

Issue and Bill Codes in the First and Second Data Sets
Congress, the Press, and Political Accountability
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- A. In order to assign a code for ISSUEA or BILL, you first need to determine which of the following ten categories is most appropriate for the issue or bill mentioned in the story:
1. Appropriations, Authorizations, and Programmatic Expenditures
 2. Budget, Tax, and Macroeconomic Policy
 3. Defense and Foreign Policy
 4. Economic Regulation, Commerce, and Trade Policy
 5. Environmental, Energy, and Science Policy
 6. Governmental Operations and Congressional Affairs
 7. Education and Labor Policy
 8. Health and Welfare Policy
 9. Law, Justice, Immigration, and Civil Rights Policy
 10. Miscellaneous Policies and Omnibus Legislation
- B. Within each category, you should first check to see if the policy issue is one of the 31 "Key Votes." All Key Votes have an asterisk as a prefix and are followed by a K number. If appropriate, assign the corresponding 3-digit code number.
- C. If no Key Vote is appropriate, then check the list of specific issues that have no prefixes. If one of these is appropriate, assign the corresponding 3-digit code numbers.
- D. If the list of specific issues does not work, then consult the list of general issues that are preceded by an exclamation point. Assign an appropriate 3-digit code.
- E. The whole process is repeated to assign a code for ISSUEB and ISSUEC.
- F. As reminders that abortion, budget balancing, "Contract with America," crime, gays in the military, gun control, health reform, and NAFTA require extra coding, I have placed two-letter abbreviations for these policy issues (AB, BU, CN, CR, GA, GU, HL, NA) in front of several 3-digit codes.

1. Appropriations, Authorizations, and Programmatic Expenditures

Key Votes:

101	* Defense Spending -- defense cuts in FY95 budget resolution (3/10/94)	KB02
102	* Space Station -- amendment to Approp. bill to end space station (6/29/94)	KB09
103	* Superconducting Super Collider -- kill funds for Texas project (10/19/93)	KA10
104	* Thrift Bailout Financing -- \$18b for failed savings banks (9/14/93)	KA07

Departments and functions:

111	Agricultural programs
112	Commerce department and business programs
113	Defense spending and military construction
114	District of Columbia spending
115	Education department and programs
116	Energy department and programs
117	Foreign aid and foreign assistance
118	Health programs
119	Housing and urban development
120	Interior department and western lands
121	Justice department and criminal justice
122	Labor and employment programs
123	Legislative branch funding -- Congress itself
124	Public works or water projects
125	Science and NASA
126	Social security spending
127	State department
128	Treasury department, executive agencies, White House
129	Transportation department and programs
130	Veterans programs
	Miscellaneous Issues about Spending
131	Line item veto -- proposal for president to veto specific expenditures
132	Rescission authority -- method by which president tries to cancel spending
133	Pork barrel spending -- <i>other</i> representatives' districts
134	"A-Z" Spending Cut plan: procedural device to cut specific programs across the board
135	Disaster Assistance -- floods, earthquakes, California
<u>137</u>	! Omnibus bill combining unrelated spending programs (e.g. supplemental)
<u>138</u>	! Other spending issue with MAJOR IMPACT ON THIS DISTRICT
<u>139</u>	! Other spending issue with NO special impact on this district

2. Budget, Tax, and Macroeconomic Policy**Budget Plans:**

BU	201	* Balanced Budget Amendment -- constitutional plan against deficits (3/17/94)	KB03
	202	Debt limit for federal government (raise limit on debt)	
	211	* Economic Stimulus -- FY93 supplemental appropriations (3/18/93)	KA03
BU	221	* Budget Resolution -- FY95 budget plan (4/14/94)	KB04
BU	222	* Budget Resolution -- FY94 binding budget levels (3/18/93)	KA02
BU	223	* Budget Reconciliation FY94 -- taxes up, spending down, deficit down (8/5/93)	KA06
BU	224	* Spending Cuts: Penny/Kasich \$90b plan to cut FY94 spending (11/22/93)	KA16
BU	225	* Entitlement spending and social security -- set caps for 5 years (7/21/94)	KB11
BU	<u>228</u>	! Other large budget plan to reduce deficit	
	<u>229</u>	! Other large budget plan to set priorities	

Taxes:

231	Capital gains tax
232	Corporation or business taxes
233	Gasoline tax (and other energy taxes)
234	Individual income tax
235	Social security tax
236	Tax withholding for domestic workers ("Nanny tax")
237	"Sin taxes" -- alcohol and cigarettes
<u>239</u>	! Other tax issue

