

# Finding California Legislative History

Guide and Checklist\*

California Research #1

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## **Before You Begin**

A legislative history is an examination of the documents created during the process by which a bill becomes law, and is sometimes used by courts to find legislative intent if a statute is vague or ambiguous.

There are two main California legislative history research tasks you might need to tackle.

1. The first is when you must trace the documentary “history” of the statute by assembling the documents that represent various versions of the legislation itself.
2. The second, immensely more difficult, involves trying to determine legislative *intent* by analyzing all documents related to the passage or rejection of the particular bill or law.

This second task is particularly challenging because of the limited availability of California legislative history documents (in contrast to federal legislative history documents). For example, committee hearings on California bills are usually not transcribed and reports on bills are rarely prepared. As well, there is no written record of debate.

If you need only to trace the documentary “history,” you might be able to do the work yourself fairly quickly. However, if your goal is a comprehensive search to determine legislative intent, doing the work on your own may well be too time-consuming and difficult, and it might be much more efficient and cost-effective to hire a commercial service to search for the materials for you instead.

## **Using a Commercial Research Service — The Best Option**

Many useful California legislative documents are unpublished and stashed away in archives or in file cabinets in legislative offices in Sacramento. This information can be very enlightening, but it is *very* hard to find — especially for anyone who only rarely does California legislative research. If a legislative history is critical to your case or research project, consider hiring one of the legislative research companies listed in Step 16.

We recommend using a commercial research service whenever someone’s fortune or freedom is riding on the results of a California legislative history.

## **Doing a Legislative History on Your Own Using this Guide**

This guide covers sources that you can routinely check to trace the documentary history of a bill or to *begin* to look into the intent of a California statute. Most important among these are the various versions of a bill, which (as noted in Step 5) you should *always* consult as part of your search for legislative history. Follow the steps below, preferably in the order suggested. A checklist for keeping track of each step as you complete it is attached to this guide.

For yet more information on California legislative history research, consult: chapter 4 of Daniel W. Martin, *Henke’s California Law Guide*, 8th ed. (KFC 74 .H46 2006 Law Reference Desk)

**For expert research advice about California legislative history and intent, speak to a research librarian at 415.422.6773 or via**

**<http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/ZiefResearchHelp>**

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\* This guide has been adapted by Research Librarian Lee Ryan from a guide prepared by Virginia Irving of the Boalt Hall Law Library, University of California at Berkeley.

## **1. Check the code section and note the year and chapter number**

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This citation helps you find the original statute *and* its bill number. It is immediately after the text of the annotated code section and will look something like: “Stats 1982 ch 839.”

There may be more than one such citation for any given statute. If your interest is in the statute as originally enacted then look for the oldest date. If you are concerned with a later amendment then you must determine which dates and chapter numbers correspond to that amendment.

Print Sources	<i>Deering’s California Codes Annotated</i> , KFC 30.5 .D4 Law Stacks <i>West’s Annotated California Codes</i> , KFC 30.5 .W4 Law Stacks
Free web	<a href="http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml">California Codes</a> - California Legislative Information ( <a href="http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml">http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml</a> )
Lexis Advance	Source: <a href="#">Deering’s California Codes Annotated</a>
Westlaw	Source: <a href="#">California Statutes &amp; Court Rules</a>

## **2. Read the original statute in Statutes of California**

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Use the citation you found in Step 1 to locate the original statute.

Read this original pre-codification version of the statute to see if there are any variations from the version that appears in the code. Also, check for an “urgency” statement or other language related to intent that may have been excluded from the codified version. Finally, if you’re using West’s or Deering’s legislative services, check to see if there is a “Legislative Counsel’s Digest” (which may contain clues about intent) immediately before the text of the law.

Print Source	<i>Statutes of California</i> (also known as <i>Statutes and Amendments to the Codes of California</i> ) KFC 25 .A231 Law Stacks. (Also available via HeinOnline. See below.)
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For the most recent 5 (or so) years, use one of these commercial sources instead of the *Statutes of California*:

Print Sources	Deering’s <i>Advance Legislative Service</i> KFC 30.5 .D4 Law Stacks. Latest 2-3 years. Shelved immediately following <i>Deering’s California Codes Annotated</i> . <i>West’s California Legislative Service</i> , 2009– , KFC 30.5 .W4 Z5 Law Stacks
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Pre-codification versions of statutes are also available in these online sources.

