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An Evaluation of State Legislative History Websites

Kyle Brown

Submitted to
Professor Penny A. Hazelton
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and to fulfill the graduation requirement of the
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University of Washington Information School
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INTRODUCTION

Legislative history serves several important purposes. It is used to determine statutory intent when other methods fail. When the plain language of a statute fails to disclose its meaning courts are sometimes willing to rely on legislative history to determine the legislature's intent.¹ Statements from the act's sponsor may serve as a guide to what was intended by the law. Similarly, comments and concerns expressed by other legislators can also shed light on legislators' understanding of what the law would do. Additionally, other documents including reports issued by the committee that considered the bill or nonpartisan legislative staff who prepare plain language interpretations of the law for legislators and their staffs can also be sources of legislative intent. Finally, searching for similar bills and comparing the language used in them to the language in the current statute can also shed light on legislative intent.

The paper's main audience is state legislatures, those responsible for their web presence, and others seeking to organize legislative materials. Although this paper focuses on a narrower range of sources than others and does not attempt to instruct the reader on conducting legislative history research, it does something the other resources do not: this paper systematically critiques the materials made available freely online by the various states and the way they are organized for researchers. Legislatures and those responsible for legislative information must know how usable their websites are to individuals doing legislative history research. All states have room for improvement and this paper can help states decide how best to utilize limited dollars to improve their legislative web presence for researchers on a trail of a law's legislative history.²

Legislative history can also be useful to lobbyists or activists trying to change a law. Knowing how the law was initially passed can be helpful. Seeing which committees it went through, how the members on that committee voted and

¹ Robert C. Berring & Elizabeth A. Edinger, *Finding the Law* 165 (Thompson West 12th ed. 2005); *Tidewater Oil Co. v. United States*, 409 U.S. 151, 157 (1972); *Scouten v. Whatcom*, 74 P. 389, 391 (Wash. 1903). *Contra Zedner v. U.S.*, 547 U.S. 489, 511 (2006) (Scalia, J., concurring) (“[T]he use of legislative history is illegitimate and ill advised in the interpretation of any statute—and especially a statute that is clear on its face—I do not join this portion of the Court's opinion.”).

² Legislative websites are not designed for conducting legislative research. The main purpose of legislative websites is to provide information about the legislature and the legislative process to the public and to make information accessible to legislators and legislative staff. There is no reason a state legislative website cannot serve these primary functions while also providing a good platform for legislative history research. Such research is an important part of determining what laws pass by the legislature mean, and it makes sense that states make the resources they place on the internet useful to those conducting legislative history research.

how many of them are still in the legislature can help lobbyists plan their strategies. Committee records or other state documents may disclose how other activists felt about the original law and can be helpful in finding allies for the fight to change the law. Finally, searching bills on similar topics from previous sessions can help identify legislators likely to support the activists' effort.

In addition, individuals seeking to uncover legislative intent behind a state statute or rally support for passing a new law may find it useful. The paper lays out which of the main sources of legislative history are freely available online for each state and provides URLs to access legislative websites.³

Law librarians may find Appendix B useful when doing free online legislative research in a state they are not familiar with.⁴ The paper's greater utility to law librarians, though, comes from its ranking system which attempts to systematically evaluate how well states are doing at making legislative history information available freely online. The ranking system can help librarians provide feedback to their state legislature and also help librarians think systematically about how to organize their own online databases.

All states now make at least some of their legislative history materials available freely online. There is wide disparity in the coverage dates of the materials online, with some states providing materials back to the 1960s and others making only information from the current session available online. The usefulness of this material also varies. Some states have transcripts of floor debates going several back decades while many others either don't transcribe any debates or make the transcriptions available in hard copy only. The most

³ These readers would likely be better served by other resources, however, including the following which were invaluable in the preparation of this paper: William H. Manz, *Guide to State Legislation, Legislative History, and Administrative Materials* (William S. Hein & Co. 7th ed. 2008); and Indiana University's listing of state legislative history guides, Jennifer Bryan Morgan, *State Legislative History Research Guides on the Web*, <http://www.law.indiana.edu/lawlibrary/research/guides/statelegislative/index.shtml> (last visited 5/8/2011). Manz has a broader focus than this paper. In addition to freely available online legislative history sources, which are the exclusive province of this paper, Manz includes listings of key print documents produced in the legislative processes of the various states. Manz's book is from 2008, and some of the information included is no longer current. Indiana University's list links to legislative history research guides for each state. These guides not only describe the various documents and where they can be found but also provide instruction on how to use them. This paper does not attempt to instruct researchers how to conduct legislative history research in each state but merely catalogs and evaluates the key documents freely available online from each state.

important sources for determining legislative intent vary from state to state with many states not having their key sources available. Leaving aside the volume and usefulness of the materials each state offers there are also dramatic differences in the ways this information is made accessible to researchers. The best states have a web page for each bill with links to the key documents relating to that bill—journal pages where it's mentioned, proposed and adopted amendments, video or audio of debate on the bill, transcripts or meetings from when the bill was considered, and analyses provided by legislative support agencies—linked directly from that bill page.

Other states provide less information, perhaps listing page numbers of the journals where the bill was considered and dates of meetings which can be used to search for video and other information about the bill. Others provide no information, forcing researchers to search multiple databases using the bill number or title to find the information they need. This can be a difficult task for the lay person or lawyers and law students who do not regularly perform such research. This paper attempts to grade each state on how well its current system of distributing legislative history resources online performs and makes suggestions on changes underperforming states can make to ensure their documents are accessible.