3. Defense and Foreign Policy

Defense Procurement:

- 301 Anti-missile defense systems
- 302 B-2 Stealth Bomber -- preserve option to make more planes in the future
- 303 C-17 cargo plane -- continue production
- 304 Fighter plane modernization
- 305 Defense conversion -- help defense contractors convert to other purposes
- 309 ! Other weapons systems -- choosing, building, termination

Military Bases:

- 311 Military base closures -- this district
- 312 Military base closures -- in general and across United States
- 313 Military base closures -- located abroad

Defense Policies:

- GA **321** * Gays in Military -- codify ban on gays in defense authorization bill (9/28/93) KA08
- 322 Intelligence agencies -- CIA, etc.
- 323 Military personnel -- recruitment and retention
- 324 War Powers Act -- terms for going to war
- 325 Women in the military
- 329 ! Other defense issue

Foreign Policy:

- 331 Africa
- 348 Asia (other issue about)
- 332** * Bosnia Arms Embargo -- amendment to Defense bill to end embargo (6/9/94) KB07
- 333 Bosnia -- other
- 334 Europe
- 335** * Troops in Haiti -- withdraw US troops from Haiti soon (10/6/94) KB15
- 336 Haiti -- other
- 337 Israel
- 338 Latin America
- 339 Middle East
- 340 North Korea
- 341 Nuclear weapons -- spread of
- 342** * Russian Aid -- FY94 Foreign Operations Appropriations (6/17/93) KA04
- 343 Russia -- other
- 344** * Troops in Somalia -- set date for pullout (11/9/93) KA11
- 345 Somalia -- other
- 346 United Nations peacekeeping
- 347 Vietnam trade embargo
- 349 ! Other foreign policy issue

4. Economic Regulation, Commerce, and Trade Policy

Economic or Commercial Regulation:

- 401 Agricultural policy
- 402 Airline regulation
- 403 Antitrust policy -- especially for baseball and insurance
- 404 Auto safety
- 405 Banking regulation and deregulation

- 406 Consumer protection
- 407 Credit reporting -- regulation of credit service bureaus
- 408 Derivatives -- regulation of financial instruments known as "derivatives"
- 409 Economic Development Administration
- 410 Economic competitiveness -- government/business partnerships

- 411 Financial planner regulation -- oversight of financial planners
- 412 Flood insurance -- overhaul of federal program
- 413 Government securities regulation -- way in which government bonds are sold
- 414 Information highway -- creation of nationwide internet for all
- 415 Insurance redlining -- lack of insurance for inner cities

- 416 Maritime regulation and subsidies
- 417 Product liability
- 418 Radio spectrum auctions -- licenses for cellular phones and other purposes
- 419 Railroad regulation and high-speed rail project
- 420 Securities and Exchange Commission -- reauthorize agency

- 421 Small Business Administration and programs
- 422** * Telecommunications Reform -- change rules for phone and cable (6/28/94) KB08
- 423 Telemarketing fraud -- crackdown on fraudulent telemarketers
- 424 Trucking regulation and deregulation

- 429 ! Other issue of economic or commercial regulation

Trade Policy:

- 431 Export administration -- regulate sale of sensitive technologies abroad
- 432 Fair trade in financial services -- open up financial markets abroad
- 433** * GATT: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade -- reduce barriers (11/29/94) KB16
- NA **434** * NAFTA: North American Free Trade Agreement (11/17/93) KA13
- 435 China designated as "most-favored" nation for trade

- 439 ! Other trade issue

5. Environmental, Energy, and Science Policy

Environmental Policy:

	501	Air pollution and Clear Air Act	
	502	* Endangered Species -- national biological survey on private property (10/6/93)	KA09
	503	* EPA to Cabinet -- Environmental Protection Agency into Cabinet (2/2/94)	KB01
GU	504	* California Desert Protection -- hunters (guns) vs. environmentalists (7/12/94)	KB10
	505	California Redwood Forest Expansion	
	506	Clean Water reauthorization	
	507	Drinking water -- safety of	
	508	Fishing regulations -- control over-fishing in the oceans	
	509	Forestry regulations -- rare owls vs lumber industry	
	510	Grazing on federal lands -- subsidies for western ranchers	
	511	Historic areas and parks	
	512	* Mining Law -- require 8% royalties for mining on federal land (11/18/93)	KA14
	513	National parks	
	514	Pesticide regulation	
	515	Solid waste management	
	516	Superfund reauthorization -- clean up of toxic wastes	
	517	Wetlands -- regulations for use of	
	518	Wilderness preservation	
	<u>519</u>	! Other environmental issue	
	<u>529</u>	! Other energy issue	
		Science Policy:	
	531	NASA, space station, and space research	
	532	National Science Foundation	
	<u>539</u>	! Other science issue	