Free web	<a href="http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html">Legislative Portal bill search</a> page ( <a href="http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html">http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html</a> ) (1993–). Select the desired session, and follow this keyword search example: <b>“chapter 420”</b> From the resulting bill text list, select the “chaptered” version. <a href="http://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive_type=statutes">Archived Statutes</a> , via the office of the Clerk of the Assembly (1850-2008) ( <a href="http://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive_type=statutes">http://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive_type=statutes</a> )
HeinOnline	<a href="#">Session Laws Library</a> (1849 to the present). Select “California,” then browse by year, or use the “Sessions Laws Quick Locator” at the top of the landing page.
Lexis Advance	Source: <a href="#">CA - California Advance Legislative Service</a> (1987– ). Enter the citation in the “Search Within Results” box. Sample search: <b>cite(“2005 Cal ALS 420”).</b>
Westlaw	Source: <a href="#">California Enacted Legislation (Session Laws)</a> (current session) Sample search: <b>adv: citation(2016 +s 3).</b>

### 3. Convert the chapter citation into the bill number (e.g. S.B. 537)

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You'll need a bill number to find further information on the history of the legislation.

To find the bill number, check either (1) the "Table of Laws Enacted," which is located in the first volume for each year of the *Statutes of California*, or (2) the *Summary Digest* (KFC 16 .S85 Law Stacks, 1978–). Note the author of the bill, too, when that information is given.

Print Sources:      *Statutes of California* (see Step 2, above)  
                         *Summary Digest*, KFC 16 .S85 Law Stacks, (1978– )  
                         [Beginning in 1967, the *Summary Digest* is also printed in the last volume of the *Statutes of California*. The *Summary Digest* for 1867– is available at the San Francisco Public Library Government Information Center.]

For the most recent 5 (or so) years, use one of these commercial sources instead of the *Statutes of California*:

Print Sources      Deering's *Advance Legislative Service* (see Step 2, above)  
                         West's *California Legislative Service* (see Step 2, above)

You can also use the these online sources to convert chapter citations to bill numbers.

Free web            [Legislative Portal bill search](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html) page (<http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html>) (1993–).  
                         Select the desired session, and follow this keyword search example: **"chapter 420"**  
                         From the resulting bill text list, select the "chaptered" version.

[Archived Statutes](http://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive_type=statutes), via the office of the Clerk of the Assembly (1850-2008)  
                         ([http://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive\\_type=statutes](http://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive_type=statutes))

HeinOnline        [Session Laws Library](#) (1849 to the present). Select "California," then browse by year. The "Table of Laws Enacted" will be in the "Tables" section of the Table of Contents for your year.

Lexis Advance    Source: [CA - California Advance Legislative Service](#) (1987–).  
                         Enter the citation in the "Search Within Results" box.  
                         Sample search: **cite("2005 Cal ALS 420")**. The bill number will be at the top of the document you retrieve.

Westlaw            Source: [California Enacted Legislation \(Session Laws\)](#) (current session)  
                         Sample search: **adv: citation(2016 +s 3)**. The bill number will be at the top of the document you retrieve.

### 4. Read and copy the bill "history"

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The bill "history" is actually just a chronology of actions taken on the bill.

Critical information from the "history" includes: (1) bill authors and sponsors; (2) dates of amendments; (3) reviewing committees. Information about committees helps you find published or unpublished reports or hearings. Knowing authors' and sponsors' names lets you request unpublished information on file.

Bill histories are listed by bill number and are printed in each session's *Senate* (or *Assembly*) *Final History* (or, before 1964, in the *Final Calendar of Legislative Business*).

Print Sources      *Senate* (or *Assembly*) *Final History*, KFC 14 .C31 Law Stacks, 1973 to present.  
                         (Publication of these *Final Histories* is slow. Check the [California Legislative Portal](#) for the most recent 5 or so years.)  
                         *Final Calendar of Legislative Business*, 1921-1964. KFC 14 .C3 Law Stacks.  
                         [The *Final Calendar* from 1867- is available at the San Francisco Public Library Government Information Center. The *Final Calendar* from 1919–1943 and from 1947– is available at Hastings Law Library.]

Bill histories for recent years are also available on the Internet and on Lexis and Westlaw.

Free web	<p><a href="http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html">Legislative Portal bill search</a> page (<a href="http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html">http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html</a>) (1993–). Search by key word or by bill number. Results include the history and current status of the bill.</p> <p><a href="http://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive_type=histories">California State Assembly Histories &amp; Indexes - Archive</a> (1881-2010), via the office of the Clerk of the Assembly (<a href="http://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive_type=histories">http://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive_type=histories</a>).</p>
Lexis Advance	<p>Source: <a href="#">CA Bill Tracking Reports</a> (1988–).</p> <p>Use the “Search Within Results” box. Give the odd-numbered year of the legislative session you’re researching as a date restriction. Sample search for a 2015-16 bill: <b>"2015 bill tracking" and cite("a.b. 100")</b>.</p>
Westlaw	<p>Source: <a href="#">California Bill Tracking</a> (current session)</p> <p>For a bill-number search, use the bill number in an advanced search in this format: <b>adv: 2015 +s "ca a.b. 100"</b></p>
Westlaw	<p>Source: <a href="#">California Bill Tracking: Historical</a> (2005–)</p> <p>For bill-number searches, use the bill number an advanced search in this format: <b>adv: citation("a.b. 100")</b> — or — <b>adv: citation("s.b. 100")</b> — or, for a specific session — <b>adv: citation("a.b. 205") and date(is 2007)"</b></p>