MODEL STATE LEGISLATIVE HISTORY PRESENCE

If a state legislature that had no legislative history documents available online and was attempting to create a website that provided access to legislative documents to members of the public conduct legislative history research, what would the key features of such a site be?

To begin, the state should create a simple tutorial for researchers. This page would include information about the legislative process in that state and the various documents that are created as a bill moves through the legislature. The page would also include citations to state cases that approve of using legislative history to discover intent, if such cases exist, and the key documents the courts focus on in determining intent. Finally, the page should explain how these various documents are organized and how they can be searched.

As for the legislative documents themselves, simply placing them online is not enough. They must also be organized in a way useful for researchers. State statutes should include history notes so researchers can determine the bills or

session laws that modified a particular statute. Ideally, these history notes would link directly to the bill or session law in question.

Each bill should have its own page and the key documents relating to it should be linked from that page. These documents will vary from state to state, but likely include accepted and proposed amendments to the bill, documents relating to the bill generated by committees or legislative agencies, floor and committee actions on the bill with links to legislative journals where those actions are described, and links to any media files or transcripts where the bill is discussed.

Finally, states should digitize or obtain digital copies of their historical journals, bills, and session laws. The nature of legislative history is such that it is not enough to only have recent documents available.

METHODOLOGY AND RANKING

States will be evaluated on a number of different criteria derived from the model state legislative website discussed above. Once I settled on what I considered to be the elements of legislative history, I began a preliminary analysis of several legislative websites to determine the common practices for organizing the documents. After viewing enough websites to get a feel for the common ways of organizing this information, I decided which methods of organization were most useful for legislative history researchers and devised the scoring system discussed below to show the utility of legislative websites for legislative history research.

1. History Notes 20 points

State legislative sites should provide a way to identify what session laws or bills have went into creating a particular statute. States do this in several ways. The most common is to include a history note following a statute that provides citations to the session laws or bills. Ideally, these citations should be hyperlinked so that researchers can click directly through to the documents in question rather than having to search a separate database for them.

Other states do not include history notes after statutory sections. In these states, researchers must instead turn to other sources to identify what acts went into creating a particular statute. One potential tool is turning to the print version of the statutes issued by the state or a commercial publisher which would be more

likely to include history notes. These print sources are outside the scope of this paper, however. Most states without history notes in their code provide some way to see what acts have modified a statute online, such as a list of sections affected. These lists usually only refer to the acts from a particular session, however. This means a researcher may have to repeat the same search multiple times in each session's database to determine the acts that modified the statute. Additionally, since no state makes such tables available for all legislative sessions, it may be impossible to determine all of the acts that modified a particular statute.

Twenty points are available for providing a way for researchers to identify the acts that shaped a statute. Most researchers will start with a citation to the state's statutes and attempt to work backwards from there, so in my analysis this feature is the most important to evaluate. It is important there be tools available online that allow them to do this. To get all of the points, the information should be available from the statutes and should link to the session law when possible. Zero points will be awarded to states without history notes in their online statutes and no tables or other means of ascertaining the acts that have modified a particular statute. In between will be states with session law cites but no links and those with tables of sections affected, which will be judged on their ease of use and date range.

2. Document Links from Bill Page 15 points

Fifteen points are available for creating a bill page for bills that track the bill's progress through the legislative process and link to key documents created during the process. Fewer points will be awarded to states that instead provide citations to the page number in their journals or other documents from the bill page. States that provide no way to identify relevant documents from the bill page and instead require researchers to search by bill title or number across multiple document sets will receive zero points.

3. Committee Actions 10 points

Ten points are available for having committee actions taken on the bill online. States provide different amounts of information about committee action with some simply noting whether a committee recommended that the bill pass or not. Others provide the roll call votes that took place in committee which can be useful for activists attempting to identify potential allies or possible contacts for those searching for legislative intent. In some states committees produce reports explaining their reason for recommending passage and these are also made

available online. The more information about committee action a state provides the more points it receives in this category.

4. Floor Actions 10 points

Ten points are available for providing information about floor action on the bill. This should include votes on the bill with roll calls when available. Any amendments considered or adopted on the floor should also be listed along with the votes on them.

5. Amendments 10 points

All versions of the bill text and amendments considered or adopted should be available. States receive ten points for making the text of all the bill versions and amendments freely available online.

6. Transcripts 10 points

Ten points are also available for making transcripts of floor debates or committee hearings available. Most states do not transcribe floor debates and committee hearings. For those that do, some make the records available only in paper versions at the state archives or other institution. Transcripts provide an excellent source for gleaning legislative intent. More states should be working to provide transcripts of legislative debates and hearings and those that already transcribe should be making transcriptions freely available online.

7. Audio and Video 10 points

Many states have begun audio or video recordings of many proceedings. These are less useful than transcripts as they are not searchable and may not be considered an official record of proceedings. These recordings can still provide useful insight into legislative intent, however. States can receive up to ten points for recording hearings and debate and making archives of those recordings freely available online.

8. Legislative Journals Available Online 5 points

Five points are available for making the journals of each house available. The content of journals varies greatly from state to state. Some states include transcripts of all debate in their journals; others include only select portions of

debates, while others include only procedural details. The content of the journals is dealt with elsewhere in the transcripts category below. States can receive five points in this category for making the journals of their legislative houses available, regardless of the content that typically appears in the journals. Two and a half points will be awarded to states that make only one house's journal available online.

