Guide to Alaska Legislative History Research

Alaska Legislative Library *Updated 2025*

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Alaska Statutes (AS)

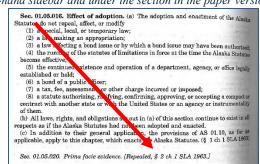
The Alaska Statutes are the written laws passed by the Alaska Legislature.

Using Alaska Statutes for Legislative History Research

• Session Laws (SLA's) that enacted or amended a certain section of the Alaska Statutes are listed at the end of that section in the paper-bound version. The SLA annotations in the online-version can be found under the "History" heading in the right-hand sidebar. You may need to read the full text of all the SLAs listed to find which one or ones added or amended the specific words or section you're interested in.

SLA annotations in the online AS can be found under the History heading in the right-hand sidebar and under the section in the paper version.





Example: AS 01.05.016 is enacted by ch 1 SLA 1963

- Check any notes following the AS section. Revisor's notes, editor's notes, and notes as to "effect of amendments" and "legislative history reports" can be very helpful.
- To find how the AS read at a certain time, or research a section which has since been repealed, check the older versions of the AS.

Unofficial Online Version

An unofficial version of the current *Alaska Statutes* is available online at https://www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp. This version comes with the following notice:

This online infobase is an unofficial version of the Alaska Statutes and may contain errors or omissions. The information is provided as a convenience to the public. The State of Alaska, Alaska State Legislature, and Legislative Affairs Agency make no warranty, express or implied, of the accuracy of the information presented here. Use of the information is the sole responsibility of the user. For the official version of the Alaska Statutes, please refer to the printed version of the Alaska Statutes.

This public online version provides Reference and History annotations for the *Statutes*, but does not contain Editors Notes or Decisions (court opinion citations). For the later annotations, see a paper-bound version (or ALECSYS Infobases¹)

Paper-Bound Versions

- 1996+ AS Replaced Sets
 Paper-bound *Alaska Statutes* sets are reprinted by LexisNexis every 2 years, updated in the intervening
 year by a one-volume supplement.
- 1962-95 AS Replaced Titles & Cumulative Supplements AS sets prior to 1996 were binders of pamphlets (titles and supplement) updated each year by replacing the supplements and a few titles.

¹ ALECSYS (Alaska Legislative Computer System) Infobases is available to all legislative offices through a local area network (lan). Use the Start menu and select "Programs", "ALECSYS Infobases". This program contains annotated AS from 1993+.

Alaska Statute Paper-Bound Versions Availability

Historical Sets	
Alaska Legislative Library	1960+
Alaska State Library	1960+
Anchorage Law Library	1960+
Juneau Law Library	1960+
Fairbanks Law Library	1960+
Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage	1977+

Current Sets

Anchorage LIO

Bethel LIO

Cordova LIO

Delta Junction LIO

Dillingham LIO

Fairbanks LIO

Glennallen LIO

Homer LIO

Juneau LIO

Kenai Peninsula LIO

Ketchikan LIO

Kodiak LIO

Kotzebue LIO

Matanuska-Susitna LIO

Nome LIO

Petersburg LIO

Seward LIO

Sitka LIO

Tok LIO

Utqiagvik LIO

Valdez LIO

Wrangell LIO

Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Alvin S Okeson Library, Matanuska Susitna College

Kuskokwim Consortium Library

Carolyn Floyd Library, UAA/Kodiak Campus

Ketchikan College Library, University of Alaska SE

Kenai Peninsula College Library

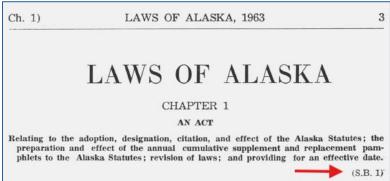
William Egan Library, University of Alaska Southeast

Session Laws of Alaska (SLA)

The Session Laws of Alaska enact, repeal, or amend the Alaska Statutes.

Using Alaska Statutes for Legislative History Research

• The first page of a session law shows the number of the bill which became that session law. The number will be preceded either by an "HB" (House Bill) or "SB" (Senate Bill). This HB or SB and bill number is needed to locate legislative history materials for that bill.



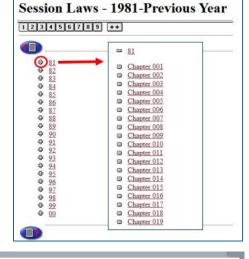
Example: Senate Bill (SB) 1 became ch 1 SLA 1963

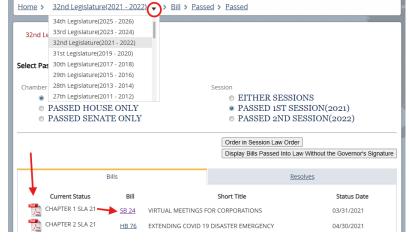
- Read the session law to check for:
 - 1. Amendments that relate to your particular statute under consideration
 - 2. Temporary or special laws that may be important, such as those sections stating "purpose", "findings and intent", or "applicability." (Temporary and special law sections of a session law are those parts which do not have AS section numbers preceding them; they won't be codified, but rather placed in AS under "temporary and special acts"

section.)

Online Availability

- 1913-1980: Contact the Alaska Legislative Library for PDF scans.
- 1981- 2019: Infobases
 - o 1981-2000
 - o 2021-2019
- 1993-Present: BASIS
 - On BASIS you'll find each SLA in PDF form next to the bill number that became the SLA. Clicking on the PDF
 - icon next to the SLA Chapter number will open the SLA PDF. Clicking on the bill number will take you to a Bill History/Action page where you'll find more of the legislative history of the bill.
 - Use the dropdown in the breadcrumbs at the top of the page to switch legislative years.





