1. Start with the exact language you care about from a code section.

2. Determine what Public Law put that language in place.

3. Look at the documents Congress produced when they created that Public Law.

Don’t reinvent the wheel. Has someone already compiled a legislative history for your law? Check hardcopy books, HeinOnline, Westlaw or journal articles.

Find these legislative history documents in Westlaw, Lexis, Congress.gov, FDSys, or ProQuest Congressional or Legislative Insight.

Remember that useful legislative history documents may come from earlier Congresses, if they have been considering a type of bill for a while.