9. Key Word Searching 5 points

Finally, states receive five points for making past bills keyword searchable. Ideally, multiple sessions should be searchable simultaneously rather than requiring researchers to repeat the search in the files of each session. Keyword searching is important because not everyone will be doing legislative research with a statutory starting point. Some researchers are interested in all legislation considered on a particular topic, regardless of whether it ended up in the state statutes.

10. Years of Coverage +1 point for each year of coverage

States will receive one point for each year their materials cover. The materials considered here are the number of years of past bills and journals available. For states that have different coverage dates receive one point for each year they have bills and journals available for both houses, one-half point for years with bills only, and one-half point for years with both journals available, and one-quarter point for years with only one journal available, Nebraska excepted.

KEY FINDINGS

Complete information about each state's score can be found in Appendix B. Some of the notable findings are summarized below including best and worst scores overall as well as best and worst scores in several important categories.

1. Best Overall Rankings

Geographically speaking, the top ranked states are all northern states, with the exception of Florida, and they span the country from East Coast to West Coast, though there are more eastern states than western. Pennsylvania ranks far

higher than the other states in large part due to its strong historical collection and transcripts of floor sessions.

State	Total Score
Pennsylvania	139
Minnesota	104.5
Wisconsin	102
New Hampshire	99.5
Washington	96
Maine	94
Montana	94
Florida	92
Connecticut	91.5
Alaska	91

2. Worst Overall Rankings

The lowest ranked states are more evenly geographically distributed than the top ranked states. The presence of populous and relatively wealthy states such as New York and Massachusetts on the list is somewhat surprising. Since the cost of maintaining a legislative website should have no direct relation to the size of the state's population, more populous states that can spread the cost of legislative technology over a larger number of taxpayers may be expected to perform better.

New York's low score reflects the fact that it only makes documents from the current legislative session available on the legislative websites. Some collections of historical documents are available through other organizations such as the state law library, but they are limited in scope and hard to find for the novice researcher. Massachusetts's low score stems from a failure to provide any freely available online method to determine what session laws or bills have modified a particular statute and bill pages without links to key documents.

State	Total Score
Colorado	61.5
Alabama	59.5
Tennessee	58
New Mexico	57.5
Rhode Island	56.5
Hawaii	56

New York	56
Oklahoma	55
Massachusetts	53.5
West Virginia	52

3. Transcripts of Floor and Committee Sessions

Transcripts, one of the more useful sources for determining legislative intent, are also among the least common features on state legislative websites. Only four states received a score higher than zero in the transcripts category and three of the four made the overall top ten in part due to their transcripts. All but Illinois are eastern states. It is unclear what is holding more states back from transcribing legislative sessions but cost likely plays a major role. Further research is needed to determine what lead the states listed above to begin transcribing sessions; what costs they face in doing so; and how often the transcripts are cited in court cases, briefs, and articles.

State	Transcripts /10	Total Score
Pennsylvania	10	139
Connecticut	10	91.5
Maine	10	94
Illinois	10	85.5

4. Most Years of Coverage

Pennsylvania does by far the best job of making historical documents available online, with more than double the score of its closest competitors. Journals for the house are available from 1961 on and historical bills are available from 1971 on. Impressive as Pennsylvania's coverage is, all states have a great deal of room for improvement in this category, as no state's coverage extends even through the latter half of the 20th century.

State	Coverage Score	Total Score
Pennsylvania	54	139
Minnesota	24.5	104.5
New Hampshire	24.5	99.5
South Carolina	24.5	82.5
Wisconsin	22	102
Alaska	21	91

Nevada	19	84
Texas	18	90
California	18	80
North Carolina	18	76

5. Least Years of Coverage

New York, with only information from the current legislative session available, is at the bottom of the pack in terms of coverage. All states on this list have extensive work to do, however. Depth of coverage is among the most important considerations for a state legislative website. Legislative history researchers are often interested in older statutes and making information about these older statutes and bills available should be a priority for the states on this list.

State	Coverage Score	Total Score
New York	0	56
Iowa	3	71
Georgia	5	75
Hawaii	6	56
Alabama	6.5	59.5
Kentucky	7	67
Oklahoma	7	55
Arizona	7.5	75
New Jersey	7.5	70.5
New Mexico	7.5	57.5

6. Lowest Scores in History Notes

History notes are extremely important for legislative history research. Most legislative history research starts with a statutory cite and the researcher is interested in how the statutory language came to be. Without providing a free way to determine what session laws and bills have modified a statute, these researchers hit a dead end immediately. All of the states on this list should make adding history notes to the freely available online version of their statutes a priority. There are recommendations on how to achieve this in the recommendations section below.

Most states include history notes on the freely available online version of their statutes that allow researchers to determine what session laws or bills have modified a particular statute. The states on this list do not include history notes in their statutes. The higher ranked states on the list offer an alternative means of determining what bills have modified a statute, such as a list of sections affected. The states with zeroes provide no way to determine what bills or session laws have created a statute.

State	History Notes /20	Total Scores
Alaska	10	91
California	10	80
Arizona	10	75
Idaho	5	75.5
New Mexico	5	57.5
South Carolina	0	82.5
North Dakota	0	72
Massachusetts	0	53.5
Ohio	0	65
West Virginia	0	52

7. Lowest Scores Links from Bill Page

Although making information available online is important, how that information is organized is just as important. Ideally, all of the documents and media relating to a particular bill should be linked from that bill's webpage. The states on this list either provide no links to documents related to the bill or leave out links to important sources. These states should consider adopting a commercial content management system, as discussed below, which would help automate the behind the scenes work flow for legislative staff and ensure that documents are tied to the bill they relate to.