Session Laws of Alaska Print Availability

Session Laws of Alaska Fillit Availai	Jility
Anchorage LIO	1945-47, 1949+
Bethel LIO	most = 1979+
Cordova LIO	most = 1979+
Delta Junction LIO	most = 1979+
Dillingham LIO	most = 1979+
Fairbanks LIO	1913+
Glennallen LIO	most = 1979+
Homer LIO	most = 1979+
Juneau LIO	most = 1979+
Kenai Peninsula LIO	most = 1979+
Ketchikan LIO	most = 1979+
Kodiak LIO	most = 1979+
Kotzebue LIO	most = 1979+
Matanuska-Susitna LIO	most = 1979+
Nome LIO	most = 1979+
Petersburg LIO	most = 1979+
Seward LIO	most = 1979+
Sitka LIO	most = 1979+
Tok LIO	most = 1979+
Utqiagvik LIO	most = 1979+
Valdez LIO	most = 1979+
Wrangell LIO	most = 1979+
Anchorage Law Library	1913+
Juneau Law Library	1913+
Fairbanks Law Library	1913+
Alaska Legislative Library	1913+
Alaska State Library	1913+
Alaska State Archives	1913+
Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks	1913+
Alvin S Okeson Library, Matanuska Susitna College	1913+
Kuskokwim Consortium Library	1913+
Carolyn Floyd Library, UAA/Kodiak Campus	1913+
Ketchikan College Library, University of Alaska SE	1913+
Kenai Peninsula College Library	1913+
William Egan Library, University of Alaska Southeast	1913+
Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage	1959+
Loussac Library, Anchorage	
U.S. Courts Library	

Bill Histories & Journal Indexes

Journal indexes list all House and Senate floor actions by bill and the page numbers in the journal where each action is mentioned. It shows among other things who sponsored the bill, which committees the bill was referred to, and whether there was a letter of intent. The journal indexes could be found in the back of each journal up until 1974.

In 1975, the indexes were moved from the back of the journals to a separate volume called the "Bill History." The Bill Histories provide the same information as the journal indexes but also supply the dates on which each action occurred. Previously the date information was only available on the specific page of the action.

Using Journal Indexes & Bill Histories for Legislative History Research

A Journal Index or Bill History is needed to find the pages in the House and Senate journal related to a specific bill being researched.

		IN THE SENATE								IN THE HOUSE							
0.	SENATE BILLS Author and Title	First reading and reference	Report of Committee	Second reading	Third reading; final action	Sent to House	Received and further action	Enrolled; signed by President	Action by Governor	First reading and reference	Report of Committee	Second reading	Third reading; final action	Returned to Senate; other action	Signed by Speaker	Action by Governor	1963 Session Law Chapter number
	Rules Committee, request of Legislative Council: An Act relating to the adoption, designation, citation, and effect of the Alaska Statutes; the preparation and effect of the annual cumulative supplement and replacement pamphlets to the Alaska Statutes; revision of laws; and providing for an effective date.		19	27	27	32	81	97	123	53	62	69	69 70	78	101	127	1

Example of Journal Index for SB 1 from 1963 Alaska Senate Journal. This index shows the page numbers for both the 1963 Senate Journal and the 1963 House Journal.