## 5. Read all of the versions of the bill

This is the ***single most important step*** in researching California legislative history and intent! Often the only clues to intent are in (1) the occasional explicit statement of intent, (2) whatever you can infer from the language of the bill—the various amendments, additions, and deletions made to the bill as it went through the legislative process, or (3) the Legislative Counsel’s Digest, which precedes the text of the bill.

The Legislative Counsel’s Digest accompanies each version of every bill and compares current law to the proposed bill. It may also be found in the *Summary Digest*. (For the location of the *Summary Digest*, see Step 3.)

Print Sources	<p>Current bills: in the Reserve Book Room. Ask at the Circulation/Reserve desk.</p> <p>Bills from previous sessions: microfiche, Fiche Cabinet 8, Drawers 5 – 7 (1967–2004).</p> <p>Bills prior to 1967: San Francisco Public Library Government Information Center (1867–); U.C. Berkeley Law Library (1913– with some gaps, call number: KFC 5).</p>
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Full-text bills for recent years are also available on the Internet and on Lexis and Westlaw.

Free web	<p><a href="http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html">Legislative Portal bill search</a> page (<a href="http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html">http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html</a>) (1993–). Search by key word or by bill number. Results include the most recent version of the bill, the bill as it was introduced, and any amended versions.</p>
Lexis Advance	<p>Source: <a href="#">CA Full-Text Bills</a> (1991–).</p> <p>Use the “Search Within Results” box. Sample bill-number search: <b>"1993 bill text" and cite("a.b. 100")</b>.</p>
Westlaw	<p>Source: <a href="#">California Proposed Legislation (Bills)</a> (current session)</p> <p>Sample bill-number search: <b>adv: citation("a.b. 100")</b></p> <p>Source: <a href="#">California Historical Proposed Legislation (Bills)</a> (2005–)</p> <p>Sample bill-number search: <b>adv: citation("a.b. 100")</b></p> <p>To limit to a specific year, add a date restriction, <i>e.g.</i>, <b>adv: citation("a.b. 100") and date(is 2013)</b>.</p>

## 6. Check for an Assembly File Analysis dealing with the bill

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These nonpartisan analyses of bills are prepared by the Assembly Office of Research for selected Senate and Assembly bills. They typically include a committee digest, comments, fiscal effects, and amendments. The Assembly File Analysis discusses the bill in its final form.

Print Source      *Assembly File Analyses*, 1975–2002: microfiche, Fiche Cabinet 9, Drawer 2.

## 7. Check the annotated code for legislative history materials

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The annotations may cite to cases and law review articles that in turn refer to legislative history materials, and (especially for more recently-enacted legislation) may also cite to committee reports, Legislative Counsel opinions, Law Revision Commission reports [See step 14a], and Attorney General opinions [1943 to present: KFC 780 .A55 Law Stacks. 1899 to 1943 (microfilm): microform room, Film Cabinet 2, Drawer 8]. Historical notes may briefly summarize amendments and notes may also refer to other related code sections. Check *both* Deering's and West; their coverage is not necessarily the same.

Print Sources      Deering's *California Codes Annotated*, KFC 30.5 .D4 Law Stacks

*West's Annotated California Codes*, KFC 30.5 .W4 Law Stacks

Lexis Advance      Source: [Deering's California Codes Annotated](#)

Westlaw            Source: [California Statutes & Court Rules](#)

## 8. Check for a Governor's Chaptered Bill File

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This is an essential step in compiling a California legislative history. If you are unable to check yourself, consider hiring one of the legislative research companies listed in Step 16. These companies will include a search for chaptered bill files in their services.

Chaptered bill files from 1943 to the present may be available. Before 1991, some governors, however, sealed their bill files and others never gave them to the Archives. Beginning with the Pete Wilson administration in 1991, all governors are required by law to deposit their public papers in the Archives.

Here's how the California State Archives describes the chaptered bill file:

Of particular importance in the Legislative Files is the Chaptered Bill File for the light it throws on legislative intent, on the arguments for and against a measure, and on the issues and interests involved respecting the bills enacted into law. For each bill the Governor signs there is a separate folder which normally contains analyses by the Legislative Counsel, Attorney General, the Governor's Legislative Secretary, and occasionally, the author. Additional support or opposition is sometimes found in the form of letters, petitions, telegrams, etc. The cover of each chapter folder serves as a checklist of agencies, organizations, and individuals to whom inquiries were directed for views and comments. Vetoed bill files are identical with the exception of the inclusion of the Governor's veto message.