State	Links from bill page /15	Total Score
Illinois	5	85.5
Louisiana	5	84
Colorado	5	61.5
Oregon	5	63
Oklahoma	5	55

Rhode		
Island	0	56.5
Tennessee	0	58

8. Lowest Scores Journals

Although journals vary in usefulness for legislative history purposes from state to state, they are a key document of the legislative process in all states. The states on this list either make only the journal from one house available online or have no journals available online. It is highly likely that all of these states' journals are now born digital, so adding journals to their websites going forward could be done at minimal cost.

State	Journals /5	Total Score
Delaware	2.5	84
Arizona	2.5	75
Vermont	0	75
New Jersey	0	70.5
Georgia	0	75
New York	0	56
New Mexico	0	57.5
Kentucky	0	67
Alabama	0	59.5
Hawaii	0	56
West Virginia	0	52
Oregon	0	63
Oklahoma	0	55
Tennessee	0	58

RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of the actions states can take to improve the availability and accessibility of free legislative history resources will likely include costs that will be hard to justify in difficult fiscal times. There are, however, some actions that states should consider which may have relatively low costs. Even more expensive actions clearly serve a public benefit as they help make state data available to the taxpayers who paid for its creation.

1. States must include history notes in their online code.

States that contract with commercial publishers to publish their statutes and currently either require researchers to consult tables of sections affected or provide no free way to determine what session laws have modified a particular statutory section should consider renegotiating their contracts with commercial publishers to include a freely accessible online version of their statutes with history notes. Several states including Mississippi and Vermont have contracted with their commercial publishers to make provide a freely accessible online version of their statutes available hosted by the publisher. This frees the state from hosting costs and may be added to renegotiated contracts at a relatively low cost to the state. The states that in this study that relied on a commercial publisher to host a free online version of their statutes did not include all annotations, only the history notes, making free access less likely to undercut the publisher's revenue from selling annotated codes.

2. States must gather all information about each bill on a bill page.

States that do not provide links to relevant documents from bill pages may want to consider investing in commercial content management software with both public and staff interfaces. Although such software is likely to have high upfront costs, it is possible that the changes it enables in the behind the scenes workflow of processing documents and making them available online could offset the initial cost over time. Such software may also offer improvements to the search capabilities of states' legislative sites.

3. States should transcribe committee and floor sessions and make the transcripts available online.

Most states now record at least some of their legislative proceedings, but very few take the next step of transcribing those proceedings. As mentioned earlier, transcripts are often preferred by legal researchers and textual data is less likely to be affected by possible future obsolescence of video formats. Transcribing cannot be done at no cost to the state; but with so much of the video in digital format, states should consider using voice recognition software. Such software is unlikely to create perfect transcripts of proceedings, but may be accurate enough that staff time required would be substantially below that of transcribing the video by hand.

4. States should include all bills, committee hearing, reports, and debates on the websites.

States that don't have their journals or other key legislative documents online should begin placing these documents on their legislative websites. At this point, all important legislative documents are likely born digital. With the documents already in electronic format, the cost of placing them online should be minimal.

5. States should digitize older legislative materials and make them available online.

Finally, all states should continue to digitize their older materials. No state's collection reaches back anywhere close to the creation of the state. This is understandable as digitization is a time and money intensive process. There is no need to digitize large amounts of material at once, however. States should have ongoing digitization projects that can be taken up during slow times such as between legislative sessions. States should also do a better job of taking advantage of materials that have already been digitized by third parties. William S. Hein Co. has electronic copies of session laws for all 50 states.⁵ States should investigate which of their legislative materials have already been digitized by commercial vendors and consider purchasing or licensing access to those archives for researchers. For materials that have not already been digitized, states should seek bids from private companies to determine whether digitization can be performed more cost effectively by commercial vendors. These strategies can ensure that the legislature's records are both preserved and permanently available to the public.

CONCLUSION

All states now provide at least some of their legislative history information freely online. They vary widely on how useful this information is for determining legislative intent or lobbying strategy, how far back in time information is available, and how accessible and well organized it is for researchers.

Some states have resources that are considered important sources for determining legislative intent that are not currently placed online. States should carefully consider what the most important sources for determining legislative

⁵ William S. Hein & Co., List of Libraries, <http://home.heinonline.org/content/list-of-libraries/> (last visited 5/6/2011).

intent are and ensure that they are freely available online. States should also focus on organizing their information in ways that are useful to researchers including providing links from bills to other relevant documents and links from statutes to the session laws that have modified them. States should have ongoing digitization projects that focus on getting older legislative documents into digital formats and onto the web as time permits and consider contracting with third parties for digitization or access to already digitized materials

Appendix A – Total Scores

State	Total Score
Pennsylvania	139
Minnesota	104.5
Wisconsin	102
New Hampshire	99.5
Washington	96
Maine	94
Montana	94
Florida	92
Connecticut	91.5
Alaska	91
Maryland	90
Texas	90
South Dakota	89
Utah	87.5
Wyoming	86
Illinois	85.5
Virginia	85
Delaware	84
Louisiana	84
Michigan	84
Nevada	84
Indiana	83.5
Missouri	83.5
Kansas	82.5
South Carolina	82.5
Nebraska	81
California	80
North Carolina	76
Idaho	75.5
Arizona	75
Georgia	75
Vermont	75
Mississippi	74
North Dakota	72
Arkansas	71
Iowa	71

New Jersey	70.5
Kentucky	67
Ohio	65
Oregon	63
Colorado	61.5
Alabama	59.5
Tennessee	58
New Mexico	57.5
Rhode Island	56.5
Hawaii	56
New York	56
Oklahoma	55
Massachusetts	53.5
West Virginia	52

Appendix B - State Data

Alabama

<http://www.legislature.state.al.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

The free online version of Alabama's state statutes includes citations to the session laws that have modified the statute. There are no links, the session law must be looked up separately.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

There are links to the results of roll call votes and amendments from the bill page, but not to journals.

