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COMPILING AN OREGON LAW'S LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The best preparation for compiling a legislative history is to outline your research strategy. This template may help you keep track of the sources you have checked and serve as a reminder to locate a resource that might otherwise have been overlooked. Your notes might look like this:

Statute citation(s): _____

Session Law History:

Year, _____, Chapter number: _____, Bill number: _____

Year, _____, Chapter number: _____, Bill number: _____

Year, _____, Chapter number: _____, Bill number: _____

(Year and chapter number from ORS. Look up Chapter (c.) number in "Oregon Laws" to find the bill number.)

Bill History:

Text: 1995 to present: *Legislature's web page*

Prior to 1995: *print and microfilm resources*

In order to find minutes and exhibits online or on film you will need to know the legislative committees that considered the bill. A single bill may be moved from one chamber to another and from one committee to another. To locate (or trace) this history use one or more of the following, use your bill number to:

___ Check for *Tracings* (for bills 1989 to present) on the State Archives web site, or

___ Locate the print *House or Senate Journal* entry, or

___ Find *Measure History* information on the Legislature's web page (<http://www.leg.state.or.us>).

Minutes, Exhibits, Hearings:

1995- present: Minutes and exhibits will be at the Oregon Archives web site. Tapes of some hearings may be listened to at the Oregon State Legislature web page.

1971-1995: Contact Archives. Information from bill files/jackets for current sessions may be available from the Legislative Liaisons, Legislative Librarian, or Archives. Or, minutes and exhibits are available on microfilm in some law libraries.

Prior to 1971: Check these sources and contact Archives directly.

___ "Oregon Revised Statutes Annotations (1971 edition)," (vol. 7 & 8), published by the Legislative Counsel Committee.

___ "ORS Legislative History, Reviser's Notes and Annotations," (1953 edition (or 1962 reprint)), Statute Revision Council by the Reviser of the Statutes.

___ "Oregon Revised Statutes: ORS 1953 Edition: Prior Legislative History," published by the Legislative Counsel Committee.

Check history, notes, references to AG opinions, etc. in:

- ___ ORS Annotations volume
- ___ ORSA (check pocket parts too)

Other government reports:

- ___ Budget: Fiscal and revenue impact statements
- ___ Commission reports, e.g. Oregon Law Commission
- ___ Legislative Committee Services Issue Briefs and other reports
- ___ Legislative Law Revision Committee Reports (probate, criminal procedure, criminal, & rules of civil procedure)
- ___ OSB Task Force Reports (from the Multnomah Law Library)

Non-governmental sources:

- ___ Newspapers (local or state)
- ___ Law review articles (most likely in an Oregon law school publication)
- ___ Other legal journals and newsletters (e.g. ILP, LRI, HeinOnline)
- ___ Specialized professional legal organizations (e.g. OCDLA)
- ___ Uniform laws – histories (some in print compilations and others on web)

RESEARCH RESOURCES

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Legislature:** <http://www.leg.state.or.us/>
- Reports, issue briefs and audio/video links from **Committee Services:** <http://www.leg.state.or.us/comm/commsrvs/home.htm>
- Legislative Records from **Archives:** <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/records/legislative/index.html>
- **House and Senate Journals** (from House and Senate home pages) and from **Measure History** (from Bills/Laws home page, http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/ – click on the session year under Bills)
- **Law Commission:** www.willamette.edu/wucl/oregonlawcommission/
- Also check individual chamber web sites: **Senate** (<http://www.leg.state.or.us/senate/>); **House** (<http://www.leg.state.or.us/house/>)

PRINT RESOURCES

- House and Senate Journals (by bill number)
- Oregon Laws (by chapter number)
- Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) (by statute number), Annotations, and prior legislative history volumes
- Guide to Legislative Records in the Oregon State Archives, published by the State Archives

MICROFILM

- Legislative exhibits and minutes (1971 to 1995)

OTHER

- Legal periodical indexes (indexes to bar journals, legal newspapers, and law reviews)
- Interest groups: e.g. OTLA, OCDLA, etc.

EXPERT ASSISTANCE

Salem

Legislative Library (1-503-986-1668)
State Archives (1-503-373-0701)
State of Oregon Law Library (1-503-986-5640)

Portland

Multnomah Law Library (503-988-3394)