### Lists of Important Enactments by Congress, 1991-2014

#### Divided party control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Act Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td><em>Omnibus Deficit Reduction Act</em></td>
<td>Clinton $496 billion savings over 5 years; top tax bracket to rise to 36% plus 10% surcharge; hike in Earned Income Tax Credit. 1993.</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td><em>Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993</em></td>
<td>Mandated 12 weeks of unpaid leave for family emergencies.</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td><em>Reform of College-Student Loan Financing</em></td>
<td>Money to be provided directly rather than through banks. 1993.</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td><em>Brady Bill</em></td>
<td>To require 5-day waiting period for purchase of handguns. 1993.</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td><em>Abortion Clinic Access</em></td>
<td>Criminal penalties to combat violence at abortion clinics. 1994.</td>
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#### Additional Enactments

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<td>1995-96</td>
<td><em>Curb on Unfunded Mandates</em></td>
<td>New protection for state and local governments. 1995. R Cong</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td><em>Welfare Reform</em></td>
<td>End of 61-year federal welfare guarantee to low-income women and children; block grants and regulatory leeway to states instead. 1996.</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td><em>Telecommunications Reform</em></td>
<td>To spur competition in telephone, video, data services; to break up local telephone and cable-TV monopolies. 1996.</td>
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*Agriculture deregulation.* To undo farm subsidies and move the industry toward free market. 1996.

*Line-item veto.* By statute, empowered president to kill individual spending items. (Later struck down by the judiciary.) 1996.

*Anti-terrorism act.* New controls on borders, funds of suspected groups; curbs on death-row appeals. 1996.


*Overhaul of pesticides regulation.* 1996.

*Overhaul of safe drinking water legislation.* 1996.

*Immigration reform.* To cut illegal immigration through border controls, deportation, workplace ID’s. 1996.

1997-98  *DEAL TO BALANCE THE BUDGET BY 2002.*

Clinton $263 billion in spending cuts; $95 billion in tax cuts; $33 billion for new children’s health insurance; new $500 child tax credit. 1997.


*Overhaul of Food and Drug Administration.* To expedite approval of new drugs. 1997.

*Adoption of foster children.* To ease the process. 1997.


*Overhaul of Internal Revenue Service.* More rights and protections to taxpayers. 1998.

*NATO expansion ratified.* To add Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic. 1998.

*Reform of public housing.* New decision-making leeway to local authorities. 1998.

*100,000 new school teachers.* A Clinton plan. 1998.


*Y2K planning.* To limit firms’ liability for new-millennium computer mixups. 1999.


*Permanent Normal Trading Relations (PNTR) with China.* 2000.


2001-02  *BUSH TAX CUT.* $1.35 trillion over 10 years; Bush 43 rate cuts; phaseout of estate tax; ease of marriage penalty; expansion of child tax (early 2001) credit. 2001.

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*Intelligence overhaul. Restructuring of government intelligence services; new intelligence czar to coordinate anti-terrorism activities. 2004.

R Cong  *Class Action Fairness Act. Shifts class-action suits to federal courts, making it harder to bring them against businesses. 2005.

*$286 billion transportation measure. Funds for highways, mass transit, a record 6,371 pet member projects. 2005.


*Hurricane assistance after Katrina. $29 billion in relief money plus altered federal policies to spur redevelopment. 2005.

*Pension reform. To shore up often-shaky private retirement programs for 44 million workers and retirees. 2006.


*Port security. $5 billion six-year package to shore up security at U.S. ports. 2006.


*Gulf of Mexico opened to oil and gas drilling. 8.3 million acres. 2006.

*Trade measures. To normalize trade with Vietnam and extend trade benefits to four Andean nations, sub-Saharan countries, and Haiti. 2006.

*Postal Service reform. To stabilize postage rates, ease pension costs, improve efficiency. 2006.

*India pact. Agreement allowing the U.S. to share civilian nuclear technology with India. 2006.

2007-08  *Minimum wage hike. To $7.25 per hour in three stages over two years. Combined with D Cong $4.84 billion in tax breaks for small businesses. 2007.


*Ethics and lobbying reform. New restrictions on gifts, meals, and travel supplied by lobbyists, and on the “revolving door” into the private sector. 2007.

*Overhaul of college student aid programs. Subsidies to private lenders cut; grants to needy students increased. 2007.

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*HOUSING RELIEF PROGRAM. Includes $300 billion authorization to insure home mortgages; rescue and tightened regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. 2008.