California State Archives, *Inventory of the Governor's Office Records* 5 (2000)

Unfortunately, there are no digital sources for Governors' Chaptered Bill Files.

Print Sources      Hastings Law Library (1943–2010). Chaptered bill files are on microfilm in the Micrographics Room (KFC 7 .G68 — cabinet number 47).

[California State Archives](#) (1943–) (<http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>). See Step 12 below for more on the Archives.

## 9. Check for committee analyses (for recent legislation)

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Committee analyses for recent legislation are available on the Internet (1993–) and on Lexis and Westlaw (1991–). These analyses offer insights into the potential effect of the legislation and indicate which interest groups supported or opposed the bill. Only non-partisan analyses are available, and superseded analyses are not included.

For older analyses, see Step 12b on the availability of analyses at the State Archives. The Hastings Law Library also has committee analyses from some committees for a limited range of dates.

Free web      [Legislative Portal bill search](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html) page (<http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html>) (1993–). Search by key word or by bill number. Results include committee analyses.

Lexis Advance      The source [California Legislative Bill History](#), (1999–) has some analyses. Use the “Search Within Results” box. Sample bill-number search:  
**cite("2003 legis bill hist ca a.b. 205")**  
(Always use the odd-numbered year of the two-year session in which your bill was considered.)

Westlaw      [California Legislative History: Bill Analysis & Other Reports](#) (1993–). Assembly and Senate bill analyses from 1993-94 to present. Sample bill-number search:  
**adv: citation("ca b. an." and "a.b. 10")**  
To limit to a specific year, add a date restriction. For example:  
**adv: citation("ca b. an." and "a.b. 10") and date(is 2008).**  
[California Legislative History: California Committee Analyses](#) (2005–). Sample bill-number search: **adv: citation("a.b. 100").**  
To limit to a specific year, add a date restriction. For example:  
**adv: citation("a.b. 10") and date(after 2006) and date(before 2009).**

## 10. Call legislative offices for any unpublished information

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For relatively recent legislation it is often useful to call: (1) the author and sponsors of the bill; (2) the committee(s) that considered it; and/or (3) any partisan caucuses (the Assembly or Senate Republican and Democratic Caucuses) that may have been involved. A staff person may be willing to check the relevant files for useful documentation on the bill.

Free web      The Senate and Assembly maintain these lists of members, committees, and caucuses:

[Senators: http://senate.ca.gov/senators.](http://senate.ca.gov/senators)

[Senate committees: http://senate.ca.gov/committees.](http://senate.ca.gov/committees)

[Senate caucuses: http://senate.ca.gov/officescaucuses.](http://senate.ca.gov/officescaucuses)

[Assembly members: http://assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers.](http://assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers)

[Assembly committees: http://assembly.ca.gov/committees.](http://assembly.ca.gov/committees)

[Assembly caucuses: http://assembly.ca.gov/officesandcaucuses.](http://assembly.ca.gov/officesandcaucuses)

## 11. Check the Senate and Assembly Journals

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The *Journals* sometimes include Legislative Counsel opinions, legislators’ letters of intent or other communications about bills, and Governors’ veto messages. Although these valuable documents will not be available for *most* bills, you should always check the *Journals* to see if they happen to contain anything useful regarding *your* bill.

To find legislative intent documents in the *Journals*, check the indexes. There are no standardized subject labels, so be creative in choosing headings to look under. Some useful headings are: the legislator’s name;

the governor's name; "Legislative Intent - Letters of;" "Legislative Counsel" [or the name of the Legislative Counsel]; "Journal - Print in - [member's name] - communication;" "Motions & Notices - Print - Letter;" "Motions & Notices - Motion to - Print - Letter;" "Print in Journal;" and "Reports - Legislative Counsel."

The Senate and Assembly *Final Histories* (Step 4, above) can also help you find relevant information in the *Journals*. In the Assembly *Final History*, check the table of contents under "Opinions of Legislative Counsel" or "Legislative Counsel Opinions" to find a list of opinions and their location in the Assembly *Journal*.

In the Senate *Final History*, check the listing of "Reports Noted and Received" under the heading "Legislative Counsel" for reference to Legislative Counsel opinions. Check under the Author's/Senator's name for "letters of intent" or "letter regarding [bill number]."

The *Journals* also contain "Bill Action Indexes" to lead you to every mention of the bill. (Most of these mentions, however, tell nothing about the intent or purpose of the bill.)

