

University of Oregon
JOHN E. JAQUA LAW LIBRARY

STEPS FOR RESEARCHING OREGON LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Legislative history research can be selectively conducted on the Oregon State Legislature and Oregon State Archives websites. The committee minutes from the 1991 legislative session forward are on the Archives website; pre-1991 minutes are available on microfiche in the Law Library. This guide starts you off online but refers to print and microfilm resources where necessary. For more information, see the Law Library handout “About Oregon Legislative History.”

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/>. Otherwise, use the online General Index or Search Engine at the same site. For this example, you will look for ORS 109.001. Click on the link for **ORS Volume 3, Chapters 90–130**. Then click on **ORS Chapter 109**. Use your Find function or scroll past the chapter's list of statutory sections to the text of ORS 109.001. The session law cite is in brackets at the end of the statutory text [1999 c.306 § 1]. This statute was enacted by Oregon Laws 1999, chapter 306, 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/. Under the heading Laws, click on **1999 Oregon Laws**. Then click on **Oregon Laws Chapter 300 to Chapter 399**, then the link for **Chapter 306 Oregon Laws 1999**. This will take you to the text of the session law, where you will see SB 744—Senate Bill 744.

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/. Under the heading Bills, click on **1999 Regular Session**. Under Measure History, click on **1999 Senate Measure History–Final**. Use your Find function or scroll to SB 744.

There you will see that the bill was referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on March 12, 1999. Dates of particular interest are those when public hearings or work sessions were held—March 22 and April 28. After passage in the Senate, the bill was referred to the House on May 12—"5-12(H)"—and then on to the House Human Resources Committee. Note that bills retain their designation as Senate bills or House bills throughout a legislative session, even when they are considered by the other legislative chamber. In the House committee, you should look at the 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 State Archives, <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/banners/legis.htm>. Click on the link for **Legislative Committee Minutes**. Then click on **1999 Regular Session** and then **Senate**. Next click on the link for **Health and Human Services Committee Minutes**. There you will see dates displayed, and using the information from the Measures History above, look at the minute summaries on the dates March 22 and April 28. On March 22, you will see that SB 744 was one of the measures heard on this date; you will also see summaries of what took place during the public hearing and information identifying audiotapes should you wish to request copies from State Archives. Go through the same process to view minutes from April 28 and then the minutes from the House Human Resources Committee. Note that audiotapes may be available online for some committee minutes. See also the Legislature's Audio Help Page at <http://landru.leg.state.or.us/listn/>.

NOTE: 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, <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/>.