Journals 0/5

Only historical journals from before 1836 are available.

Committee actions 5/10

No details about committee actions are provided, only the committee's recommendation as to whether the bill should pass is included with no analysis or vote information.

Floor actions 5/5

Floor actions on the bill are briefly described and roll call votes are listed when available.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

Adopted and rejected amendments to bills are listed and linked from the bill page.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Alabama does not transcribe committee or floor proceedings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Proceedings are recorded, but archived video is not available. The proceedings can only be watched live.

Years of coverage +6.5

Bills from 2000 on are freely available online. As previously mentioned however, only historical journals are available.

Key word searching 5/5

Bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 59.5

Alaska

<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/index.php>

Session law or bill number from statute 10/20

The freely available online version of the Alaska statutes does not include history notes. Instead a tool called Statute Information Retrieval System allows researchers to look up what code sections were affected by bills introduced or passed in a particular session. Researchers must check each individual session and the system only goes back to 1993, making it impossible to determine what session law modified a particular statutory section prior to that time without consulting commercial sources.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Relevant journal pages are linked from bill page. It is not always easy to tell what the document being linked to actually is based on the abbreviated descriptions provided, however.

Journals 5/5

Journals are available for both houses from 1987 on.

Committee actions 10/10

Committee actions are summarized on the bill page with links to the relevant journal sections.

Floor actions 5/5

Floor actions are summarized on the bill page with links to the relevant journal sections.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The various bill versions and accepted or rejected amendments are linked from the bill page.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Alaska does not transcribe committee or floor proceedings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Alaska has archived videos of many floor and committee proceedings since 2001. They are searchable by bill number.

Years of coverage +21

Alaska has bills freely available online from 1993 on and journals from 1987 on.

Key word searching 5/5

Bills are keyword searchable and multiple sessions can be searched simultaneously.

Total: 91

Arizona

<http://www.azleg.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 10/20

There are history notes in the freely available online version of the Arizona statutes. Instead, Arizona provides a Table of Sections Affected which must be consulted for each session to determine what bills introduced during that session would have modified a particular statutory section.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

There are links to amendments and various bill versions from the bill page. There are also links to roll call votes on the bill and Senate and House calendars and agendas.

Journals 2.5/5

There are no House journals available online. Senate journals from 2008 on are available.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page summarizes committee actions on the bill and provides links to roll call votes.

Floor actions 5/5

Floor actions on the bill are summarized on the bill page and links to roll call votes are provided.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

Arizona links to the text of adopted and proposed amendments from the bill page.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Arizona does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Some floor and committee proceedings have been recorded since 2003. Where there is available video relating to a bill, it is linked from the bill page.

Years of coverage +7.5

Arizona has bill information going back to 1997 and senate journals from 2008 on.

Key word searching 5/5

Arizona makes bills searchable by keyword.

Total: 75

Arkansas

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

The Arkansas legislature's website links to a version of the state statutes hosted by LexisNexis which includes history notes with citations to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Some relevant materials are linked to from the bill page. There are links to roll call floor votes and amendments, but committee actions are only summarized with no link to find additional information.

Journals 5/5

Journals for both houses are freely available online from 2001 on.

Committee actions 5/10

Committee actions on the bill are mentioned, but no details are provided only whether the committee recommended the bill should pass.

Floor actions 5/5

Floor actions on the bill are summarized and links to roll call votes are provided where available.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

Arkansas links to the text of adopted and proposed amendments from the bill page.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Arkansas does not transcribe floor or committee proceedings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 0/10

Arkansas does not make recordings of floor or committee proceedings available online.

Years of coverage +16

Bills from 1987 on are freely available online. Journals from both houses from 2001 on are also freely available online.

Key word searching 5/5

Arkansas supports keyword searching of bills.

Total: 71

California

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 10/20

California does not provide history notes in the freely available online version of its code. Instead it provides Statutory Records which cover ten years and show what bills modified a particular statutory section during that period.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

All relevant documents are linked from the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Journals for both houses are available from 1993 on.

Committee actions 10/10

Committee actions are linked from the bill page.

Floor actions 5/5

Floor actions are summarized and links to roll call votes are provided on the bill page.

Bill versions and amendments 5/10

The bill pages include a links to amendments and the various bill versions, but it is not always easy to tell where the amendment came from without cross referencing the date of the amendment with the journals.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

California does not transcribe floor or committee proceedings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 7/10

California records most floor and committee proceedings. They cannot be searched by bill number, however. Instead researchers must find the dates the bill was considered and search for recordings from those dates.

Years of coverage +18

Bills and journals from both houses are available from 1993 on.

Key word searching 5/5

Key word searching is supported, but only one session can be searched at a time.

Total: 80

Colorado

<http://www.leg.state.co.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Colorado provides a freely available online version of its state statutes hosted by Lexis which includes history notes with citations to session laws.

Links to documents from bill page 5/15

The bill page does not include links to roll call votes or relevant sections of the journals. There are links to other versions of the bill from the page.

Journals 5/5

Colorado has archives of both house's journals from 1998 on freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes committee recommendations on whether the bill should pass but does not include roll call votes or supporting documents.

