



FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY RESEARCH
USING INTERNET RESOURCES
EXAMPLE: Florida Statutes § 776.031

- Since 1998, all legislative history documents generated by the Florida Legislature are available on the Internet, in full text. (Tapes/CD's of hearings or debates must be obtained from the House or Senate Document Center or the State Archives of Florida. Contact information is listed below.)
- Look at the relevant Florida statute section.

Florida Statutes (1997 – current)

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?Mode=View%20Statutes&Submenu=1&Tab=statutes>

- Look at the history line at the end of the statutory text, to identify the chapter numbers of the laws that enacted or amended the statute section. If you're interested in a particular part of the statute section, you need to look at all listed bills, to see which bill enacted or amended that part of the statute section.
- Using the chapter number of the relevant law, go to the Laws of Florida for that year, and look at the text of the law that enacted or amended your statute section. The House or Senate bill number is listed immediately below the chapter number of the law.

Laws of Florida (1999 – current)

http://election.dos.state.fl.us/laws/laws_proced.shtml

- It might be useful to look at the bill, as introduced.

House and Senate Bills (Senate website, 1998 – current)

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/index.cfm?mode=citator&Tab=session&submenu=4>

House and Senate Bills (House website, 1998 – current)

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/bills.aspx>

- Using the House or Senate bill number, go to that year's Final Legislative Bill Information "Citator" to get the history of the bill. This source provides the names of sponsors, dates of each action on the bill, including introduction, and an indication of any companion bills. References are to page numbers in the House or Senate Journal.

Legislative Bill Citators (1998 – current)

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/index.cfm?mode=citator&Tab=session&submenu=4>

- You might want to look at the Senate or House Journal for the date when the bill was debated. The Journal will provide the order of floor actions and the text of floor amendments.

Journals of the Senate and House (Senate website, 1998 – current)

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/index.cfm?Mode=Journals&Submenu=3&Tab=session>

- Call the appropriate source listed below to order audiotapes/CD's of committee hearings and floor debates, depending on when the bill was enacted.
- If bill was enacted before 1998, call the appropriate source listed below for related legislative history documents, depending on when the bill was enacted.
- When calling, you must provide the law number, bill number, and year of the session when the bill was enacted. Specify whether you need tapes/CD's of floor debates, committee hearings, or both.

Senate sessions from the last 2 – 3 years: Senate Document Center
Rm. 304
The Capitol
487-5915

House session from the last 2 – 3 years: House Document Center
Rm. 334
The Capitol
488-7475

Earlier Senate and House sessions: State Archives of Florida
R.A. Gray Building
245-6719

- As a state agency, the Supreme Court is not charged for documents or tapes/CD's. We are asked to provide blank audiocassettes or CD's in the same number of copies they provide to us, however. We are required to go to the appropriate office to pick up the documents or tapes/CD's. The limit is 100 pages and/or two bill files per day, and requests can often be filled on the same day of the request.