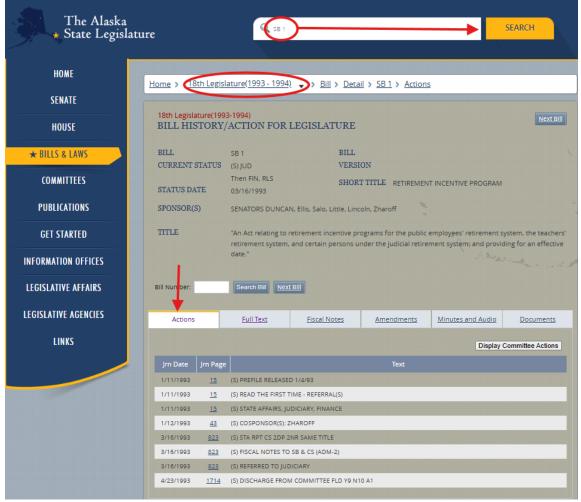
SB_	1	AN	AÇT	CREAT	ING THE	OFFICE OF OMB	UDSMAN; AMENDI	ING RULE 4	3(1	H) OF THE	RULE	S OF C	IVIL PROCEDURE; AND PROVIDING
	PRIM	DED E_S	PONSO	E: DBS:	FCCS HCS KERTTULA	S CS #	RADER	HUBER		MILLER,		CROFT	
	DALE		SEQ.	JOURN PAGE	AL	SENAI	E_ACIION	* 1		DAIE	SEO.	JOURN PAGE	AL HOUSE_ACITON_
	01/20/ 02/12/ 02/12/ 02/13/	75 75 75	03	0012 0177 0177 0192	S.A.	EADING COM COMM REFERRAL CSO5 DNPO2, NRO		CONSENT		02/18/75 02/19/75 02/20/75 03/05/75	12 13 14 15	0236 0245 0252 0364	FIRST READING COMMITTEE REPORTS PULLED FROM S.A. TO JUD BY UNAN CONSENT JUD CSO6, NRO1 FIN DNPO2, CSO4, NRO3
	02/14/ 02/14/ 02/14/	75	05 06 07	0198 0198 0198	SECOND S.A. ADVAN	READING CS ADOPTED BY ICED TO 3RD RE	UNAN CONSENT ADING BY UNAN	CONSENT		03/11/75 03/11/75 03/11/75 03/11/75	16 17 18 19	0408 0409 0409 0409	SECOND READING FIN CS ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE AMO1 NOT ADOPTED BY DIV 14-23-03 ADVANCED TO 3RD READING BY UNAN CONSENT
	02/14/ 02/14/ 02/14/ 02/14/	75	09	0198 0198 0199 0199	PASSE PASSE EFFEC ACTIO	READING D BY DIV 13-00 TIVE DATE FAI N 003 NOT RES	6-01 LED BY DIV 12- CINDED BY DIV	07-01	ia:	03/11/75 03/11/75 03/11/75 03/11/75	20 21 23 24	0409 0410 0410 0411	THIRD READING PASSED BY DIV 22-16-02 EFFECTIVE DATE FAILED BY DIV 26-12-02 NOTICE OF RECONSIDERATION GIVEN READ AGAIN THIRD TIME
	03/13/ 03/18/ 04/01/ 04/01/	75 75 75	29 32 33 34	0402 0438 0600 0601	FAILD 1 FCC FCC REP LETTER	CONCIN (H) KERTTULA WII ORT ADOPTED B OF INTENT; FC	AMS BY VOICE LIS MILLE V DIV 14-06-00	VOTE R,T.		03/12/75 03/12/75 03/12/75	25 26 28	0421 0421 0422	EFFECTIVE DATE PASSED BY DIV 30-10-00
	04/03/ 04/15/ 06/01/ 06/01/	75 75 75	36	0629 0724 1403 1403	TRANSMI	TTED TO GOVER BY GOVERNOR-CI PERSON VOTE (S PERSON VOTE (H	MUB			03/11/75 03/12/75 03/14/75 03/14/75 04/01/75	37	0410 0422 0434 0449 0626	COURT RULE ADDPTED RECONSIDERATION COURT RL BY DIV 36-02-02 RECONSIDERATION COURT RL BY DIV 36-04-00 FAILED TO RECEDE FRM AMS BY VOICE VOTE FCC GARDINER MILLER, H. FINK FCC REPORT ADDPTED BY VOICE VOTE

Example of Bill History for SB 1 (1975) from the 1975 Seante Bill History (This is not the same SB 1 as above; this is CH 32 SLA 1975.)

Online Availability

• 1993-Present: BASIS

A search for a Bill in <u>BASIS</u> brings you to the Bill History/Action page for that bill, with links to journal pages, committee minutes and audio, committee documents, and all versions of the bill.



Example of SB 1 (1993): A BASIS Bill History/Action page contains the same information that can be found in a journal index or bill history (Journal dates, page numbers, and text) under the Actions tab. Clicking on a Jrn Page number will take you to a page with the text of that journal page.

Bill History Print Availability

Complete Sets (1975+)	
Anchorage LIO	1975+
Fairbanks LIO	1975+
Anchorage Law Library	1975+
Juneau Law Library	1975+
Fairbanks Law Library	1975+
Alaska Legislative Library	1975+
Alaska State Library	1975+
Alaska State Archives	1975+
Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks	1975+
Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage	1975+

Incomplete Sets	
Bethel LIO	1979-85+
Cordova LIO	1979-85+
Delta Junction LIO	1979-85+
Dillingham LIO	1979-85+
Glennallen LIO	1979-85+
Homer LIO	1979-85+
Juneau LIO	1979-85+
Kenai Peninsula LIO	1979-85+
Ketchikan LIO	1979-85+
Kodiak LIO	1979-85+
Kotzebue LIO	1979-85+
Matanuska-Susitna LIO	1979-85+
Nome LIO	1979-85+
Petersburg LIO	1979-85+
Seward LIO	1979-85+
Sitka LIO	1979-85+
Tok LIO	1979-85+
Utqiagvik LIO	1979-85+
Valdez LIO	1979-85+
Wrangell LIO	1979-85+
Alvin S Okeson Library, Matanuska Susitna College	1979+
Kuskokwim Consortium Library	1979+
Carolyn Floyd Library, UAA/Kodiak Campus	1979+
Ketchikan College Library, University of Alaska SE	1979+
Kenai Peninsula College Library	1979+
William Egan Library, University of Alaska Southeast	1979+
Loussac Library, Anchorage	1979+
U.S. Courts Library	

Final Status of Bills

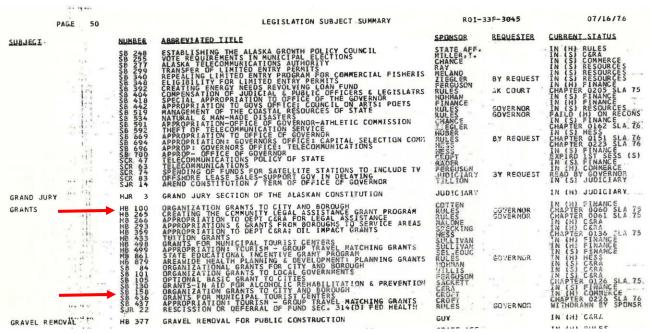
The *Final Status of Bills* lists all bills in the two-year legislature by subject, by bill number, and by sponsor, and tells the final version of each bill. The printing of these volumes started in 1975.

Using Final Status' for Legislative History Research

The *Final Status* can help you discover if an identical or similar bill was introduced in the other house. If so, part of the committee discussion on the issue may be under the other bill number. To find a possible duplicate or related bill, check under the subject of your bill: a duplicate bill will be from the other house but with the exact same title (unless one has been amended extensively).