Print Sources      *Journal* of the Assembly, 1989 to date, KFC 14 .C23 Law Stacks.

*Journal* of the Senate, 1989 to date, KFC 14 .C24 Law Stacks.

*Journals* of the Assembly & Senate, 1913– : microfiche, Fiche Cabinet 9, Drawer 2 (Assembly & Senate).

*Appendices* for 1939– are filed with the microfiche for the year in question. They may be filed before or after that year's fiche.

(*Appendices* for 1913–1939 are filed separately on microfiche in Fiche Cabinet 9, Drawer 2.)

Free web      [Senate Legislative \(Daily\) Journal](http://senate.ca.gov/dailyjournals) (<http://senate.ca.gov/dailyjournals>), October 2002 to the present.

[California State Assembly Journals Archive](#) 1849 to the present.

[California State Assembly Daily Journals](#) 1995 to the present.

(These Internet sources for the *Journals* let you display the *Journal* for specific dates but do not allow key word or topical searches.)

Westlaw      Source: [California Legislative History: Journals](#) (Assembly *Journals* from the 1995– and Senate *Journals* from 2001–). Sample search terms, including limiting to a session. (Add other key words as needed):

**adv: citation("ca s jour." and "2009-2010")** — or —

**adv: citation("ca assem. jour." and "2009-2010").**

## 12. Check the State Archives for unpublished files

The state archives contain a wide variety of background information on legislation. Some of the major resources are listed below. *For each of these resources, the content of the files may vary drastically from one bill to another, and for some bills no file may exist at all.* Always check with the Archives for availability before traveling to Sacramento. If you call the Archives in advance, they can tell you whether they have a file on the bill and how many pages it contains. For a fee, they will make copies for you, or you can visit the Archives and make your own copies. If you choose to have the Archives make copies, expect a turn-around time of at least a week. Always have the year and bill number before calling the Archives.

**a. Governor's Chaptered Bill File** (1943–). A file the governor reviews before signing or vetoing a bill.

Useful material might include: "enrolled bill memoranda" or "enrolled bill reports"; a letter from the bill's author; other letters or background material; messages from the governor. For more detail, see Step 8, above.

**b. Committee Bill Files** (1960–). Files prepared by the committee considering the bill. These include: analyses; summaries of testimony; minutes; legislative counsel opinions; miscellaneous background material.



- c. **Committee Hearing Files** (1940–). Files (often containing transcripts) from committee consideration of a particular issue. May include consideration of one or more bills. Besides transcripts, other useful material might include: statements or testimony not in transcripts; legislative counsel opinions; various background documents.
- d. **Authors' Bill Files** (ca. 1950–). Maintained by the author of the bill. (Legislators are not required to deposit these with the Archives, but many do.) At best, a thorough documentary record tracking the progress of the bill. May include: documents prepared by interested third parties; press releases; other background information.
- e. **Videotapes** of *selected* floor sessions and committee hearings. Senate, 1992 to present; Assembly 1988-1998.
- f. **Agency Legislative Records** (dates vary). Documents generated by state agencies with an interest in the legislation. May include: analyses; policy memoranda; position statements; background information. Particularly useful if the bill in question originated with the agency.
- g. **Caucus Bill Files** (1973–). Contains: Democratic and Republican party caucus analyses reflecting the parties' views.
- h. **Legislative Bill File** (1849–). Contains: summary and text of bill (and amendments); name of author; record of progress through the legislature. Useful only in the absence of other information.

Contact: California State Archives (916) 653-7715 (General Information)  
 1020 "O" Street, 4th Floor (916) 653-2246 (Reference)  
 Sacramento, CA 95814. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Cal. State Archives site: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>

(This site has information about the Archives and their services, but does not have digital copies of archived documents.) [Description of legislative records](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/programs/legislative-resources/) at the Archives:

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/programs/legislative-resources/>. [Description of governors' records](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/programs/governor/) at the Archives: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/programs/governor/>.

### **13. Check for any published committee reports or hearings**

It is rare to find published reports and hearings, but some do exist. Generally the published reports or hearings rarely concentrate on a *specific* bill. Instead, they tend to focus on a more general problem facing the State. Therefore, when consulting the sources below, be sure to check the years immediately preceding the bill for hearings and reports on the general subject addressed by the bill. Most hearings are never transcribed. For very recent hearings, however, it is sometimes possible for interested persons to request a transcript from the chair of the committee that conducted the hearing.

To find out which committees may have conducted hearings or issued reports on a bill, consult the *Final Calendar* or *Final History* (described in Step 4, above).