Floor actions 5/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor action noting when the bill was read and whether it passed but does not include roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 5/10

The bill page includes links to the various versions of the bill but not rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Colorado provides minutes of committee meetings online but committee hearings and floor debates are not transcribed.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 0/10

Colorado does not transcribe floor or committee proceedings.

Years of coverage +13.5

Colorado provides bills from 1997 on and journals from 1998 on.

Key word searching 5/5

Colorado bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 61.5

Connecticut

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Connecticut provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

The bill page includes links to amendments and links to relevant sections of the journals.

Journals 5/5

Connecticut has archives of both house's journals, from 1988 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of committee actions and links to roll call votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of committee actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 10/10

The journals include committee hearing minutes and transcripts of floor debates.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 0/10

Connecticut does not provide video of legislative sessions freely online.

Years of coverage +11.5

Connecticut provides bills and journals from both houses from 1988 on.

Key word searching 5/5

Connecticut bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 91.5

Delaware

<http://legis.delaware.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Delaware provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 2.5/5

Delaware has archives of House journals, from 2000 on, freely available online.

Delaware does not provide access to Senate journals online.

Committee actions 7/10

The bill page includes summaries of committee actions and vote totals but no roll call votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Delaware does not transcribe floor debates and makes transcripts of committee hearings available in hardcopy only.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 5/10

Delaware records floor debates and committee hearings, but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +14.5

Key word searching 5/5

Delaware bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 84**Florida**

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Florida provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Florida has archives of both house's journals, from 1998 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of committee actions and roll call votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Florida does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 7/10

Florida records floor sessions and makes recent videos freely available online.

Years of coverage +15**Key word searching 5/5**

Florida bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 92**Georgia**

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/en-US/default.aspx>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Georgia provides a freely available online version of its state statutes hosted by Lexis that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 0/5

Georgia does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 5/5

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Georgia does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Georgia records floor sessions and archived video from 2004 on is freely available online.

Years of coverage +5

Key word searching 5/5

Georgia bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 75

Hawaii

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/info/info.asp>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Hawaii provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to amendments and reports are included on the bill page, but there are no links to votes on the bill.

Journals 0/5

Hawaii does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 0/10

The bill page does not include any information about committee actions.

Floor actions 0/10

The bill page does not include any information about floor actions.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Hawaii does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Hawaii records floor debates and committee hearings, and links to relevant audio and video are included on the bill page.

Years of coverage +6**Key word searching 5/5**

Hawaii bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 56

Idaho

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 5/20

Idaho does not include history notes in the freely available online version of its statutes. Instead a document titled Code Sections Affected must be consulted for each session.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Idaho has archives of both house's journals, from 2001 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of committee actions and roll call votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Idaho does not transcribe floor or committee proceedings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Idaho records floor debates and committee hearings, but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +12.5

Key word searching 5/5

Idaho bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 75.5

Illinois

<http://www.ilga.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Illinois provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 5/15

Links to floor votes are included but committee votes are only summarized.

Amendments to the bill are linked from the bill page, but reports are not included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Illinois has archives of both house's journals, from 1990 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 10/10

Illinois has transcripts of floor debates since 1971 freely available online but does not transcribe committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Illinois records floor sessions but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +17.5

Key word searching 5/5

Illinois bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 84.5

Indiana

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/index.htm>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Indiana provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Indiana has archives of both house's journals, from 2004 on for the house and 2005 on for the senate, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 5/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and vote totals but no roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Indiana does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Indiana records floor debates and committee hearings and makes archived videos from 2007 on for the senate and 2010 on for the house freely available online.

Years of coverage +13.5

Key word searching 5/5

Indiana bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 83.5

Iowa

<http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Iowa provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to votes and amendments are included on the bill page but reports are not.

Journals 5/5

Iowa has archives of both house's journals, from 2005 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of committee actions and links to roll call votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Iowa does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Iowa records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +3

Key word searching 5/5

Iowa bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 71

Kansas

<http://kslegislature.org/li/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Kansas provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Kansas has archives of both house's journals, from 1997 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Kansas does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Kansas records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +14.5

Key word searching 5/5

Kansas bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 82.5

Kentucky

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Kentucky provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to floor votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page but committee votes are not.

Journals 0/5

Kentucky does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 5/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and vote totals but no roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Kentucky does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Kentucky records floor debates and committee hearings and makes archived video from 2001 on freely available online.

Years of coverage +7

Key word searching 5/5

Kentucky bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 67

Louisiana

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Louisiana provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 5/15

Links to amendments are included on the bill page. Votes are summarized and citations to the journals are provided.

Journals 5/5

Louisiana has archives of both house's journals, from 1997 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 7/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass and page numbers where additional information can be found in the journals.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and page numbers where additional information can be found in the journals.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Kentucky does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Louisiana records floor debates and committee hearings and makes archived video from 2003 on for the house and 2008 on for the senate freely available online.

Years of coverage +14**Key word searching 5/5**

Louisiana bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 84

Maine

<http://www.maine.gov/legis/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Maine provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Maine has archives of both house's journals, from 1996 on for the house and 2006 on for the senate, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 10/10

Maine has transcripts of floor debates since 1971 freely available online but does not transcribe committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Maine records floor debates and committee hearings but only makes live video freely available online.

Years of coverage +16**Key word searching 5/5**

Maine bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 94

Maryland

<http://mlis.state.md.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Maryland provides a freely available online version of its state statutes hosted by Lexis that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Maryland has archives of both house's journals, from 1996 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Maryland does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Maryland records audio of floor debates and committee hearings and makes archived audio from 2001 on freely available online.