Look for a duplicate bill if the bill being researched was a controversial one and it either went through a major committee "too fast" (in only a day or two) or didn't go to a logical major committee at all.

Research may lead back to a previous two-year legislature. It sometimes takes several legislatures for a bill on a specific subject to get passed, and there will have been discussion and modifications during each session. Bills "die" at the end of each two-year legislature but may be reintroduced the next legislature - usually with a different bill number.



Example of companion bills found in 1975-1976 Final Status of Bills and Resolutions under the subject "Grants": HB 100 & SB 158 "Organization Grants to City and Borough"

Online Availability

- For 1993+
 - See the BASIS "<u>Statute Informational Retrieval System (SIRS)</u>" to find an identical bill introduced in the other house or bill that merged into your bill. If one is suspected, search for an Alaska Statutes (AS) citation in your bill. This will tell you all other bills that have this citation in them.
 - Or the Subject List
 - And the Sponsor List

Final Status Print Availability

Complete Sets (1975+)	
Anchorage LIO	1975+
Fairbanks LIO	1975+
Anchorage Law Library	1975+
Juneau Law Library	1975+
Alaska Legislative Library	1975+
Alaska State Library	1975+
Alaska State Archives	1975+
Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks	1975+
Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage	1975+

Incomplete Sets	
Bethel LIO	1979-85+
Cordova LIO	1979-85+
Delta Junction LIO	1979-85+
Dillingham LIO	1979-85+
Glennallen LIO	1979-85+
Homer LIO	1979-85+
Juneau LIO	1979-85+
Kenai Peninsula LIO	1979-85+
Ketchikan LIO	1979-85+
Kodiak LIO	1979-85+
Kotzebue LIO	1979-85+
Matanuska-Susitna LIO	1979-85+
Nome LIO	1979-85+
Petersburg LIO	1979-85+
Seward LIO	1979-85+
Sitka LIO	1979-85+
Tok LIO	1979-85+
Utqiagvik LIO	1979-85+
Valdez LIO	1979-85+
Wrangell LIO	1979-85+
Fairbanks Law Library	1985+
Alvin S Okeson Library, Matanuska Susitna College	1979+
Kuskokwim Consortium Library	1979+
Carolyn Floyd Library, UAA/Kodiak Campus	1979+
Ketchikan College Library, University of Alaska SE	1979+
Kenai Peninsula College Library	1979+
William Egan Library, University of Alaska Southeast	1979+
Loussac Library, Anchorage	1979+
U.S. Courts Library	

Note: Prior to the 1975 start of Final Status volume printing, the Legislative Reporting Service provides the only index/subject access to bills from 1959-1974.

House and Senate Journals

The House and Senate Journals are the daily legislative record of floor actions for each body. These include all motions made and votes taken on each bill. (The floor debate is not transcribed, but tapes are available. See *Audio*)

Using Journals for Legislative History Research

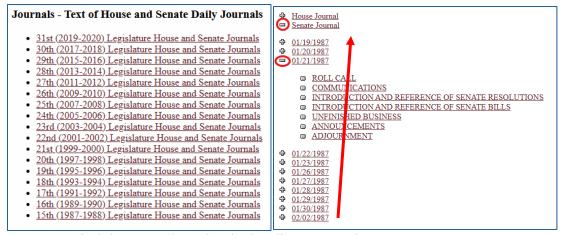
Check all House and Senate Journal entries especially floor amendments, letters of intent, the governor's transmittal letter (always printed in the journal at the first reading of a governor's bill), and the governor's return letter (for bills signed into law or bills allowed to become law without his signature). Also, for bills that became law by the legislature overriding the governor's veto, look for the governor's veto message.

Journals also contain Supplements, material related to floor action on bills, such as sectional analyses and commentary on bills, long committee reports, and fiscal notes. Supplements -- House, Senate, or Joint -- are numbered separately starting with "1". To locate a supplement in a journal, go to the journal page or the date listed for it in the index and then page forward until you find it.

Fiscal notes were added to journal supplements between 1977-1986. They contain the estimated costs to state agencies if a proposed bill were to become law. The Fiscal Notes for 1987-1988 are printed in separate volumes housed with the journals.

Online Availability

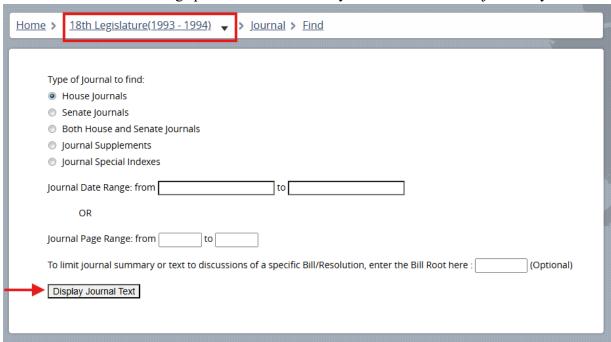
• <u>Infobases</u>: 1987 – 2020 House & Senate Journal text
Journals are indexed by day and within that by action, so you'll need the Bill History to research any specific bill.



Example: Find the Journals under the heading "Journals – Text of House and Senate Daily Journals." After clicking on a journal, use the "+" buttons to open the indexing for the House or Senate Journal to find a specific day and action. Or click on the linked text "House Journal" or "Senate Journal" to start reading from the beginning of that journal.