Check the following sources for citations to reports and/or hearings:

- a. **Ignacio, USF's online catalog** (<http://ignacio.usfca.edu/>). USF began receiving hearings and reports in the mid-1970's. Search the online catalog by author using this syntax: "California. Legislature. Assembly (or Senate) Committee on.... [Name of Committee]" (This type of author search will work in other libraries' catalogs, too.)
- b. **California State Publications** (2001–) (<http://www.library.ca.gov/publications/csp/>). Arranged by committee. *California State Publications* for 1982–2001 are on microfiche, Fiche Cabinet 8, Drawer 2. For earlier editions, consult one of the libraries listed in Step 15.)
- c. **Hearings and Reports of Committees of the California Legislature**: 1965–1984 (with some gaps) (KFC 20 .R45 Law Stacks). Lists published documents alphabetically by committee.
- d. **California Interim Legislative Committees and their Reports**: 1957–1961 (KFC 20 .I4 Law Stacks). Lists published documents by committee and also has a subject index. (For earlier editions—going back as far as 1937—consult one of the libraries listed in Step 15.)



- e. **The Appendices of the Journals of the Senate and the Assembly.** Fiche Cabinet 9, Drawer 2.  
From 1946 to 1970 (for the Senate) and from 1956 to 1970 (for the Assembly), these *Appendices* contained selected reports of the standing and joint committees of the California legislature. The *Appendices* for 1939– are filed right before or right after the *Journals* for the year in question.
- f. **California Hearings and Reports Index, 1984-1994**, by Laura Petitore, Hastings Law Library.  
KFC 20 .P48 1995 Law Reference Desk.
- g. **List of Special Committees and Commissions by Legislative Session, 1850–1936.**  
Berkeley Law Library KFC 20 .L37 Reference.
- h. **Index of Economic Material in Documents of the States of the United States, California 1849-1905** (<http://archive.org/details/indexofeconom00hass>). For citations to reports published in the Journals of the California Assembly and Senate. (Compiled in 1908 by Adelaide R. Hasse.)
- i. **Index to Reports Published in the Appendices to the Journals of the California Legislature 1905-1970** (<http://www.escholarship.org/uc/item/42n75566#>). UC Davis Library.  
“The California Legislature published reports in the Appendices to the Journals from 1849 to 1970 ... The present index covers the reports published in the Appendices to the Journals from 1905 to 1970.”  
(485-page PDF document compiled in 2012 by Juri Stratford of UC Davis’s Shields Library.)

## 14. Expand your search by consulting one or more of these sources

- a. **California Law Revision Commission Reports Recommendations and Studies.**  
(1957– . KFC 27 .A3 Law Stacks.) The CLRC is “an independent state agency created by statute in 1953. It assists the Legislature and Governor by examining California law and recommending needed reforms.” Its work is useful to legislative history researchers because in recommending revised legislation to the legislature, it issues reports that include “a narrative explanation of the proposed law, proposed statutory language, and official Comments on each affected code section.”  
The Commission’s web site (<http://www.clrc.ca.gov/>) contains:
  - “Printed Reports” from 1957– ([http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Menu3\\_reports/publications.html](http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Menu3_reports/publications.html));
  - “Tentative Recommendations” from about 1996– , with citations to earlier reports starting in about 1977– ([http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Menu3\\_reports/tentrecs.html](http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Menu3_reports/tentrecs.html));
  - “Staff Memoranda” from 1997– ([http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Menu4\\_research/memosearch.html](http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Menu4_research/memosearch.html));
  - “Background Studies” from about 1991– , with citations to earlier studies ([http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Menu3\\_reports/bkstudies.html](http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Menu3_reports/bkstudies.html)).
 There is also a search form for Code sections affected by CLRC recommendations ([http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Menu4\\_research/affectedsearch.html](http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Menu4_research/affectedsearch.html)).
- b. **Reports and other documents of the California Code Commission, 1929–1953.** USF does not have these reports. To find them, search the catalogs of the libraries listed in Step 15 by author “California Code Commission.” The California State Library has a particularly good collection.
- c. **Histories of selected California Codes appearing in superseded volumes of West’s Annotated Codes.** Consider these if your code section was enacted relatively early in California’s history. With one exception, these may all be found on microfiche in Fiche Cabinet 9, Drawers 3 – 7.  
*Civil Code:* Arvo Van Alstyne, “The California Civil Code,” 6 West’s Annot. Cal. Codes 1-43 (1954).  
*Code of Civil Procedure:* Justin Miller, “History of the California Code of Civil Procedure,” 23 West’s Annot. Cal. Codes 1-44 (1955).  
*Education Code:* Joseph L. Knowles, “The Education Code,” 26 West’s Annot. Cal. Codes XLIX-LVIII (1955). [Not available on microfiche at USF. Consult one of the libraries listed in Step 14. Available in print at the Hastings Law Library and Berkeley Law Library.]  
*Government Code:* Charles Aikin, “The Government of California,” 32 West’s Annot. Cal. Codes 1-29 (1955).

