

OREGON LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Steps to finding Oregon legislative history. Each of the steps in the process yields a specific search result. All Internet links are available from the Boley Law Library's Oregon Legal Research page, <http://lawlib.lclark.edu/research/oregonlaw.php>.

STEP 1: **Find the Year and Chapter Number in the Oregon Revised Statutes.** The bracketed information at the end of each ORS section provides the *Oregon Laws* chapter numbers. In this example — 1987 is the year this section was enacted, and 1993 the year amended.

Example: 60.301 Requirement for and duties of board of directors. (1) Each corporation shall have a board of directors. (2) All corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the... [1987 c.52 s68; 1993 c.403 s4]

LOCATION:

Library: Oregon State Section (first aisle through doors)
Internet: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/>

STEP 2: **Find the Bill Number in Oregon Laws.** Using the ORS section above as an example, you would go to the 1987 volume of *Oregon Laws*. Next look for chapter 52. The house or senate bill number appears in the upper right corner of the legislation, in this case SB 303.

Example:	CHAPTER 52	
	AN ACT	SB 303
Relating to corporations; creating new provisions; repealing ORS 57.002, 57.004, 57.025, 57.030, 57.035, . . .		

LOCATION:

Library: Oregon State Section (first aisle through doors)
Internet: _____ *Oregon Laws* is available online from 2001. Prior to 2001, bill numbers can be found by searching the Index of Legislative Measures for 1995-. Then check the Measure History Table for that year (see step 4, below) to ensure that you have the correct bill. You can also search for bills by keyword. (Links to all available at <http://lawlib.lclark.edu/research/oregonlaw.php>)

STEP 3: **Check if a Legislative Tracing was produced by the State Archives.** Tracings show the committees; the dates and page numbers in the minutes that the bill was discussed; and listings of the exhibits and audio tapes, which constitute the verbatim record of discussion. **If one is available, you can skip directly to step 5.**

LOCATION:

Internet (1991-): links via <http://lawlib.lclark.edu/research/oregonlaw.php>
Oregon State Archives (all years): phone: 503-373-0701

STEP 4: **Find the House and Senate Committee to which the bill was referred and Dates of Action from the *Senate and House Journal*.** Using the bill number from step 2, the *Senate and House Calendar* in the *Journal* yields:

- A) Senate Committee name to which bill was referred.
- B) House Committee name to which bill was referred.
- C) Dates on which action of some sort occurred regarding your bill. Typically you will only find information from “work sessions” or “hearings.” A more accurate list of dates on which action occurred is found on the microfilm in a table called the **Measures and Status Index Form** at the beginning of each committee’s material.

LOCATION:

Library: Oregon State Section (first aisle through doors)
Internet (measure history tables):
1995- : links via <http://lawlib.lclark.edu/research/oregonlaw.php>

STEP 5: **Find the minutes and exhibits in the Oregon Legislative History Microfilm.** Using the bill number and both the senate and house committee names, go to the microfilm cabinet and get the boxes of microfilm. Microfilm is arranged by year, then by committee name. For most years the House and Senate Committees are separate, as are the minutes and exhibits.

- A) Senate Minutes (usually arranged by date of action)
- B) Senate Exhibits (usually arranged by bill number)
- C) House Minutes (usually arranged by date of action)
- D) House Exhibits (usually arranged by bill number)

Always look at the minutes tapes first since they include the **Measures and Status Index Form** and also give a list of exhibits pages.

LOCATION:

Library: Microfilm cabinet, 1947-1995
Internet: Minutes only, 1991-
Listen to the actual hearings by visiting the Oregon State Archives. For info and directions visit their website, <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/> You can also **listen to debate and hearings via the Internet**, 1999- , links via <http://lawlib.lclark.edu/research/oregonlaw.php>