Research Assistant Training: Statutory/Legislative Research

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The majority of “law” is here

1L curriculum focuses here
Quick review

- Session laws: statutes enacted during a legislative session; compiled at end of each session
- Statutory codes: compilation and arrangement of those statutes by subject; constantly updated as new statutes add to or change prior law
- Federal and state
- Text, history, annotations, citators
Today’s legislative research topics

- Local/municipal codes
- 50-state surveys
- Tracking pending legislation
- Historical statutes
- Legislative history
Local/Municipal Codes
Local/municipal codes

• Created by local governing bodies, e.g. County Board of Supervisors, City Council
• Various names: codes, ordinances, bylaws, measures
• Have the force and effect of law; can’t conflict with state law
Sources of municipal codes

- No comprehensive source
- Lexis includes some municipal codes (see e.g. California municipal codes here, but nothing for San Diego-area governments)
- Westlaw includes only the New York City and Washington, D.C. codes
- Best approach: search the website of the municipality in question to find a link to its code
City of San Diego Municipal Code

Available on City of San Diego’s [website](#)
San Diego County Ordinances

Available via American Legal Publishing website

San Diego County, California

Administrative: Current through Ord. No. 10832 (N.S.), effective 3-30-23 | Regulatory: Current through Ord. No. 10828 (N.S.), effective 3-10-23

San Diego County Board of Supervisors Policy Manual: Current through November 16, 2022

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego are charged with the responsibility of establishing policy to guide the various functions of the County and, where necessary, to establish procedures by which functions are performed. Regulatory policies established by the Board usually are adopted by ordinance and included in the County Code of Regulatory Ordinances. Other policy matters are included in ordinance in the Administrative Code. However, a third group of policies are also established which by their nature do not require adoption by ordinance. Such policies, adopted by statement of action of the Board, need to be consolidated in a reference document for easy access. These policies make up the Board of Supervisors Policy Manual.

Please use the navigation menu on the left to browse policies. To search Board Policies, please click here.

Website

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov

Address

County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92101

Disclaimer: This Code of Ordinances and/or any other documents that appear on this site may not reflect the most current legislation adopted by the Municipality. American Legal Publishing provides these documents for informational purposes only. These documents should not be relied upon as the definitive authority for local legislation. Additionally, the formatting and pagination of the posted documents vary from the formatting and pagination of the official copy. The official printed copy of a Code of Ordinances should be consulted prior to any action being taken.
50-State Surveys
50-state surveys

Manually collecting each state’s law on a topic is time-consuming and difficult (variations in terminology and code structure).

Look for an existing compilation—even if incomplete or out of date, can save considerable time. May be found in various places:

- HeinOnline
- Westlaw and Lexis
- Secondary sources: law review articles, A.L.R. annotations, practice guides, etc.
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- Advocacy organizations often collect state statutes on topics of interest to them
50-state surveys: HeinOnline

**National Survey of State Laws**

Searchable and browsable database of 50-state surveys on more than 50 topics. Includes citations to and brief summaries of state laws.

**Subject Compilations of State Laws**

Searchable and browsable index of articles, books, current-awareness materials, websites, and more which include comparisons of state laws on more than 1,200 subjects. Includes direct links to materials which are also available on HeinOnline; may have to locate other materials elsewhere.
50-state surveys: Westlaw

From the main Westlaw page: Secondary Sources → 50 State Surveys

• Separate pages for surveys of regulations and statutes
• Organized topically (e.g. Criminal Laws, Environmental Laws, Health Care, etc.); also full-text searchable
50-state surveys: Lexis

From the main Lexis+ page: Content: Secondary Materials → Content Type: 50 State Surveys → LexisNexis® 50-State Surveys, Statutes & Regulations

• Single page includes surveys of regulations and statutes
• Organized topically (e.g. Criminal Law & Procedure, Environmental Law, Healthcare Law, etc.); also full-text searchable
50-state surveys: chart builders

- Westlaw, Lexis, Bloomberg Law and some specialty databases have tools that will collect provisions for you across states
- Not available for all topics
- Often allow exporting to an Excel spreadsheet
### Popular Links

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<td>&lt;span style=&quot;color: #ff0000;&quot;&gt;State Law Chart Builders&lt;/span&gt;</td>
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Chart Builders

Banking & Consumer Finance
- Bank Capital Requirements
- Bank Chartering
- Bank Charter Conversions
- Bank Reserve Requirements
- Branches of Foreign Banks
- Commercial Lender Licensing
- Debt Collection Change of Control
- Debt Collection Compliance
- Debt Collection Licensing
- Digital Currency Regulation
- General Lending: Change of Control
- General Lending: Compliance Issues
- General Lending: Fees
- General Lending: Licensing Requirements
- High-Interest Mortgages
- Installment Sales Change of Control

Health Care
- Abortion Services
- Access, Retention & Disposal of Records
- Accountable Care Organizations
- Anti-Kickback Laws
- Any Willing Provider/Patient Choice
- Certificates of Need
- Corporate Practice of Medicine
- Data Breach Notification
- Disclosure of Medical Information
- Disclosure of Physician Financial Incentives
- False & Fraudulent Claims
- Fee-Splitting
- Insurance Coverage of Telehealth
- Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice
- Peer Review Protections
- Pharmacy Benefit Manager Requirements
- Private Payor Exchange Agreements
Health Privacy: Medical Record Access, Retention and Disposal