*Insurance Code*: Sidney L. Weinstock and John B. Maloney, “History and Development of Insurance Law in California,” 42 West’s Annot. Cal. Codes 1-57 (1955).

*Probate Code*: Lowell Turrentine, “Introduction to the California Probate Code,” 52 West’s Annot. Cal. Codes 1-40 (1956).

*Public Utilities Code*: Roderick B. Cassidy, “Public Utility Regulation in California,” 57 West’s Annot. Cal. Codes 1-24 (1956).

*Revenue and Taxation Code*: J. Gould, “The California Tax System,” 59 West’s Annot. Cal. Codes 1-77 (1956).

*Vehicle Code*: J. Allen Davis and Harry V. Cheshire, Jr., “California Motor Vehicle Legislation,” 66 West’s Annot. Cal. Codes 1-57 (1960).

*Water Code*: J. D. Strauss and George H. Murphy, “California Water Law in Perspective,” 68 West’s Annot. Cal. Codes 1-49 (1956).

- d. The Executive Agency or Department that Sponsored the Bill.** If your research reveals that a California executive branch agency sponsored the bill, you may want to contact that agency to see if it still has any files (which may include unpublished or otherwise hard-to-find material) on that bill. The [California Online Directory](http://www.cold.ca.gov/) (<http://www.cold.ca.gov/>) is a good resource for [agency phone numbers](#) and names of staff members. A [list of agency web sites](#) is also available via the state’s web site at <http://www.ca.gov/Apps/Agencies.aspx>.
- e. California Judicial Council Reports.** (1967– . KFC 951 .A83. Current year in Law Stacks; previous years in Law Compact Storage.) The Judicial Council is a non-legislative arm of the courts that may sponsor legislation or issue reports on topics that are also under legislative consideration [Recent Judicial Council reports](#) are available on the Council’s web site at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/626.htm>.
- f. McGeorge Law Review (Pacific Law Journal,** before Fall 1997) (K 16 .A26 Law Stacks). Since 1970, the first issue of each year includes a review of selected California legislation of the prior year. This may give some leads on legislative history sources. [For 1955 to 1969, see CEB’s *Review of Selected Code Legislation* (KFC 27 .R4 Law Compact Storage).]
- g. Other law journal articles.** An article on the law may discuss its background. Check [LegalTrac](https://www.usfca.edu/library/legaltrac) (<https://www.usfca.edu/library/legaltrac>) (1980– ) and [Index to Legal Periodicals](https://www.usfca.edu/library/legalperiodicals) (<https://www.usfca.edu/library/legalperiodicals>) (1908– ) or the other tools in the Zief Library [Finding Articles](#) guide (<http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/FindingArticles>). LegalTrac and Index to Legal Periodicals are particularly useful because you can search them by statute name or by subject. Especially note articles from the *McGeorge Law Review/Pacific Law Journal* (above), the *State Bar Journal* (1921–1981, K3 .A536 Law Stacks), and the *California Lawyer* (1981–present, K3 .A537 Law Stacks).
- h. Newspaper Articles.** Articles in non-legal newspapers (such as the [Los Angeles Times](#), the [Sacramento Bee](#), and the [San Francisco Chronicle](#)) may provide clues to the background and purpose of the legislation. Most newspapers have web sites containing current (and sometimes archival) materials — though you may hit a pay wall if you are not a subscriber. For older statutes, you may need to find the microfilm version of the newspaper. The Gleeson Library at USF keeps microfilm of the *Los Angeles Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Other Bay Area libraries that have large microfilm newspaper collections are: San Francisco Public Library and the main library at U.C. Berkeley.
- The [Sacramento Bee](http://www.sacbee.com/) (<http://www.sacbee.com/>), as the Capitol’s paper, has particularly good legislative coverage. A [fee-based searchable archive](#) (from 1984 to date) is available at <http://www.sacbee.com/static/live/search/index.html>.
- Both Lexis and Westlaw have group sources that allow you to search several newspapers at one time. On Lexis Advance, search the “[All California News](#)” source. On Westlaw, search either the “[California News](#)” database or the “[California Newspapers](#)” database.

These major California papers are also available individually on Lexis Advance and Westlaw.

