of Congress’s vital role in providing the legal community and the public with access to authentic current and historic legal information in a first-class setting.