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Revised: September 26, 2024

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1. Introduction

This Review Guide is intended to help readers to understand changes in the 2.0.17 version of the United States Legislative Markup (USLM) schema so that they can provide meaningful feedback on the changes. This guide assumes that the reader is familiar with the 2.0.12 version of the USLM schema and is generally knowledgeable about XML schemas in XSD format. For more information about the 2.0.12 and 1.0 versions of this schema, see section 4 of this document for links to existing documentation.

This guide reflects USLM schema version 2.0.17.

2. Conventions Used in the User Guide

The following conventions are used in the User Guide:

- XML element names are denoted with angled brackets. For example, `<title>` is an XML element.

- XML attribute names are denoted with an "@" prefix. For example, `@href` is an XML attribute.

- Enumerated values are denoted in a fixed width font. For example, `landscape` is an enumeration.

- String values are denoted with double quotes. For example, `"title1-s1"` is a string value.

- A new term being defined is shown in bold italic.

- A new element or attribute being defined is shown in bold.

3. Brief USLM Background

The USLM schema was first developed in 2013 by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives (OLRC) in order to produce the United States Code in XML. Since 2013, the OLRC regularly produces a USLM version of the United States Code for download at http://uscode.house.gov/download/download.shtml. The USLM version of the U.S. Code is updated continuously as new laws are enacted.

The original goals of the USLM schema included:

1. Allow existing titles of the United States Code to be converted into XML.

2. Support ongoing maintenance of the United States Code.

3. Support the drafting of new positive law codification bills and related materials.

4. Provide a flexible foundation to meet future needs of Congress.

5. Compatibility with existing legislative documents in other XML formats.

The 2.0.12 version of the USLM schema extended its use to the following document sets:

- Enrolled Bills and Resolutions
- Public Laws
- Statutes at Large
- Statute Compilations
- Federal Register (FR)
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

The 2.0.17 version of the USLM schema further extends its use to

- Bill and Resolution document stages prior to enrollment
- Older Statutes at Large volumes

4. Existing Documentation

User documentation for the 1.0 version of the schema can be found at https://github.com/usgpo/uslm/blob/main/USLM-User-Guide.pdf and https://github.com/usgpo/uslm/blob/main/USLM-User-Guide.md.

User documentation for the 2.0.12 version of the schema can be found at https://github.com/usgpo/uslm/blob/main/USLM-2_0-Review-Guide-v2_0_12.pdf and https://github.com/usgpo/uslm/blob/main/USLM-2_0-Review-Guide-v2_0_12.md.

The XSD schema and CSS stylesheets for online viewing can be downloaded at: http://uscode.house.gov/download/resources/schemaandcss.zip and https://github.com/usgpo/uslm. Note that the CSS stylesheet is informational only. It produces a draft view of the documents.

Note: These resources and more are available on GPO's Developers Hub at https://www.govinfo.gov/developers.

5. What Has Not Changed

Version 2.0.17 of USLM is an incremental change to the 2.0.12 schema. While some new elements have been added and a few content models have been extended, the fundamental design of the schema has not changed. Documents that were valid in version 2.0.12 are also valid in version 2.0.17 of the USLM schema.

We have added one new document type, and a number of elements and attributes. Some content models have been loosened to allow constructs that we have seen in bill and resolution document stages prior to enrollment, and in older Statutes at Large volumes.

6. Schema Changes

6.1 New Document Type

The `<constitutionalAmendment>` element is a document containing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It has the same structure as other types of law documents.

6.2 New Elements

The `<leftRunningHead>` and `<rightRunningHead>` elements have been joined by a `<centerRunningHead>` element.

The `<endorsement>` element is a new element used in bills and resolutions prior to enrollment. It is found at the end of the document and contains a selection of document metadata. It is usually printed sideways.

The `<addedText>` and `<deletedText>` elements are used to indicate added or deleted content that amends a bill or resolution in amendment documents and reported bills. The styling is determined by the attributes set on the committee whose ID is used in the `@origin` attribute of the content. The existing elements `<quotedText>` and `<quotedContent>` are used to indicate amendments to law.

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The <preface> element now allows two new elements: **<firstPageHeading>** and **<firstPageSubheading>**.

A **<referenceMarker>** element is allowed with or instead of a <num> element for cases when a level requires a non-hierarchical designation with or instead of the usual hierarchical designation.

6.3 New Attributes

The **@addedDisplayStyle** and **@deletedDisplayStyle** attributes declare the styles used in bills, resolutions, and amendment documents prior to enrollment to indicate added or deleted content that amends bills and resolutions. These attributes are set on the committee element defining the committee that produced the reported bill or amendments document.

6.4 Mathematical Formulae

USLM 2.0.17 incorporates the MathML 3 schema. This provides support for representing most mathematical formulae.

7. Feedback

To submit feedback, questions, or comments about the USLM 2.0.17 schema and this Review Guide, please open a GitHub issue at https://github.com/usgpo/uslm/issues.