<b>Paper</b>	<b>Lexis source &amp; coverage</b>	<b>Westlaw database &amp; coverage</b>
<i>Fresno Bee</i>	(Not in law school plans)	<a href="#">Fresno Bee</a> (1990–)
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	<a href="#">Los Angeles Times</a> (latest 6 months–)	<a href="#">Los Angeles Times</a> (1985–)
<i>Marin Independent Journal</i>	<a href="#">Marin Independent Journal</a> (selected articles, 8/2002– full coverage 2/2003–)	<a href="#">Marin Independent Journal</a> (2008–)
<i>Sacramento Bee</i>	(Not in law school plans)	<a href="#">Sacramento Bee</a> (selected articles, 3/1984–5/2004; full coverage, 5/2004–)
<i>San Diego Union-Tribune</i>	<a href="#">San Diego Union Tribune</a> (2007–)	<a href="#">San Diego Union Tribune</a> (2001–)
<i>San Francisco Chronicle</i>	<a href="#">The San Francisco Chronicle</a> (10/1989–)	<a href="#">San Francisco Chronicle</a> (1988–)
<i>San Francisco Examiner</i>		<a href="#">San Francisco Examiner</a> (6/1990–11/2000)
<i>San Jose Mercury-News</i>	<a href="#">San Jose Mercury News</a> (1994–)	<a href="#">San Jose Mercury-News</a> (6/1985–)

## **15. Consider a trip to other libraries**

If the USF law library doesn't have what you need, you may want to visit one of the local libraries that has a larger collection of California state publications. These include:

- ♦ The San Francisco Public Library's [Government Information Center](#), 101 Larkin St., 5th Floor, San Francisco, (415) 557-4500. <http://www.sfppl.org/index.php?pg=0200002601>
- ♦ [Hastings Law Library](#), 200 McAllister Street, San Francisco, (415) 565-4751 (reference). <http://library.uchastings.edu/>
- ♦ University of California, Berkeley, [Government Information at U.C. Berkeley](#)  
Doe Library Reference Desk: (510) 642-6657. <http://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/USGovInfoatCal/About>
- ♦ University of California, Berkeley, [Law Library](#), Bancroft & Piedmont, Berkeley, (510) 642-0900 (reference). <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/library.htm>
- ♦ [Oakland Public Library](#), 125 - 14th Street, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 238-3134. <http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/>
- ♦ [Jonsson Library of Government Documents](#), Stanford University, The Jonsson library is within the Cecil H. Green Library, Stanford, CA 94305, (650) 725-1064 <http://library.stanford.edu/guides/government-information-jonsson>
- ♦ California State Library, [Government Publications Section](#), California State Library Building, Room 100, 900 N Street. Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 654-0261. <http://www.library.ca.gov/gps/>

## **I 6. Considering hiring a commercial legislative research service**

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For a fee these services will do the search for you. They are often able to find unpublished materials that elude most non-specialist researchers. Some commercial services are:

[LRI History LLC](http://lrihistory.com/), PO Box 2166 Placerville, CA 95667, (916) 442-7660. (LRI History might be able to offer special rates for USF law students researching legislative histories for law school projects. See a research librarian for more information.) <http://lrihistory.com/>

[Jan Raymond Legislative History & Intent](http://legislativeintent.com/Web/CA.php), 717 K Street, Suite 520, Sacramento CA 95814, (888) 676-1947, (530) 750-2187. <http://legislativeintent.com/Web/CA.php>

[Legislative Intent Service](http://www.legintent.com/), 712 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695, (800) 666-1917. <http://www.legintent.com/>

## **California Legislative History Checklist**

- ☐ 1. Check the code section and note the year and chapter number following the code section  
Year and chapter number:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2. Read the original statute in Statutes of California  
Information from original statute:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3. Convert the chapter number citation to the bill number  
Bill number (and author):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 4. Read and copy the bill history
  - 4a. Bill authors and sponsors:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 4b. Committees that considered the bill:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 4c. Amendment dates:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 5. Read all versions of the bill  
Information from bill versions (e.g., noteworthy additions and deletions):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 6. Check for an Assembly File Analysis  
Information from file analysis:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 7. Check the annotated codes for legislative history materials  
Information from code annotations:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 8. Check the Governor's Chaptered Bill File

Information from Chaptered Bill File:

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- ☐ 9. Check online for committee analyses

Information from committee analyses:

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- ☐ 10. Call legislative offices for any unpublished information

10a. Authors' and/or sponsors' phone numbers:

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10b. Committee /caucus phone numbers:

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- ☐ 11. Check the Senate and Assembly Journals

Information from Journals:

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- ☐ 12. Check the State Archives for unpublished files

Information from Archive materials, e.g., Chaptered Bill File, Committee Bill File, Committee Hearing File, Author's Bill File, Videotapes, Agency Legislative Record, Legislative Bill File:

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- ☐ 13. Check for any published committee reports or hearings

Citations to reports or hearings:

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- ☐ 14. Expand your search to other reports, articles, studies, agency information...

Reference to other reports, articles, studies, agency information, etc.:

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