



LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Researching Louisiana Legislative History can be a challenge, and the older the statute, the less documentation there is. From 1997 on, everything except committee minutes is on the Legislature's web site, www.legis.state.la.us

What's in a legislative history?

Official sources which are produced before the bill becomes a law. These are the versions of the bill, minutes or recordings of committee hearings on the bill, and calendar and journal entries, which track the progress of the bill.

Unofficial sources are law review articles and other commentary, Louisiana State Law Institute minutes, newspaper articles, and similar sources.

To compile a legislative history from 1997 on, you will need the act number, year, and session, which are in the historical notes following the statute in West's Louisiana Statutes Annotated. Go to the legislature's website, scroll to Bill Search, choose the session and year, change HB, right below the session box, to ACT, enter the act number and click View. The resulting screen has links to all available history except the minutes of the hearings. Minutes can only be ordered from the House or Senate Docket, which charge for their services.

House Docket 225-342-6458
Senate Docket 225-342-2365
Archives 225-922-1209

The house has **video** of all house committee meetings available via Real Video over the Internet **back to 1999**. Go to www.house.louisiana.gov and click on video archives. Recent years are available on demand. Earlier years must be scheduled for viewing. Senate videos are available **from 2008 on** at www.senate.legis.state.la.us.

To compile a legislative history before 1996, you will need the bill number, year and session. To get the bill number, call the Law Library of Louisiana at 504 310-2515 (800 820-3038 outside the New Orleans area) for the bill number **with the act number, year and session** in hand. Act numbers are in the historical notes in West's Louisiana Statutes Annotated. Once you get the bill number, order legislative history from the House or Senate Docket.

The farther back you go, the less material is available.

The legislature's archives has some hearing audiotapes back to the 1980s. Loyola Law School has all versions of the paper bills **from the regular session of 1970 on**. The Law Library of Louisiana has a **complete set of Calendars and journals**. Some are available in French only.

The New Orleans Public Library has the bills on microfilm back to 1950, but they may not have all versions of the older bills.

Before 1950, the only material available is in the Law Library of Louisiana.

To compile a legislative history before 1950, get the bill number and year from the paper acts. Go to the House and Senate Calendars, which are organized by bill number. Under each bill number is a list of dates and pages of the House and Senate Journals where the bill is mentioned. Use this list to access the information in the journals.

Other legislative history sources

West's Louisiana Statutes Annotated notes The notes may have 1) Louisiana Law Institute commentary following a statute or before a group of statutes; 2) conversion tables and an overview changes if a large area of the law been revised; or references to law review articles that discuss legislative changes.

Louisiana State Law Institute Minutes The Law Library of Louisiana and all four Louisiana law schools are on the institute's mailing list. You may also call the institute at 225 578-0200.

Newspapers Search the Baton Rouge Advocate or the New Orleans Times Picayune around the time of passage for articles on the legislation . We have copies of a small number of Legislative Histories.

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