6. Governmental Operations and Congressional Affairs**Governmental Operations:**

- 601 District of Columbia -- statehood and other issues
- 602 Government reorganization
- 603 Hatch Act Revisions -- political activities of federal employees
- 604 Motor-Voter Registration -- register to vote when you register to drive
- 605 Pensions and retirement policy for federal workers

- 606 Procurement reform -- how the government makes purchases
- 607 Reinventing government -- collection of Clinton/Gore proposals
- 608 Unfunded mandates -- reduce federal dictates to state/local governments

- 609 ! Other issue of governmental operations

Congressional Affairs:

- 651** * Campaign Finance (Congress) -- spending caps and federal funds (11/21/93) KA15
- 652 Congressional compliance with federal labor laws (and other laws)
- 653 Congressional Gift Limitations
- 654 Congressional Investigations of executive-branch wrong doing (e.g., Whitewater)

- 655 Congressional reorganization (committee structure, procedures, etc)
- 656 House Post Office
- 657** * Lobbying Disclosure -- expand disclosure and restrict lobbyists' gifts (9/29/94) KB14
- 658 Terms limits for members of Congress

- 659 ! Other issue of congressional reform

7. Education and Labor Policy**Education Policy:**

- 701 Headstart program
- 702 Elementary and secondary education
- 703 Higher education and college loans

- 705 Goals 2000 Education Act [SEE NOTE AT BOTTOM OF PAGE]

- 709 ! Other education issue

Labor Policy:

- 711 Black lung benefits for miners
- 712** * Family and Medical Leave -- require unpaid leave (2/3/93) KA01
- 713 National service -- grants for individuals to perform community service
- 714 Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) -- redo 1970 law

- 715 Pensions for workers in private industry (not social security) -- ERISA
- 716 Striker replacements -- bar permanent replacements of striking workers
- 717 Unemployment insurance (and extension of benefits)
- 718 Worker retraining -- programs for displaced workers

- 719 ! Other labor issue

PLEASE NOTE

Code # 705 (Goals 2000 Education Act) was not part of the original coding scheme. It was added six months later. I asked a research assistant to read all articles that had been coded # 702 or # 709 for either ISSUEA, ISSUEB, ISSUEC, or BILL. The appropriate codes were changed to # 705 for any article that mentioned the Goals 2000 Education Act.

8. Health and Welfare Policy**Health Care Delivery:**

- HL 801 Health care reform -- comprehensive (Clinton's plan and alternatives to it)
802 Medicaid -- aid for the poor
803 Medicare -- senior citizens
804 Veterans' health care
- 809 ! Other issue of health care delivery

Other Health Policy:

- 811 AIDS -- research and treatment
812 Family planning
813 Health research -- general and national institute of health
814 Health research -- specific diseases
815 Immunizations for children
816 Smoking and health
- 819 ! Other health policy issue

Welfare Policy:

- 821 Community development banks -- more lending for inner cities
822 Food stamps
823 Public housing and care for the homeless
824 Veterans' benefits -- housing, employment, disabled benefits
825 Welfare reform
826 Child support
- 829 ! Other welfare policy

9. Law, Justice, Immigration, and Civil Rights Policy**Abortion:**

AB	901	* Abortion Funding (medicaid) -- FY94 HHS appropriations bill (6/30/93)	KA05
AB	902	* Abortion Clinic Access -- penalties for blocking access to clinics (5/5/94)	KB06
AB	<u>909</u>	! Other abortion issue	

Gun Control:

GU	911	* Assault Weapons Ban -- ban semiautomatic weapons (5/5/94)	KB05
GU	912	* Handgun Control -- Brady bill -- waiting period to buy handgun (11/10/93)	KA12
GU	<u>919</u>	! Other gun control policy	

Crime and Criminal Justice:

CR+	921	* Crime Bill -- police funds, death penalty, + ban assault weapons (8/21/94)	KB13
CR	922	Drugs	
CR	923	Youth offenders -- special treatment	
CR	<u>929</u>	! Other criminal justice issue	

Immigration and Other Legal Affairs:

931	Immigration reform and illegal aliens
932	Independent Counsel reauthorization -- investigations of federal officials
933	Legal Services Corporation -- program to provide lawyers for the poor
934	Wiretapping -- modify wiretapping law to deal with technological changes

