STEPS FOR RESEARCHING OREGON LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Legislative history research can be selectively conducted online via the Oregon State Legislature and Oregon State Archives websites, and in the University of Oregon John E. Jaqua Law Library. See the Law Library handout “About Oregon Legislative History” for more general information.

STATUTE CITATION ➔ SESSION LAW ➔ SENATE OR HOUSE BILL NUMBER ➔ COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND DATES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS OR WORK SESSIONS ➔ MINUTES & EXHIBITS

1. The **statute citation** enables you to find a **SESSION LAW**. If you have a statute citation, locate the statute on the Oregon State Legislature's website, [http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/](http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/) or in the print *Oregon Revised Statutes* (ORS). If you need to find the citation, use the online General Index or Search Engine at the same site. For this example, you will look for the most recent amendment to ORS 40.225. Click on the link for **ORS Volume 1, Chapters 1-55**. Then click on **ORS Chapter 40**. Use your Find function or scroll past the chapter's list of statutory sections to the text of ORS 40.225. The session law cite is in brackets at the end of the statutory text `[... 2009 c.516 §1]`. This statute was amended by Oregon Laws 2009, chapter 516, section 1. (The use of the word “chapter” in this context is not the same as ORS chapter numbers.)

   NOTE: If there is no bracketed date at the end of the statute, it was passed prior to 1953, and you must look up the statute in the print *Prior Legislative History – Oregon Revised Statutes 1953 ed.* (KFO 2430 1953 .A2).

2. The **session law** cite enables you to find the **BILL NUMBER** by which your statute was known as it proceeded through the Senate and House. To find the bill number, go to the Bills and Laws section of the legislature's website, [http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/](http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/). Under the heading Oregon Laws, click on **2009 Oregon Laws**. Then click on **Oregon Laws Chapter 500 to Chapter 599**, then the link for **Chapter 516 Oregon Laws**. This will take you to the text of the session law, where you will see **HB 2453** (House Bill 2453). Language deleted from the existing statute is indicated by *italics* and new language is in **bold**.

   NOTE: If you are researching a bill passed prior to 1999, you will need to consult the print *Oregon Laws* (KFO 2425 .A2), as the legislative website session law coverage is retrospective only to 1999.

3. The **bill number** enables you to find the **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS** in the online Measure History. Go back to the Legislature’s website, [http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/](http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/). Under the heading Bills, click on **2009 Regular Session**. Under Measure History, click on **House Measure History**. Use
your Find function or scroll to HB 2453. There you will see that the bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee on January 29, 2009. Dates of particular interest are those when public hearings or work sessions were held – March 3 and 13. After passage in the House, the bill was referred to the Senate on March 25 – “3-25(S)” – and then on to the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Bills retain their designation as House or Senate bills throughout a legislative session, even when they are considered by the other legislative chamber.) In the Senate Judiciary Committee, you should look at the public hearing/work session on May 18.

NOTE: If you are researching a bill passed prior to 1995, you will need to consult the print Final Legislative Calendar – entitled Final Status Report for Senate and House Measures since 1997 (KFO 2406 .O68) – as the legislative website bill coverage is retrospective only to 1995. If you do not see a print Final Legislative Calendar or Final Status Report for any year in question, check with library staff because the calendars are also included in the Senate and House Journals (KFO 2418), located in Law Storage.

4. With the committee assignments and dates of public hearings or work sessions, you can now go to the Legislative Audio/Video website (http://www.leg.state.or.us/listn/), the Oregon State Archives (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/records/legislative/index.html), or the UO Law Library microfilm collection, depending on when your bill was considered. (See Where to Find Legislative History Materials in Law Library handout “About Oregon Legislative History.”) To find HB 2453 in the 2009 minutes, click the Audio/Video link at the top of the Legislature’s website. (You may need to download software to listen to the audios.) Under the heading Audio Archives, middle of page, click on 2009 Session. Under the heading Audio Archives – 2009 Session, top of page, click on Archives of Committee Meetings from the 2009 Session. Then click on House Committees – Judiciary. Click on the links for 03/03/2009, and then 03/13/2009 and listen. Because multiple bills may be considered during a public hearing or work session, you may have to skim past proceedings for other bills in addition to your bill. Repeat this step to navigate to the Senate Judiciary Committee minutes for May 18.

NOTE: For each legislative session from 1947 to 1995, the minutes in microfilm from each chamber are arranged alphabetically by committee name, and thereunder chronologically by hearing date. The exhibits are arranged alphabetically by committee name, and thereunder by bill number, date, letter, or subject; exhibits may be contained on separate reels from the minutes. Because exhibits can take many forms, they are not available online. Exhibits from 1947 through 1995 are available in the Law Library on microfilm. For other exhibits, contact the Oregon State Archives at 503-373-0701 or reference.archives@state.or.us.

This publication is available in accessible formats upon request to Law Library Reference, 541-346-1654.

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