



UNITED NATIONS



CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF ITALY



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION



World e-Parliament Conference 2012

13-15 September 2012 // Chamber of Deputies of Italy // Rome

XML in Process

United States House of Representatives

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The Challenge

- Legislative documents and related data must be
 - prepared
 - managed,
 - distributed, and
 - archived.
- This includes paper and electronic means for handling the official documents.

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**

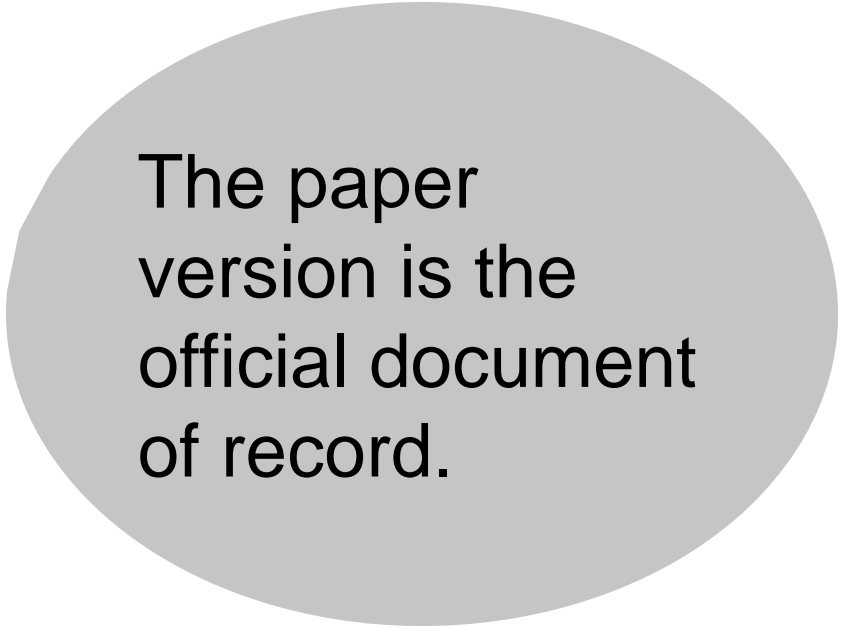
4 **BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURT-**

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.

Background

- The Legislative Branch XML Initiative is rooted in a **1996 directive** to work together **to establish common data standards** for the exchange of legislative information. (See also Public Law 104-197)
- The primary goal is to produce and exchange legislative documents using the industry-based standards approach of the **Extensible Markup Language (XML)**.

Additional Goals

- Improve the legislative document creation and revision process
- Improve information exchange with the Senate and other Legislative Branch organizations to facilitate the legislative process
- Allow the House to be more independent in document preparation.

1 2 3 5 6 7

- I41106•T4th CONGRESS•
- I421•T4st Session•
- I50H. RES. •T4244•
-
- I30Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the United States Women's Soccer Team and its winning performance in the 1999 Women's World Cup tournament.•
-
- I44•
- I45IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES•
-
- I46July •T113, 1999•
-
- I47Mr. •T4Kuykendall•K (for himself, Mrs. •T4Johnson•K of Connecticut, Mrs •T4Kelly•K, Mrs. •T4Fowler•K, Mr. •T4Foley•K, Ms. •T4Dunn•K, Mr. •T4Shimkus•K, Mr. •T4Shays•K, Ms. •T4Jackson-Lee•K of Texas, Mr. •T4Bachus•K, Mr. •T4Gallegly•K, Mr. •T4Barr•K of Georgia, Mr. •T4Sununu•K, Mr. •T4Talent•K, Mr. •T4Green•K of Wisconsin, Mr. •T4Saxton•K, Ms. •T4Pryce•K of Ohio, Mr. •T4Cook•K, Mr. •T4Bliley•K, Mr. •T4Ramstad•K, Mr. •T4Tancred0•K, Mr. •T4Burton•K of Indiana, Mrs. •T4Capps•K, Mr. •T4Stearns•K, and Mr. •T4Blunt•K) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

The On-going Challenge

Government data must be

- Accurate
- Accessible
- Authenticated
- Complete
- Detailed
- Searchable

Solution: Structured Data

- Publishing well-formed XML can help meet the goals of
 - accountability of the government,
 - transparency,
 - accessibility,
 - empowerment of the public,
 - higher quality of information, and
 - a way to make technology more human.
- XML provides a means to publish raw data (or lemons) and for others to add value (or make lemonade).