BASIS Journal Finder: 1993+

In BASIS, use the Legislature breadcrumb dropdown menu at the top to change legislatures. Then use the Journal finder page to specify journal pages by date or page range. Clicking on the "Display Journal Text" button without adding specifications will take you to an index of the journal by date.



Within the journal text on BASIS, all AS numbers link to their statute text and any bill numbers link to their Bill History/Action page where you can find more information about the bill.

• Fiscal Notes: 1993+

Fiscal Notes can be found under the "Fiscal Notes" tab on Bill History/Action pages. Notes from 1993-98 are not complete, they do not contain analyses.



Example of HB 39 (2021) Bill History/Action page with Fiscal Notes tab view.

Journals Print Availability

Journals I fill Availability	
Complete Sets	
Anchorage Law Library	1913+
Fairbanks Law Library	1913-92 or complete?
Juneau Law Library	1913+
Alaska Legislative Library	1913+
Alaska State Library	1913+
Alaska State Archives	1913+
Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska,	
Fairbanks	1913+
Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage	1913+
Alvin S Okeson Library, Matanuska Susitna College	1913+
Kuskokwim Consortium Library	1913+
Carolyn Floyd Library, UAA/Kodiak Campus	1913+
Ketchikan College Library, University of Alaska SE	1913+
Kenai Peninsula College Library	1913+
William Egan Library, University of Alaska Southeast	1913+
Incomplete Sets	
Anchorage LIO	1975+
Fairbanks LIO	1975+
Bethel LIO	1979-92
Cordova LIO	1979-92
Delta Junction LIO	1979-92
Dillingham LIO	1979-92
Glennallen LIO	1979-92
Homer LIO	1979-92
Juneau LIO	1979-92
Kenai Peninsula LIO	1979-92
Ketchikan LIO	1979-92
Kodiak LIO	1979-92
Kotzebue LIO	1979-92
Matanuska-Susitna LIO	1979-92
Nome LIO	1979-92
Petersburg LIO	1979-92
Seward LIO	1979-92
Sitka LIO	1979-92
Tok LIO	1979-92
Utqiagvik LIO	1979-92
Valdez LIO	1979-92
Wrangell LIO	1979-92
Loussac Library, Anchorage	?
U.S. Courts Library	?

All Versions of a Bill

Using Versions of a Bill for Legislative History Research

Check all versions of a bill to see if the section you are interested in was included in the first version or added or amended later by a committee substitute or floor amendment. This could narrow down your search and save you time and effort.

Sometimes a section added in a later version may have been taken from a different bill on the same subject that year. You may want to then research the bill the section came from since much of the committee discussion of the topic may be on that other bill. If the number of pages in a bill changes drastically from one version to the next, look for another bill that merged into it.

Bill Notations

- Use of brackets "[]" started in 1983 to show proposed deletions. The one exception is 1991-92 when instead of bracketing, deleted material was CAPITALIZED following the added material.
- Use of underlining "____" started in 1993 to show proposed additions to current law.

These markings make it easy to see what the proposed changes of each bill version are.

- Bills on the Infobases have underlining and brackets 1993+.
- Bills on BASIS, both text and PDF format, include underline and bracket notations, as well as page and line numbers. This can be helpful since committee hearings and floor sessions refer to changes in bills by bill version, page and line number. (Note: PDF versions are only available for bills 1995+.)

Online Availability

• Infobases: 1983 – 2020 Measures - Text of Bills and Resolutions

Measures - Text of Bills and Resolutions

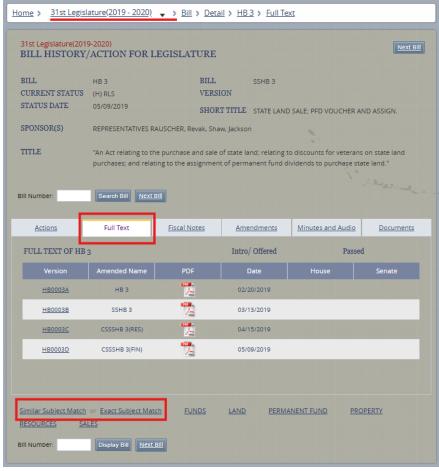


Example of HB 3 (2020) in Infobases Measures. This bill has four different versions.

(To check for bills on the same subject, search for the key words of the section or the AS citation. This will show what other bill(s) those key words or AS section were in.)

BASIS: 1993+

In BASIS, versions of a bill can be found under the "Full Text" tab on a bill's Bill History/Action page. There you can access both text and PDF formats of each version. PDFs are only available for bills 1995+.



Example of HB 3 (2020) in BASIS. This bill has four different versions.

(To check for bills on the same subject, use the "Similar Subject Match" or "Exact Subject Match" links at the bottom of the Bill History/Action page, or use the <u>Subject List</u>.)

Bill Versions Print Availability

Alaska Legislative Library	1953+
Anchorage Law Library	1953-04 (Microfilm)
Fairbanks Law Library	1953-04 (Microfilm)
Alaska State Library	1913-41 (incomplete), 1953+
Alaska State Archives	1913-41 (incomplete), 1953+
Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska,	
Fairbanks	1913-41 (incomplete), 1953-04
Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage	1913-41 (incomplete), 1953-04

Committee Minutes

Committee minutes are summaries of discussions and actions in a committee. They vary from extremely brief to almost word for word.

Using Committee Minutes for Legislative History Research

Check the committee minutes for discussion on the understood purpose of the bill or amendment. If you need to know exactly what was said in a meeting, you may request a copy of the committee tape. Transcripts (verbatim description of meetings) are seldom made.

