

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY – A RESEARCH GUIDE

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WHY RESEARCH LEGISLATIVE HISTORY?

Researching legislative history is important in order to:

- Discern the intended purpose for enacting the law.
- Ascertain the original intent of the legislature.
- Decipher the intended meaning of a particular act, especially when language used in the statute is ambiguous, etc.

In order to accomplish these tasks, a researcher needs to examine various documents such as:

- Sponsor Bills
- Testimony of Experts
- Debates
- House and Senate Versions of the Bill
- Revised versions of bills, sometimes referred to as Conference Reports
- Executive Documents on the bill, etc.

As printed materials may not be readily available, you may be required to research online, such as www.Legis.state.pa.us and other online and telephone resources listed in this research guide.

- To obtain Pennsylvania House Bills call 717-787-5320
- To know a bills' status call 717-787-2342
- Senate Bill room 717-787-6732
- For Pennsylvania Legislative Reference Bureau call 717-787-4816
- Chief Clerk of the House 717-787-2372
- Chief Clerk of the Senate 717-787-6732

BASIC STEPS IN CONDUCTING LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

To begin your legislative research, you will need the following materials. You may use one or all of them in order to conduct meaningful research.

- 1.) Title or General Index of Purdon's Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes/
Purdons Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated.
- 2.) Laws of Pennsylvania
- 3.) History of House and Senate Bills
- 4.) Legislative Journal

► Finding Legislative History for "Pennsylvania License Plates"

The first step in performing legislative history research is to find the title and section number in Purdon's Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. There are four different methods that can be used to find this information. Each method is described in more detail below.

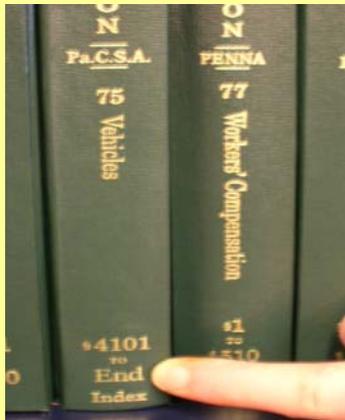
PURDON'S SEARCH METHODS

There are a number of different ways that you can search for statutes in Purdon's Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes Annotated or Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes. We will examine the title index method, the topical method, the general index method, and the popular name table method. Each search strategy is outlined below.

A. TITLE INDEX METHOD

The Title Index method is used when you are familiar with the subject area that you are researching, as in for example, "Title 75 Vehicles". The Title Index for Title 75 is found after the last section of the Title. The Spine reads, "§ 4101 to END INDEX". See the illustration below.

► Finding Legislative History for "Pennsylvania License Plates"



Title 75 of Purdon's Consolidated Statutes is "Vehicles". If you look at the last volume underneath this Title, it reads:

§ 4101 to END Index

MOTOR VEHICLES—Continued
 License fund—Continued
 Oil company franchise tax, deposits, 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 951
 License plates, 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 1331 et seq.

In the Title Index, look for "License Plates". The Index will then direct you to look under "*Motor Vehicles, this index*". This means that you will need to first look for the heading "Motor Vehicles", and then you can look for "License Plates" underneath this heading. When you finally find "license plates" you will find the title and section number to read as:

75 Pa.C.S.A § 1331 et seq.

B. TOPICAL METHOD

The Topical Method involves using the Title Page, found at the beginning of each volume, in order to quickly locate the chapters that are included in that particular Title. The Title Page contains a listing of the Title’s chapters, along with the chapter name and section number. Each section number is further broken down into Subchapters, which are organized by letters (A,B and C for example). The subchapters contain then contain section numbers, which are listed at the beginning of each subchapter.

► **Finding Legislative History for “Pennsylvania License Plates”**

If you go the Titles Page for the listing of chapters under Title 75 of the Motor Vehicle Code, you will see the following chapter relating to the Registration of Vehicles:

13. Registration of Vehicles1301

<p style="text-align: center;">SUBCHAPTER B. REGISTRATION PLATES</p> <p>Section 1331. Issuance of registration plates. 1332. Display of registration plate. 1333. Lost, stolen, damaged or illegible registration plate. 1334. Return of registration plate. 1335. Registration plates for manufacturers and dealers.</p>	<p>Once you find the section number you can quickly locate “Registration of Vehicles” as chapter 13. Once you find Chapter 13, you will notice that it is broken down into three subchapters- A, B and C. Subchapter B is Registration Plates. The subchapter is also broken down into sections.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">REGISTRATION PLATES 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 1331</p> <p>§ 1331. Issuance of registration plates</p> <p>(a) Department to provide plates.—Registration plates shall be provided by the department.</p> <p>(b) Information on plate.—Every registration plate shall have displayed upon it the identifying numbers or letters assigned to the vehicle, the name of the Commonwealth, which may be abbreviated, and any other data the department may deem necessary.</p>	<p>In Subchapter B, Section 1331 reads “Issuance of Registration Plates”. This is where you find the pertaining statutes.</p>