The Legislative Branch XML Working Group

- A group of representatives from the Legislative Branch agencies:
 - to manage and coordinate changes to the **Common Tag Library** and **DTDs**, and
 - manage issues involving exchanging and drafting legislative documents using these DTDs.

Creating XML

- **Author**-created using customized version of Just System's XMetaL.
- **Programmatically**-created by extracting data from a database and publishing in XML.

Basic Legislative Workflow

<http://xml.house.gov/wep2012/>

H.R. 3248

Introduced in House

PDF Version:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr3248ih/pdf/BILLS-112hr3248ih.pdf>

XML Version:

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc112/h3248_ih.xml

Bill Status and Summary: <http://Thomas.loc.gov>

Select “Bill Number”, Input HR 3248 in the search box, Click on Search.

Committee Consideration

H.R. 3248 was considered under suspension of the House rules.

There was no committee consideration.

H.R. 3248

House Consideration

H.R. 3248:

<http://docs.house.gov/Default.aspx?date=2012-02-13>

Floor Proceedings for February 15, 2012 when H.R. 3248 was considered and passed.

<http://clerk.house.gov/floorsummary/floor.aspx?day=20120215&today=20120906>

H.R. 3248: Roll Call Vote 54, February 15, 2012

<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll054.xml>

H.R. 3248

Engrossed in House

PDF Version:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr3248eh/pdf/BILLS-112hr3248eh.pdf>

XML Version:

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc112/h3248_eh.xml

Bill Status and Summary: <http://Thomas.loc.gov>

Select "Bill Number", Input HR 3248 in the search box, Click on Search.

H.R. 3248

Senate Consideration

H.R. 3248 – Received in Senate

PDF Version: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr3248rfs/pdf/BILLS-112hr3248rfs.pdf>

XML Version:

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc112/h3248_rfs.xml

H.R. 3248 – Reported in Senate

PDF Version: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr3248rs/pdf/BILLS-112hr3248rs.pdf>

XML Version:

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc112/h3248_rs.xml

H.R. 3248

Enrolled

PDF Version:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr3248enr/pdf/BILLS-112hr3248enr.pdf>

XML Version:

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc112/h3248_enr.xml

Bill Status and Summary: <http://Thomas.loc.gov>

Select “Bill Number”, Input HR 3248 in the search box, Click on Search.

H.R. 3248

Public Law

H.R. 3248

PDF Version: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-112publ118/pdf/PLAW-112publ118.pdf>

Bill Status and Summary: <http://Thomas.loc.gov>

Select “Bill Number”, Input HR 3248 in the search box, Click on Search.

ICT Systems

- Systems to create, manage and distribute legislative data and documents must be--
 - quick,
 - flexible,
 - meet the changing needs of the public and the members of parliaments, and,
 - involve very little risk.
- No interruptions, no failures, no risks, and little cost.

For more information

- XML: <http://xml.house.gov>



Who uses the XML editor?

House Office of Legislative Counsel

- Main drafters of House legislation, est. in 1919;
- 2,781 bills and resolutions introduced the first six months of 2012;
- 50 attorneys and 20 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;
- 252 bills and resolutions passed the House to date in 2012; 61 bills enacted into law to date in 2012.

Government Printing Office

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

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.

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.

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>

</form>

</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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Customs Building and United States Courthouse</quote>.</text> </subsection>
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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
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<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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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.