Committee minutes are available from all committees, and in a consistent form only after the start of the legislative computer system in 1982. Minutes prior to 1982 often have additional materials such as meeting agendas, witness registers, and committee reports. All these additional materials, 1967- 1981, are included in the minute microfiche. Because minutes 1982+ are on the web (and therefore aren't microfiched) any attachments are only with the paper minutes in the Alaska State Archives. Finance Committee minutes 1982-96 often have materials presented at the meetings stapled to them, that are not in the committee bill files.

For the most part, committee minutes from 1982+ are available on the Legislative Library website. Some earlier minutes, however, are only available in paper copy at the Library. Also, Senate Finance Committee has many meetings 1997-99 for which no minutes were created or only incomplete minutes. See *Alaska Legislature Committee Tapes and Minutes Index, 1982-2004* [located in binders in Legislative Library stacks] for lists of meetings held, and whether there are minutes on the web, paper copies, transcripts, tape logs, or just tapes. Committee minutes can sometimes be found in the following unexpected places:

- House and Senate journals for 1960's and 1970's include a few committee minutes.
- Tape logs on the outside of tapes can be the only written record of a meeting.
- LLIB collection (catalog in Infobases) contains a few minutes and transcripts 1953+, sometimes as part of a legislative report.
- Special Committee files sometime contain committee or conference committee minutes or transcripts. Transcripts when available are either in the LLIB collection, in committee files (special committees mostly) or with the paper copy of the minutes. Any Finance Committee transcripts are with the Finance Committee minute binders.

Tip for searching for a specific bill within Committee Minutes:

- For earlier historic minutes, to find information on a specific bill, you may have to page through a committee's minutes between the dates the bill went into and out of committee. To find the dates you'll need, use the index in the back of the Journals (1959-1974) or the Bill History (1975+). The date a bill is "read the first time" is the date it goes into the first committee. The date that committee reports it back to the House or Senate (with recommendations such as "do pass", "do not pass" or replace with "committee substitute") is the day it goes into the next committee.
- To search Finance Committee minutes for 1980s, if the bill had a version with letters adjacent to the root bill number like <u>CSHB 1</u>, you will need to search for the root bill ("HB 1") <u>and</u> the other version ("CSHB 1") to get all the minutes.

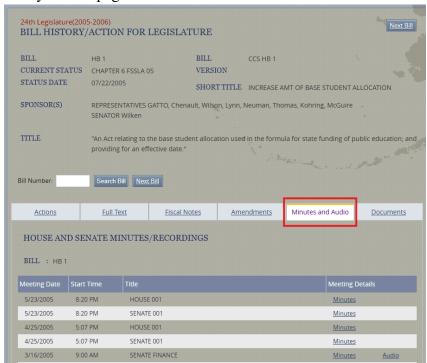
Committee Minutes Online Availability

• <u>Infobases</u>: 1982-2018 Committee Minute Text
Minutes are organized by year, committee, and date within the Committee Minute Text Infobase.

Committee Minute Text 31st (2019-2020) Legislature Committee Minutes 30th (2017-2018) Legislature Committee Minutes • 29th (2015-2016) Legislature Committee Minutes • 28th (2013-2014) Legislature Committee Minutes 27th (2011-2012) Legislature Committee Minutes 26th (2009-2010) Legislature Committee Minutes 25th (2007-2008) Legislature Committee Minutes 24th (2005-2006) Legislature Committee Minutes 23rd (2003-2004) Legislature Committee Minutes 22nd (2001-2002) Legislature Committee Minutes 21st (1999-2000) Legislature Committee Minutes 20th (1997-1998) Legislature Committee Minutes 19th (1995-1996) Legislature Committee Minutes 18th (1993-1994) Legislature Committee Minutes 17th (1991-1992) Legislature Committee Minutes 16th (1989-1990) Legislature Committee Minutes • 15th (1987-1988) Legislature Committee Minutes 1982, 13th and 14th (1982-1986) Legislature Committee Minutes

BASIS: 1993+

Minutes (and audio if available) can be found on BASIS under the "Minutes and Audio" tab on a specific bill's Bill History/Action page.



Example of HB 1 (2005) with Minutes and Audio tab view

Committee Minutes Print Availability

- The House and Senate Records offices hold the minutes of the current 2-year legislature in session.
- The Finance Committee holds the Finance minutes of the current 2-year legislature in session.
- The Legislative Library holds copies of the 1965+ Standing & Special Committee Minutes and 1967+ Finance Committee Minutes. Originals are held at the Alaska State Archives.

Committee Files

Standing Committee Files

Committee files contain material created by or collected by a committee during its deliberations. Most are on bills or resolutions referred to the committee, and contain bill drafts, amendments, fiscal notes², correspondence, sectional analyses, research material, and testimony. They may also contain files on issues discussed by the committee, such as executive orders, confirmation hearings, overviews of departments, and briefings.

Special Committees Files

Special committees (SCOMM) are legislative committees, commissions, or task forces set up for a limited time to accomplish a specific task: to study an issue and report on it by a certain time, or to be an additional committee of referral for bills on a specific topic, such as oil and gas or fisheries. Files of SCOMM are similar to those of standing committees (permanent committees) but may include research and meeting files. Included with the special committee files are a few collections of subject files, created by legislative committees, on topics of ongoing interest, such as workers' compensation and oil and gas. Special committee files or reports may also include conference committee materials.

Conference Committee Files

Prior to 1999, conference committees (CC) were seldom recorded in any form. The Conference Committee on the Budget is the exception, it was recorded and had minutes starting in the early '70s.

