

Table 17-1 Variables Associated with Topical Legislation Passed: Congress as the Unit of Analysis, 67th–111th

Model: Prais–Winsten Regression^a

DV = the proportion of *Congressional Digest* topics that were addressed by a new law

<i>Variables</i> (expected sign)	Model a	Model b
	Coefficient (robust s.e.)	Coefficient (robust s.e.)
Moderate polarization (+)	.041 ^b (.016)**	.042 (.016)**
Divided government (-)	.071 (.036)*	.060 (.036)*
Honeymoon (+)	.107 (.038)**	.079 (.039)*
Severe recession (+)	.070 (.052) ^t	-.001 (.042)
Time out of majority (+)	-.002 (.004)	-.001 (.003)
President's rating (+)	.005 (.002)**	.004 (.002)*
Control for outliers		
F. D.Roosevelt first Congress (73rd) (+)		.225 (.056)***
Obama first Congress (111th) (+)		.204 (.049)***
Constant	.060 (.051)	.102 (.048)*
F-statistic	3.55**	3.69**
R ²	.37	.45
D-statistic (transformed value)	1.94	1.97
n	45	45

Source: Compiled by authors.

*** $p < .001$; ** $p < .01$; * $p < .05$; ^t $p < .10$ (one-tailed tests)

^a Prais–Winsten regression corrects for autocorrelation in the models, and the coefficients can be interpreted the same as Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression. It turns out, in both Models; autocorrelation of the error terms is not a serious problem. Running the models using OLS regression the Durbin Watson d-statistics are 1.92 for Model a and 1.95 for Model b. These values suggest evidence of positive autocorrelation of error terms is missing; see Damodar N. Gujarati, *Basic Econometrics*, 3rd ed. (New York: McGraw–Hill, 1995), 422 and 820. Most specifically, the transformed values suggest that we cannot reject the null hypothesis of no positive autocorrelation. Alternatively, the models can be run using OLS with a lagged dependent variable. These alternative models return ostensibly no change in the results of this analysis and no statistical or substantive change in the value of the Moderate Polarization variable.

^b The dependent variable is measured as the proportion of *Digest* topics that were addressed by a new law in the contemporaneous Congress, and the measure of moderate polarization is a standardized variable with a standard deviation of “1.” So, the coefficients in Model a and Model b representing the average relationship between these two variables suggests that a one standard deviation change toward more moderate polarization is associated with a little more than a four percent increase in productivity, all else being equal. Alternatively, if one considers the range of the moderate polarization variable (3.29), a move from lowest to highest moderation is associated with an almost 14 percent increase in productivity, whereas divided government and honeymoons are associated with about a six and nine percent increase, respectively, all else being equal.