Years of coverage +15

Key word searching 5/5

Maryland bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 90

Massachusetts

<http://www.malegislature.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 0/20

Massachusetts provides no way to determine the session laws or bills that have modified a statute.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to amendments are included on the bill page. Votes are summarized and citations to the journals are provided.

Journals 5/5

Massachusetts has archives of both house's journals, from 2001 on for the house and 1998 on for the senate, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 5/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions but no information on votes.

Bill versions and amendments 7/10

Amendments are assigned their own bill number and are referenced from the bill page.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Massachusetts does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Massachusetts records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +13.5

Key word searching 5/5

Massachusetts bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 53.5

Michigan

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Michigan provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to amendments are included on the bill page. Votes are summarized and citations to the journals are provided.

Journals 5/5

Michigan has archives of both house's journals, from 1995 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Michigan does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Michigan records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +16

Key word searching 5/5

Michigan bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 84

Minnesota

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Minnesota provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Minnesota has archives of both house's journals, from 1994 on for the house and from 1995 on for the senate, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Minnesota does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Minnesota records floor debates and committee hearings and makes archived video from 1998 on for the house and from 2001 on for the senate freely available online.

Years of coverage +24.5

Key word searching 5/5

Minnesota bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 104.5

Mississippi

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Mississippi provides a freely available online version of its state statutes hosted by Lexis that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to floor votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page but committee votes are only summarized.

Journals 5/5

Mississippi has archives of both house's journals, from 1997 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Mississippi does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 0/10

Mississippi does not record floor debates or committee hearings.

Years of coverage +14

Key word searching 5/5

Mississippi bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 74

Missouri

<http://www.moga.mo.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Missouri provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to amendments are included on the bill page. Votes are summarized and citations to the journals are provided.

Journals 5/5

Missouri has archives of both house's journals, from 1996 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Missouri does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Missouri records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +15.5

Key word searching 5/5

Missouri bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 83.5

Montana

<http://leg.mt.gov/css/default.asp>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Montana provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Montana has archives of both house's journals, from 1997 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Montana does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Montana records floor debates and committee hearings, and links to relevant audio and video are included on the bill page.

Years of coverage +14

Key word searching 5/5

Montana bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 94

Nebraska

<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Nebraska provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to amendments are included on the bill page. Votes are summarized and citations to the journals are provided.

Journals 5/5

Nebraska has archives of its unicameral legislature's journal, from 2003 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 7/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass and page number where additional information can be found in the journals.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and page numbers where additional information can be found in the journals.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Nebraska transcribes floor debates and committee hearings but only makes the transcriptions available in hardcopy.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 5/10

Missouri records floor debates and committee hearings but only video from the current session is freely available online.

Years of coverage +14**Key word searching 5/5**

Nebraska bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 81

Nevada

<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Nevada provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Nevada has archives of both house's journals, from 1989 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Nevada does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 0/10

Nevada does not record floor debates or committee hearings.

Years of coverage +19**Key word searching 5/5**

Nevada bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 84

New Hampshire

<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

New Hampshire provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to amendments are included on the bill page. Votes are summarized and citations to the journals are provided.

Journals 5/5

New Hampshire has archives of both house's journals, from 1997 on for the house and 1998 on for the senate, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to journals where the text of amendments can be found.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

New Hampshire does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

New Hampshire records floor debates and committee hearings and archived video from 2003 on is freely available online.

Years of coverage +24.5**Key word searching 5/5**

New Hampshire bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 99.5

New Jersey

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

New Jersey provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 0/5

New Jersey does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

New Jersey does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

New Jersey records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +7.5

Key word searching 5/5

New Jersey bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 70.5

New Mexico

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/>

Session law or bill number from statute 5/20

New Mexico does not include history notes in the freely available online version of its statutes hosted by Conway Greene. Instead a document titled Table of Conflicts must be consulted for each session.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 0/5

New Mexico does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Kentucky does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 0/10

New Mexico does not record floor debates or committee hearings.

Years of coverage +7.5

Key word searching 5/5

New Mexico bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 57.5

New York

<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menuf.cgi>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

New York provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 0/5

New York does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 3/10

Amendments are listed on the bill page but must be searched for separately.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

New York does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

New York records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +0

Key word searching 5/5

New York bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 56

North Carolina

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

North Carolina provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to floor votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page but committee votes are only summarized.

Journals 5/5

North Carolina has archives of both house's journals, from 2001 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 5/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions but no information on votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

North Carolina does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

North Carolina records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +18

Key word searching 5/5

North Carolina bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 76

North Dakota

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 0/20

North Dakota provides no way to determine the session laws or bills that have modified a statute.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

North Dakota has archives of both house's journals, from 1997 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to journals where the text of amendments can be found.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

North Dakota does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

North Dakota records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +14

Key word searching 5/5

North Dakota bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 72

Ohio

<http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 0/20

Ohio provides no way to determine the session laws or bills that have modified a statute.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to floor votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page but committee votes are only summarized.

Journals 5/5

Ohio has archives of both house's journals, from 2004 on for the house and 2006 on for the senate, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 7/10

The bill page includes citations where amendment text can be found in the journals.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Ohio does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Ohio records floor debates and committee hearings and archived video from 1997 on is freely available online.

Years of coverage +13**Key word searching 5/5**

Ohio bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 65

Oklahoma

<http://www.oklegislature.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Oklahoma provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 5/15

Floor and committee votes are summarized and citations to journals are provided. Amendments are linked from the bill page but reports are not.