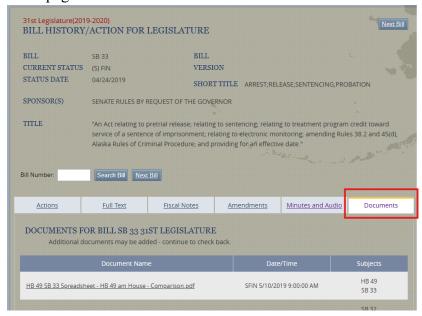
Using Committee Files for Legislative History Research

- Each collection of Committee Files has a list of files at the beginning. Use these lists to check you've found all the files on your bill or subject.
- Conference Committee Files 1965+ can be found within the various Minutes, Committee Files, and Tapes collections. If a bill was referred to a special committee, check the list of that special committee's (SCOMM) files. In regard to tapes from the 1970-1980's, some conference committee tapes can be found with the tapes of a committee in whose room the CC was held. Check which legislators are on the CC (in journal or bill history/journal index). Check their committee assignments (in first volume of journal for that year). If any chaired a committee (preferably one which had discussed the bill) then the CC may have been held in that committee's room. Check that committee's tapes between the dates the bill went into and out of CC and at the end of the committee's tapes for that year.

² Budget Reports, summaries of appropriations, and other financial historical resource documents can be found through the <u>Legislative</u> Finance Division Home Page.

Committee Files Online Availability

Committee Files are available on BASIS starting with the 26th Legislature (2009+) under the "Documents" tab on a bill's Bill History/Action page.



Example of a BASIS Bill History/Action page with Documents tab view

NOTE:

The Committee Bill File and the Document System are two different things. They are created from the same source, the committee aides put both repositories together, but they are stressed at different levels. The bill file is a physical document store that the aides are told to put everything that is given to any member into (and they can drop physical notes and files into the bill file), this is backed up by statute and committee aides are reminded of this. The document system is also created by the committee aides, but it is advised by policy which was strengthened this year (2025) by the policy adopted by legislative council in their first meeting this year. In the past, Committee Aides have been known to upload documents selectively due to political bias. Besides political manipulation, another type of document that can be missing from the online system would be information that the committee aide was intending to keep less public, like certain types of committee briefings. Usually, those types of briefings are not attached to a specific bill, but could at least in theory be part of the bill consideration.

The physical bill file should be treated as the official record. The bill file can sometime be more onerous to access as it is a physical file which is turned in every two years to the library and before that exists in the wild as part of the bill that physically travels from one committee to the next.

If documents seem to be missing from the online database, contact the Legislative Library.

Committee Files Print Availability

- The committee holds the files of the current 2-year legislature in session.
- The Legislative Library keeps PDF scans of 1965+ Committee Files and holds the original paper copies of more recent Files until they have been processed and digitized.
- The Alaska State Archives holds the original paper copies after they have been digitized.

Audio/Video Files

Using Audio/Video Files for Legislative History Research

Committee Meeting Audio

Audio of **committee meetings** is worth listening to if the minutes are not detailed enough, or if you need to know exactly what was said during a meeting. Reviewing minutes can help you figure out which tapes discuss the section or aspect of the bill you're interested in.

There may be audio available for committee meetings for which there are no committee minutes or bill files. This is true for 1969-82 when there was often a tape but no minutes (and the tape log written on the outside of a tape or tape jacket was the only written record of a meeting), but also for 1982-2004.

Digital audio recording by the legislature of all committee meetings started in 2005.

Live audio on the internet of all committee meetings started in 2002, as part of public television legislative coverage, *Gavel to Gavel*, and is archived online for 2002+. This is not the official recording of meetings (that is done by the legislature) and may be incomplete or contain material added by the commentators.

Floor Session Audio

Audio recordings of **floor sessions** are important when changes or debate have taken place on the floor of the House or Senate. The journals will indicate sessions where amendments were made or attempted and where debate was likely to have occurred.

The House and Senate started taping their floor sessions in 1975; no tapes are available prior to that year. 2010+ the legislature started digitally recording floor sessions.

Live audio on the internet of all floor sessions, *Gavel to Gavel*, started in 2002, and is archived online for 2002+. This is not the official recording of floor sessions (that is done by the legislature) and may be incomplete or contain material added by the commentators.

Video

The legislature funded television coverage of its sessions from 1977 to 1989. Coverage included important floor debate, committee meetings (including some conference committee meetings), and interviews with legislators. Video tapes of this coverage is held at the Alaska State Archives.

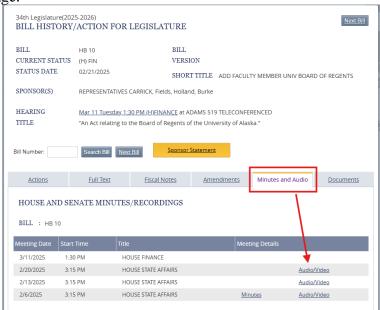
Public television coverage of the legislature, *Gavel to Gavel* started in 1996, video is archived online 2012+. The series is produced by KTOO Television and funded by a private corporation and the city of Juneau. Coverage includes floor sessions, committee hearings, press conferences and other legislative events.

In 2011 the legislature started streaming live video called AlaskaLegislature.tv. Links to archived video can be found in BASIS on Bill History/Action pages. Coverage includes floor sessions, committee hearings, and subcommittee hearings.

