The official US Congress website, https://congress.gov, provides a useful overview of activities taking place in both houses of Congress, and includes extensive background information about active legislation, organized by subject or by sponsor. It also offers a useful series of videos that explain the legislative process (https://www.congress.gov/legislative-process). I found that results from GovTrack tend to be more relevant than results for the same terms at Congress.gov, but each site has its own benefits and drawbacks.

The Congressional Record is “the official daily record of the debates and proceedings of the US Congress,” and as such it reprints the discussions that take place on the floor of Congress, along with comments and documentation that senators and representatives add after the session has concluded. The Congressional Record consists of sections for the Senate, the House, the additional comments, and the “Daily Digest.” These can be searched simultaneously at https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record, covering 1995 to today. The Congress.gov site is quite comprehensive and includes all current reports from congressional committees and their subcommittees. This site is vital for following these reports as they work their way through the legislative system.

The Federal Register serves as the federal government’s official journal. It is published daily and contains various rules, amendments, executive orders, regulations, and more. The content of laws published in the Register are then consolidated into the annual publication of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Federal Register content is available online back to 1936 at https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/FR, and content since 1994 is searchable at https://www.federalregister.gov.

GovInfo also has the annual CFR back to 1996 at https://www.govinfo.gov/help/cfr, and perhaps even more useful is the list of parts of the CFR that have been updated through Federal Register changes since the last published version of the CFR, at https://www.govinfo.gov/app/cfrparts/month. A nicely organized version of the current CFR can also be found at Cornell Law School’s Legal Information Institute, at https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text.

Suggestions for other sites worth mentioning are welcome at peter@shipindex.org. See https://www.shipindex.org for a free compilation of over 150,000 ship names from indexes to dozens of books and journals.