Jurisdictions

- All
- Federal
- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa

Topics

- All
- Applicable Law
- Patient Access
- Maintenance and Storage Requirements
- Minimum Retention Period
- Cessation of Operation, Destruction and Disposal
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<th>Topic</th>
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<th>California</th>
<th>Nevada</th>
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Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 32-3211 (Health professionals)  
Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, § 70751 (Health facilities)  
Nev. Rev. Stat. § 629.061(6) (ambulance owners)  
Nev. Admin. Code § 449.794 (home health agencies)  
Nev. Admin. Code § 433.27 (NEW) (mental health providers of community-based living arrangement services) |
| **Patient Access** | Health professionals must have written protocols for patient medical records specifying how to timely respond to requests for record access and copies. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 32-3211(A)(3)  
Healthcare providers must provide access to or copies of medical or payment records to patients or their health care decision makers upon written request; however, providers may deny requests in certain situations, such as when they believe access is reasonably likely to endanger the life or physical safety of the patient or another person. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 12-2293  
Psychologists may not condition the release of client records on payment for services and must provide access to or a copy of a client's record to the client or his/her healthcare decision maker with the client's written consent unless the release violates copyright laws or rules of professional conduct. Psychologists may deny requests to provide access to or a copy of a client's record if they determine that, among other things, access is reasonably likely to endanger the client's life or physical safety or cause substantial harm to the client or | Businesses that maintain medical information must provide patients with copies of their medical profiles and other information at no charge. Cal. Civ Code § 56.07  
Patients' rights to access electronic medical records are consistent with their rights to other medical information. Cal. Civ Code § 56.101(b)(2)  
Patients and their representatives have the right to inspect their records upon request and payment of reasonable costs within five working days; and to receive paper or electronic copies of the record in the form and format requested or agreed to by the provider and patient or representative, within 15 days of a request. Minor patients may inspect only records relating to health care to which they can lawfully consent. Parties aggrieved by access violations may bring an action against the provider. Providers may prepare a summary of the record to meet access requirements within 10 working days. Cal. Health and Safety Code § 123110, Cal. Health & Safety Code § 123120, Cal. Health & Safety Code § 123130 | Health-care providers must make a record available to the patient, his representative or other specified individuals, within 10 working days for in-state patient for a reasonable cost. Nev. Rev. Stat. § 629.061(1), (2),  
Ambulance owners and operators must make a record available to the patient, his representative or other specified individuals. Nev. Rev. Stat. § 629.061(6)  
Skilled nursing facilities must allow a patient and his representative to inspect the records within 24 hours receiving a request. Nev. Admin. Code § 449.74443(1)  
Mental health providers must make records available to the patient or patient's guardian. Nev. Admi Code § 433.27 (NEW) |
Bill Tracking
Tracking pending legislation

- Westlaw, Lexis bill tracking tools
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- Advocacy organizations’ legislative action centers
- GovTrack
- BillTrack50
Historical Statutes
Historical statutes

- Westlaw and Lexis have some prior versions of statutes; varies widely state to state, but none prior to early-1990s. Both also have a Compare Versions tool
  - Westlaw: Current statute → History → Versions
  - Lexis: Current statute → About This Document → Archived code versions
- HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive
State Statutes: A Historical Archive
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compiled Laws of the State of California: Containing All the Acts of</td>
<td>Garfield, S., Compiler; Snyder,</td>
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<td>at the Sessions of 1850-51-52-53</td>
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<td>in Civil Cases in the Courts of Justice in This State, as Passed</td>
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<td>April 29, 1853; May 18, 1854; April 28, May 4 and May 7, 1855</td>
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<td>Character which will be in Force on the First Day of January, 1858</td>
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<td>California Probate Law and Practice</td>
<td>Belknap, D.P.</td>
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<td>Character Which Were in Force on the First Day of January, 1858</td>
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<td>Leyes de California, Dadas en la Duodecima Sesion de la Legislatura</td>
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<tr>
<td>1861: Que Dictan por los Diputados de la - Filed under: State of CA</td>
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Researching Legislative History
Overview of federal legislative process
(image courtesy https://www.dailyinfographic.com/how-our-laws-are-made-infographic)
Federal legislative history materials

Some of the documents you may find when researching legislative history:

- Bill text (all the versions throughout the process)
- Committee Reports
- Committee Hearings
- Congressional Debates
- Committee Prints
- Presidential or Executive Agency Documents
- Public statements, including blogs or podcasts
Sources of federal legislative history

ProQuest Congressional and Legislative Insight
- Subscription databases (use LRC website or links above for access)
- Offer deeper coverage than Westlaw and Lexis, including materials related to both recent and historical legislation

Westlaw and Lexis
- Both include some legislative history materials, though not as comprehensive as the ProQuest databases
- Both have dedicated legislative history pages (Westlaw, Lexis)

Congress.gov
- Includes current and recent materials, including videos of hearings
Legislative & Executive Publications - Search by Number/Citation

Congressional Bills  e.g. 104 H.Res 464

Congress (e.g. 104)  Bill Type (e.g. H.Res)  Bill Number (e.g. 464)
118th Congress (2)  H.R. – House Bill

Search

About Congressional Bills

Bills are legislative proposals. A bill might have numerous versions as it passes through both chambers of Congress.