Audio Files Online Availability

- **1969-2009** audio files have been digitized and are available through the Legislative Library at https://www.akleg.gov/ftr/archives/. The files are organized by Year > Committee > then Date. Example: 1996 > HSTA (House State Affairs) > 01-HSTA-**960116**.mp3 (960116 = 1996 January 16th)
- BASIS 2005+

Audio recordings on BASIS can be found under the "Minutes and Audio" tab on a bill's Bill History/Action page.



Example of a BASIS Bill History/Action page with Minutes and Audio tab view

• KTOO Gavel to Gavel Archive 2002+

Legislative Library (LLIB) Collection

The LLIB collection includes reports written or contracted by the legislature, reports requested by the legislature from other state agencies (not annual reports), and transcripts of legislative meetings.

LLIB Collection Print Availability

1953+: Contact the Legislative Library (some of the legislative reports are also held at other Alaska libraries).

LLIB Collection Online Availability

1953+ LLIB Infobase

- Some catalog entries contain links to full text, word searchable, documents. As of 2013, all reports, 1953-present, are online.
- For help navigating Infobases, see the *Tips for Researching Alaska Legislative History Using Alaska State Legislature Web Site* guide.

Department of Law Bill Review Files

Bill review files are created for virtually all bills that have passed and are to be signed or vetoed by the governor. If a bill proposed by the Governor is passed, its bill drafting file (which is normally confidential) and bill review file are combined.

Using Audio/Video Files for Legislative History Research

Important bill reviews 1988+ have become *Department of Law Memoranda of Advice/Attorney General Informal Opinions*.

Print Availability

- Legislative Library: Attorney General Informal (1979-2005) & Formal (1959-2005) Opinions
- Contact the Department of Law (465-3600) for bill review files for the last 7 years.
- Contact the Alaska State Archives (465-2270) for earlier files.

Online Availability

- Dept. of Law <u>Bill Review Letters 1988+</u>
- Dept. of Law <u>Attorney General Opinions 1986+</u>

Office of Governor Files & Other Executive Branch Files

The Governor's Office has always requested introduction of certain bills, tracked them and lobbied for their passage.

State agencies, which are affected by a bill and consulted during the deliberations on the bill, sometimes keep legislative files or subject files. These files might include the agency's testimony or position papers and letters by citizens, groups, and federal agencies.

Using the Governor's and Other Executive Branch Files for Legislative History Research

The governor's legislative or subject files can be helpful for bills from earlier years for which little other information is to be found. Files available include those of Territorial Governors (1909-1958).

Some executive branch files date from the early 1900's. These are most helpful for earlier years when little else is available.

Availability

Contact the Alaska State Archives:

Record Group 26: Governor's legislative files, 1955-1987

This series consists of the early governors' legislative files. Majority contain correspondence to and from the governor and executive offices (legislative assistants, Secretary of State, etc.), House and Senate members, the Attorneys General and the general public. Records also consist of early proposed legislation, the Attorney General bill review and legislative transmittals.

After 1987, series changed to "Bill Files"

Legislators' Legislative Files

Several legislators have donated their legislative files to the Alaska State Archives. Other former legislators have donated their papers to the Archives of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, or to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The Alaska State Archives accepts only those files related to a legislator's public office, while the University of Alaska Archives accept all categories of a legislator's "papers".

Availability

- Alaska State Archives | Search the Alaska State Archives Online Catalog
- University of Alaska, Anchorage, Archives | Explore the Collections
- University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Archives

Newspapers

Newspaper accounts of interviews with legislators about a bill before the bill is passed may discuss the understood intent of the bill or the problem the bill was addressing and why.

Online Availability

Alaska's Digital Newspaper Program

Legislative Reporting Service and Alaska Reporting Service

Using The Reporting Services for Legislative History Research

Legislative Reporting Service

This commercial service (1959-1993) provides the *only index/subject access to bills from 1959-1974*. It also occasionally contained some additional information not provided in the journals.

Alaska Reporting Service

This weekly report (1959-1970) put out by the publisher of the *Legislative Reporting Service*, covers activities in all branches of state government. It sometimes contained detailed coverage of committee meetings when no other is available. There is no index. You need to page through the issues between the date the bill was introduced and the date it was passed into law.

Print Availability

Alaska Legislative Library 1959-1976, 1979-1993

Anchorage Law Library 5/4/81-7/27/93

Alaska State Library 1/27/60-7/27/93

Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 1960-1993

Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage 1960-1975

Directory of Institutions with Sources of Legislative History Information

Alaska Legislature

Alaska Legislative Library

Phone: (907) 465-3808

Email: legislative.library@akleg.gov

Legislative Information Offices

Legislative Information Office

Directory

(907) 463-4761

House Records

Senate Records

(907) 465-2870

Chief Clerk of the House

(907) 465-3725

Senate Secretary

(907) 465-3701

Alaska State Library & Archives

Alaska State Archives

Phone: (907) 465-2270

Email: archives@alaska.gov

Alaska State Library

Information Services Phone: (907) 465-2920

IS Email: asl@alaska.gov

Historical Phone: (907) 465-2925 Hist Email: asl.historical@alaska.gov

Alaska Law Libraries

Email: library@akcourts.gov

Anchorage Phone: (907) 264-0856 Fairbanks Phone: (907) 452-9241 Juneau Phone: (907) 463-4761

University of Alaska

UA Anchorage Alaska Pacific University

Consortium Library

Phone: (907) 786-1871

Email: https://ask.consortiumlibrary.org/ask

UA Fairbanks Elmer E. Rasmuson

Library

Phone: (907) 474-7481

Email:

AskRasmusonLibrary@uaf.libanswers.com