Journals 0/5

Oklahoma does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 5/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions but no information on votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Oklahoma does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Oklahoma records senate floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +7**Key word searching 5/5**

Oklahoma bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 55

Oregon

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Oregon provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 5/15

Floor and committee votes are summarized but not linked on the bill page. Amendments are linked to from the bill page but reports are not.

Journals 0/5

Oregon does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 5/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and vote totals but not roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Oregon does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Oregon records floor debates and committee hearings and archived video from 1999 on freely available online.

Years of coverage +8

Key word searching 5/5

Oregon bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 63

Pennsylvania

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Pennsylvania provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Pennsylvania has archives of both house's journals, from 1961 on for the house and from 1993 on for the senate, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 10/10

Pennsylvania has transcripts of floor debates included in the journals but does not transcribe committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Pennsylvania does not record floor debates or committee hearings.

Years of coverage +54

Key word searching 5/5

Pennsylvania bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 139

Rhode Island

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Rhode Island provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 0/15

No links to votes, amendments, or reports are provided.

Journals 5/5

Rhode Island has archives of both house's journals, from 1998 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 5/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions but no information on votes.

Bill versions and amendments 7/10

The bill page lists amendments but does not link to their text. Amendments must be searched for separately.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Rhode Island does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 0/10

Rhode Island does not record floor debates or committee hearings.

Years of coverage +13.5**Key word searching 5/5**

Rhode Island bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 56.5

South Carolina

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 0/20

South Carolina provides no way to determine the session laws or bills that have modified a statute.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

South Carolina has archives of both house's journals, from 1986 on for the house and from 1990 on for the senate, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

South Carolina does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

South Carolina records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +24.5**Key word searching 5/5**

South Carolina bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 82.5

South Dakota

<http://legis.state.sd.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

South Dakota provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

South Dakota has archives of both house's journals, from 1997 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

South Dakota does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

South Dakota records floor debates and committee hearings and relevant video from 2000 on is linked from the bill page.

Years of coverage +14

Key word searching 5/5

South Dakota bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 89

Tennessee

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Tennessee provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 0/15

No links to votes, amendments, or reports are provided.

Journals 0/5

Tennessee does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 5/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions but no information on votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Tennessee does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Tennessee records floor debates and committee hearings and relevant videos from 2003 on are linked from the bill page.

Years of coverage +8

Key word searching 5/5

Tennessee bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 58

Texas

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Texas provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Texas has archives of both house's journals, from 1995 on for the house and 1999 on for the senate, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Texas does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 7/10

Texas records floor debates and committee hearings and archived video from 2001 on freely available online.

Years of coverage +18

Key word searching 5/5

Texas bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 90

Utah

<http://le.utah.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Utah provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Utah has archives of both house's journals, from 1997 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 5/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions but no information on votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Utah does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Utah records floor debates and committee hearings and relevant video from 2001 on is linked from the bill page.

Years of coverage +17.5**Key word searching 5/5**

Utah bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 87.5

Vermont

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Vermont provides a freely available online version of its state statutes hosted by Lexis that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 0/5

Vermont does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Vermont does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Vermont records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +12**Key word searching 5/5**

Vermont bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 75

Virginia

<http://legis.state.va.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Virginia provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Virginia has archives of both house's journals, from 1994 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Virginia does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

Virginia records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +17

Key word searching 5/5

Virginia bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 85

Washington

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Washington provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Washington has archives of both house's journals, from 1993 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summarizes floor action on the legislation pass and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Washington does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Washington records floor debates and committee hearings and archived video from 1997 on is freely available online.

Years of coverage +16

Key word searching 5/5

Washington bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 96

West Virginia

<http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>

Session law or bill number from statute 0/20

West Virginia provides no way to determine the session laws or bills that have modified a statute.

Links to documents from bill page 10/15

Links to some votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page. Other documents are referenced and citations to journals are provided.

Journals 0/5

West Virginia does not make legislative journals available for free online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

West Virginia does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 3/10

West Virginia records floor debates and committee hearings but only live video is freely available online.

Years of coverage +9**Key word searching 5/5**

West Virginia bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 52

Wisconsin

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Wisconsin provides a freely available online version of its state statutes that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15 /15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Wisconsin has archives of both house's journals, from 1989 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 10/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summarizes floor action on the legislation pass and links to journals where additional information can be found.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Wisconsin does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Wisconsin records floor debates and committee hearings and archived video from 2007 on is freely available online.

Years of coverage +22**Key word searching 5/5**

Wisconsin bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 102

Wyoming

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/lisoweb/>

Session law or bill number from statute 15/20

Wyoming provides a freely available online version of its state statutes hosted by Lexis that includes history notes with cites to session law.

Links to documents from bill page 15/15

Links to votes, amendments, and reports are included on the bill page.

Journals 5/5

Wyoming has archives of both house's journals, from 2007 on, freely available online.

Committee actions 5/10

The bill page includes information on whether committees recommended the legislation pass but no information on votes.

Floor actions 10/10

The bill page includes summaries of floor actions and links to roll call votes.

Bill versions and amendments 10/10

The bill page includes links to accepted and rejected amendments.

Committee and Floor Transcripts 0/10

Wyoming does not transcribe floor debates or committee hearings.

Audio/Video of Floor Proceedings and Committee hearings 10/10

Wyoming records floor debates and committee hearings and archived video from 2007 on is freely available online.

Years of coverage +11**Key word searching 5/5**

Wyoming bills are searchable by keyword.

Total: 86