Bill citations consist of the Congress number, the bill type (see definitions below) and then the number.

Example: 104 S. 652 is the 652nd bill introduced in the Senate in the 104th Congress.

There are eight different types of bills:

- Bills
  - H.R. – House Bill
  - S. – Senate Bill

- Joint Resolutions
  - H.J.Res – House Joint
  - S.J.Res – Senate Joint
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
Looking to track the development of a law?
See where in the legislative process documents were produced.
This is a visual guide and can be used to quickly identify documents, such as conference reports, that are produced at a particular stage of the process.

SEARCH FOR A CITATION
Got a citation?
Enter a citation (Bill, Public Law or Statute at Large number) using the Citation Checker and link directly to the Legislative History.
You can also use a dedicated citation search page with help on formatting citations to find Bills, Public Laws, Public Resolutions, Statutes at Large and Publications.

CONGRESS IN CONTEXT
Need some historical context?
Read our specially created historical profiles to discover more about the setting, personnel and events which may have influenced the legislation created during a particular Congressional period.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORIES
Need to trace the history of a law?
Legislative histories enable you to trace the development of a public law from early consideration to enactment. You can search the full text of all publications associated with the law and download the primary documents. Search Legislative Histories via the Basic Search box.
Federal

CERCLA Legislative History

Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 Legislative History

Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 Legislative History

Clean Air Amendments of 1970 Legislative History

Clean Water Act of 1977 Legislative History

Committee Prints

Committee Reports

Congressional Documents 1777-present U.S. Serial Set

Congressional Hearings 1824-current

Congressional Research Service Reports

Federal Legislative Bill History

Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 Legislative History

Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 Legislative History

House and Senate Docs

House and Senate Floor Voting Records – 110th through current Congress

IRC Legislative History

Resource Conservation & Recovery Act of 1976 Legislative History

Superfund Amendments & Reauthorization Act of 1986 Legislative History

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 Legislative History

Tax Legislative Histories, Combined

Toxic Substances Control Act Legislative History

US-CIS/Index

Water Quality Act of 1987 (WQA87) Legislative History

State

Alabama

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Connecticut

Delaware

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

Maine

Maryland

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New Mexico

New York

North Carolina

Rhode Island

South Carolina

South Dakota

Tennessee

Texas

Utah

Vermont

Virginia
Current Legislative Activities
118th Congress (2023-2024)

House of Representatives

Next Meeting: April 17, 2023 at 2:00 PM EDT
Previous Meeting: April 13, 2023

Senate Links
On the Senate Floor
Communications to the Senate
Nominations
Treaty Documents

Next Meeting: April 17, 2023 at 3:00 PM EDT
Previous Meeting: April 13, 2023

Senate

Contact Your Member
Find your member by address:

Find address or place

Contact by email and telephone.

Representatives ▶

Senators ▶

News from the Law Library

April 3, 2023 by Andrew Weber
Congress.gov April 2023 New, Tip, and Top
Last month, Robert shared a post about the U.S.S. Macon in the Bound Congressional Record. We continue to ▶

More from the Law Library Blog ▶

The Legislative Process

The Constitution Annotated
Official Senate Print providing comprehensive legal analysis of the U.S. Constitution.

Nine videos explain each of the common legislative stages, and that the process by

Upcoming House and Senate Committee Meetings

April 17, 2023 at 9:00 AM EDT) House Committee on the Judiciary
April 17, 2023 at 4:00 PM EDT) House Committee on Rules
April 17, 2023 at 5:15 PM EDT) House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

More: Daily View | Weekly View
State legislative histories

The legislative process varies widely among states; fewer materials are generated than at the federal level, and they typically are more difficult to locate. Materials related to recent legislation are often easier to find; consult a reference librarian for assistance.

Two starting points for California:

- LRC’s California Legislative History Research Guide
- California State Legislature: Legislative Information
WELCOME

Welcome to the California Legislative Information website! We are pleased to announce new website enhancements to improve the readability of Bill and Code text. Multi-level indentation formatting has been implemented throughout the sections of each bill’s “Text” tab. In addition, the new formatting has been added to all of the sections of text under the California Law. Measures prior to 1999 can still be found at http://leginfo.ca.gov which will remain as an archive for legislative information.

To access a complete listing of California Law Codes and Bill Search features, click the California Law or Bill Information Tabs on the Tabbed Panel above.

Quick Bill Search:

Bill Number AB1 or ab 1 or ABX1-1
Keywords(s) Search phrase

Quick Code Search:

Code Select Code
Code Section 1 or 2 or 1001
Keywords(s) Keyword(s) input

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lrcrefer@sandiego.edu
(619) 260-4612
Chat: sandiego.edu/law/library
Zoom appointments on request