*$700 BAILOUT OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR.
Combined with $150 billion in tax breaks. 2008.


*Domestic surveillance. Major expansion of federal anti-terrorism surveillance powers asked by Bush; telecoms immunized against liability for previous wiretapping. 2008.

*New G.I. bill for veterans. $62.8 billion over 11 years to guarantee a four-year college education. 2008.

*Nuclear trade agreement with India. Gives India access to U.S. civilian nuclear technology. 2008.

*Guarantee of mental illness insurance. Insurance companies required to cover mental and physical illnesses equally. 2008.

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2009-10

*$787 BILLION STIMULUS MEASURE TO JUMP-START THE ECONOMY. Many D Cong ingredients, including $288 billion in tax cuts; credits for renewable energy, home buying, and college tuition; spurs to education reform; investments in green technologies, clean water, electric grid; a total of $70 billion for energy and the environment; support for unemployment benefits and food stamps. 2009.


*Credit card bill of rights. New restrictions on credit card industry. 2009.


*Expansion of national and community service programs. Including AmeriCorps. Participation to be tripled. 2009.


*Public lands preservation. Over 2 million acres in the West set aside as protected wilderness. 2009.

*AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. Long-sought commitment to national health insurance. Individual mandate, guaranteed insurance regardless of pre-existing conditions, state insurance exchanges, expansion of Medicaid, all to cost an estimated $1 trillion over ten years. 2010.

*FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATION. Sweeping overhaul of the industry. To create a process to assess and mitigate risk incurred by large financial units; plan for faltering institutions; augment transparency; create a new consumer protection agency. 2010.
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*Student loan overhaul. Government to be the sole provider of college student loans; existing program subsidizing private lenders killed. 2010.
*BIPARTISAN TAX DEAL. Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 extended two years for all income levels; estate tax pegged at 35%; Social Security withholding tax reduced for one year; unemployment benefits expanded. 2010.
*Repeal of 'Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. Ended the military’s restrictive policy on gays. 2010.
*Regulation of food safety. Major new authority to the FDA. 2010.
*Help to 9/11 first reponders. $4.2 billion aid to fire fighters and others suffering health problems due to World Trade Center attack of 2001. 2010.

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*DEBT CEILING DEAL. Bipartisan compromise to raise the debt ceiling, and to cut government spending by $2.1 trillion in two stages--$900 billion immediately, and $1.2 trillion via decisions delegated to a congressional supercommittee or else via a stipulated sequester of domestic and military spending if that committee couldn’t later come to an agreement (it couldn’t). 2011.
*Modernization of patent law. To cut an application backlog, make obtaining patents easier, align US law with other countries. 2011.
*Trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, South Korea. 2011.
*Ban on insider trading by members of Congress 2012.
*Normalization of trade relations with Russia, including the “Magnitsky Act” banning certain rights abusers from traveling or banking in the U.S. 2012.
*FISCAL CLIFF DEAL. Income and other taxes hiked on the high brackets; Bush tax cuts of 2001 made permanent for the bulk of taxpayers; capital gains and dividend taxes set permanently at 20%; estate tax set permanently at 40% with a $5 million exemption; the Alternative Minimum Tax permanently patched to inflation. (enacted in early January 2013 at the tail end of the lame-duck session of the 112th). 2013.

2011-12

2013-14
*Superstorm Sandy aid. $60.2 billion for insurance backup, homeowners, businesses, infrastructure, shorelines, local governments. 2013.
*Overhaul of student loan program. Shift from a fixed interest rate to variable rates pegged to financial market trading. 2013.
*Curb sexual assaults in the military. Overhaul of process to protect victims (part of defense authorization bill). 2013.

* Agriculture program. Five-year authorization; direct crop payments replaced by new risk management design; food stamps trimmed somewhat. 2014.

* Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). $12.3 billion over ten years to back new port, dam, flood-protection projects; a new process to curb congressional earmarking. 2014.

* Overhaul of Department of Veterans Affairs. $16.3 billion to curb long waits in facilities, privatize certain care. 2014.

* Arm and equip Syria rebels to fight against ISIL (part of short-term continuing resolution). 2014.

* Flexibility for multi-employer pension plans. To ward off crisis; allows cuts in certain promised benefits to shore up plans from collapse (part of “cromnibus” funding bill). 2014.

* Campaign finance loosening. A hike in the ceiling on contributions by wealthy individuals to the parties, allowing a tenfold increase in the size of donations (part of “cromnibus” funding bill). 2014.