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# ProQuest Regulatory Insight

Pamela C. Brannon

*Georgia State University College of Law*, pbrannon@gsu.edu

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*ProQuest Regulatory Insight*. ProQuest, Ann Arbor, Mich.

*Reviewed by Pamela C. Brannon\**

¶25 Launched in December 2015, *Regulatory Insight* is ProQuest's first expansion of its Insight brand of compiled government materials. The Insight series began with *Legislative Insight*, which provides compiled legislative histories for federal statutes. It will continue with the upcoming *Supreme Court Insight*, which will compile court documents related to cases decided by the Supreme Court of the United States.

¶26 *Regulatory Insight* creates regulatory histories for statutes, similar to legislative histories. In *Legislative Insight*, a search for a particular session law retrieves the congressional hearings, debates, and reports related to the passage of that piece of

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legislation. In *Regulatory Insight*, a search for a particular session law will retrieve the notices, proposed rules, and final rules issued under authority of that statute. ProQuest has also linked these services together; legislative histories in *Legislative Insight* contain links to regulatory histories in *Regulatory Insight*, and vice versa.

¶27 The value of both Insight products lies not in their underlying content but in the indexing and organization of that content. While the underlying content in *Legislative Insight* is available in *ProQuest Congressional*, for example, the organization of that material into a legislative history makes ProQuest's resource unique. Similarly, *Regulatory Insight's* source material—the *Federal Register*, *Code of Federal Regulations*, and comments posted on Regulations.gov—is readily available for free from other resources. Without *Regulatory Insight*, however, locating all of the regulations promulgated in response to a particular public law would require a generous amount of time searching and using the Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules. *Regulatory Insight* gathers all of this material in one place.

¶28 *Regulatory Insight* also provides an Agency View option, which enables users to view all proposed and final rules published in the *Federal Register* by a specific agency. The agency view indicates predecessor and successor agencies, as well as agencies with similar jurisdictions. As of this writing, coverage still appears patchy, however. For example, the agency view for the Government Accountability Office includes a link to its predecessor, the General Accounting Office, while the agency view for the Food Safety and Inspection Service contains no reference to its immediate predecessor, the Food Safety and Quality Service.

¶29 Researchers who have used ProQuest's *Legislative Insight* and congressional services will find the search functionality familiar in *Regulatory Insight*. The main screen presents a single search bar in which a user can enter keywords to search within all fields, including full text. The search bar auto-populates with the popular names of public laws, including rider legislation contained within a larger public law. Advanced searching provides researchers with the ability to specify content types to search, as well as the ability to search by popular names, agency names, and subjects. While there is an option to browse the list of agencies and popular law names, there is no way to browse the list of subjects. Subject headings are likely to be unique to this particular database, so this seems to be an odd omission.

¶30 Finally, researchers can also search by identifiers, as in other ProQuest products. In *Regulatory Insight*, this enables a researcher to search by a number of identifiers, from *Federal Register* citation and *United States Code* section to agency docket number and Regulation Identifier Number.

¶31 Within each regulatory history and agency view are several filtering options, similar to *Legislative Insight's* ability to search within a legislative history. Regulatory histories can be filtered by keyword, rule status (proposed or final), agency, or date. Agency views can be filtered by keyword, CFR part, subject, or date.

¶32 *Regulatory Insight's* strict adherence to organizing regulations by public law can lead to some nonoptimal results. Riders are not cataloged separately from the public law of which they are a part, leading to a confused regulatory history for a statute containing provisions on vastly different subjects. For example, while the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Public Law 110-343, primarily implemented the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), it also contained several riders, including the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and

Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA). In *Regulatory Insight*, all of the regulations promulgated under the authority of P.L. 110-343 are gathered together. No regulatory history presents the regulations promulgated under the MHPAEA separately from the regulations that implemented the TARP. The MHPAEA is listed as a Cited Act in the regulatory history for the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, so searches for its name will return the correct legislative history; however, this can lead to confusion if researchers are unaware that the law for which they are searching is only part of a much larger public law.

¶33 Similarly, organizing regulatory histories solely by public law complicates searching by *U.S. Code* citation. A complete history of the regulations involving a *U.S. Code* section that has been amended several times will involve combing through a number of regulatory histories. A search for the code section setting the federal minimum wage, 29 U.S.C. § 206, returns thirty regulatory histories. If a researcher's goal is a comprehensive look at minimum wage regulation, all of these must be reviewed for relevant materials.

¶34 *Regulatory Insight* is still being developed. When completed, *Regulatory Insight* will contain regulatory histories for laws passed from 1936 to the present. Expanding the database's coverage to pre-1936 materials, however, would improve the database tremendously. Statutes enacted prior to 1936, such as the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 and the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, resulted in regulations issued in or after 1936 and found in the *Federal Register* and *Code of Federal Regulations*. Interestingly, ProQuest's *Executive Branch Documents* collection contains agency regulations issued prior to the creation of the *Federal Register*, and providing indexing for these regulations would be invaluable for administrative historians. Future plans include adding comments on proposed regulations, starting with comments posted to Regulations.gov; if this is expanded to include comments not found in Regulations.gov, then *Regulatory Insight* would become a truly unique source of content. As currently implemented, *Regulatory Insight* provides a useful alternative organization of regulatory materials, particularly for those interested in the history of administrative regulation. With a few changes, however, it could be an invaluable resource.