Civil Rights and Civil Liberties:

941	Affirmative action
942	Redistricting on racial lines
<u>948</u>	! Other civil rights issue
<u>949</u>	! Other civil liberties issue

10. Miscellaneous Policies and Omnibus Legislation

- CN 951 Republican's Contract with America (only after 9/1/94)
952 Family values, violence in the media, public prayer
- 953 Indian affairs
954 National Endowment for Arts and Humanities
- 959 ! Omnibus legislation with many, unrelated parts
- 969 ! Miscellaneous policy with MAJOR IMPACT ON THIS DISTRICT
979 ! Miscellaneous policy with NO special impact on district
- 989 Multiple issues or bills mentioned -- none dominant
- 999 [legitimate skip]

Codes for 31 Key House Bills

Code

712	KA01: Family and Medical Leave -- require unpaid leave	2/3/93
222	KA02: Budget Resolution -- FY94 binding budget levels	3/18/93
211	KA03: Economic Stimulus -- FY93 supplemental appropriations	3/18/93
342	KA04: Russian Aid -- FY94 Foreign Operations Appropriations	6/17/93
901	KA05: Abortion Funding -- FY94 Labor/HHS appropriations bill	6/30/93
223	KA06: Budget Reconciliation FY94 -- taxes up, spending down, deficit down	8/5/93
104	KA07: Thrift Bailout Financing -- \$18b for failed savings banks	9/14/93
321	KA08: Gays in Military -- codify ban on gays in defense authorization bill	9/28/93
502	KA09: Endangered Species -- national biological survey on private property	10/6/93
103	KA10: Superconducting Super Collider -- kill funds for Texas project	10/19/93
344	KA11: Troops in Somalia -- set date for pullout	11/9/93
912	KA12: Handgun Control -- Brady bill -- waiting period to buy handgun	11/10/93
434	KA13: NAFTA: North American Free Trade Agreement	11/17/93
512	KA14: Mining Law -- require 8% royalties for mining on federal land	11/18/93
651	KA15: Campaign Finance (Congress) -- spending caps and federal funds	11/21/93
224	KA16: Spending Cuts: Penny/Kasich \$90b plan to cut FY94 spending	11/22/93
503	KB01: EPA to Cabinet -- Environmental Protection Agency into Cabinet	2/2/94
101	KB02: Defense Spending -- defense cuts in FY95 budget resolution	3/10/94
201	KB03: Balanced Budget Amendment -- constitutional plan against deficits	3/17/94
221	KB04: Budget Resolution -- FY95 budget plan	4/14/94
911	KB05: Assault Weapons Ban -- ban semiautomatic weapons	5/5/94
902	KB06: Abortion Clinic Access -- penalties for blocking access to clinics	5/5/94
332	KB07: Bosnia Arms Embargo -- amendment to Defense bill to end embargo	6/9/94
422	KB08: Telecommunications Reform -- change rules for phone and cable	6/28/94
102	KB09: Space Station -- amendment to Approp. bill to end space station	6/29/94
504	KB10: California Desert Protection -- hunters (guns) vs. environmentalists	7/12/94
225	KB11: Entitlement spending and social security -- set caps for 5 years	7/21/94
[x]	KB12: [skip this code]	
921	KB13: Crime Bill -- police funds, death penalty, ban assault weapons	8/21/94
657	KB14: Lobbying Disclosure -- expand disclosure and restrict lobbyists' gifts	9/29/94
335	KB15: Troops in Haiti -- withdraw US troops from Haiti soon	10/6/94
433	KB16: GATT: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade -- reduce barriers	11/29/94

Key House bills as identified by Congressional Quarterly at the end of each session. KA is for 1993; KB for 1994. Date refers to the date when key vote was taken on House floor. Consideration of bill may span a much longer period.

Total Codes:

Appropriations, Authorizations, and Programmatic Expenditures	32
Budget, Tax, and Macroeconomic Policy	18
Defense and Foreign Policy	34
Economic Regulation, Commerce, and Trade Policy	31
Environmental, Energy, and Science Policy	23
Governmental Operations and Congressional Affairs	18
Education and Labor Policy	13
Health and Welfare Policy	19
Law, Justice, Immigration, and Civil Rights Policy	18
Miscellaneous Policies and Omnibus Legislation	7
Multiple Issues -- None Dominant	1
Legitimate Skip -- Not Applicable	1
TOTAL INITIAL CODES	215
Code # 705 (added later)	1
TOTAL CODES USED	216