C. THE GENERAL INDEX METHOD

The General Index method is very similar to the Title Index method, except that you use the General Index volumes, which are separate volumes found at the end of the Purdon’s set. In order to find the appropriate Title and section number, begin your search by alphabetically browsing the indices for a key phrase or concept. Using the cross-references provided, you will eventually locate the applicable title and section number.

► **Finding Legislative History for “Pennsylvania License Plates”**

In the General Index, look for “License Plates”. The Index will then direct you to look under the cross reference “Motor Vehicles, this index”. This means that you will need to first look for the heading “Motor Vehicles”, and then you can look for “License Plates” underneath this heading. When you finally find “license plates” you will find the title and section number to be **75 Pa.C.S.A § 1331 et seq.**

D. POPULAR NAME TABLE METHOD

The Popular Name Table method is most commonly used when you know the exact act name (i.e. Lemon Law) as it was enacted into law. The Popular Name Table can be found at the end of the second volume of the General Index. The Acts are arranged alphabetically.

► Finding Legislative History for “Pennsylvania License Plates”

Since “License Plates” is not the name of an act, it is not listed in the popular name table. However, the term “Motor Vehicles” is listed. If you went to title 75 as listed in the Table, you could use the same techniques as those used in the General Index Method in order to find the exact section number.

FINDING THE SOURCES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Once you find the appropriate title and section number in Purdon’s Pennsylvania Statutes, you will have all the information that you need in order to trace the law back to its original bill. In order to do this, you must examine the Acts information found in Purdon’s. (See example below).

► Finding Legislative History for “Pennsylvania License Plates”

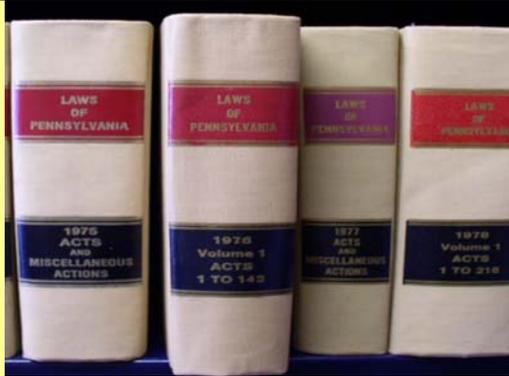
At the end of Title 75, section 1331 “Issuance of registration plates,” you will see **1976, June 17, P.L. 162, No.81 § 1, eff. July 1, 1977.**

The information is broken down for you below.

- ❖ **1976** is the year the bill was enacted into law.
- ❖ **June 7** is the date the bill was signed into law.
- ❖ **P.L. 162** is the page in the Laws of Pennsylvania where the act appears. The “P.L.” is not the public law number as some people mistakenly assume. It stands for Pamphlet Law which is similar to page number. This was how the Laws of Pennsylvania were customarily referred.
- ❖ **81** is the 81st act that became law in 1976
- ❖ **§ 1** is the section in the whole act of 81
- ❖ **July 1, 1977** is the effective date for the law to be enforced.

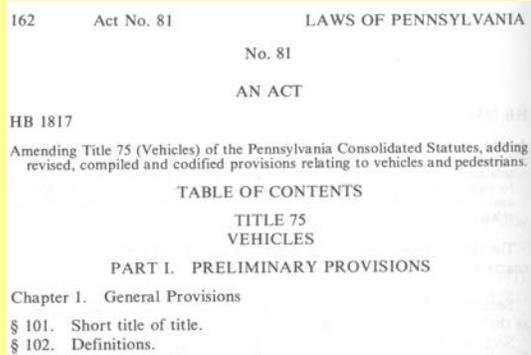
Now that we have located the source (Laws of Pennsylvania), the year, and the page number of the Act that we are researching, we must next find the bill number that eventually became the Act. This process involves locating the pamphlet law number (or page number) in the Laws of Pennsylvania, locating the Bill number and Act number, checking the chronological listing of events in the History of the House or Senate Bills and finding the deliberations on the bill as listed in the Legislative Journal. For acts dated before 1965, there is a chart or table that lists act numbers and their corresponding bill numbers, printer’s numbers and date of approval. Let’s examine this process using our example, “**Pennsylvania License Plates**”

► Finding Legislative History for “Pennsylvania License Plates”

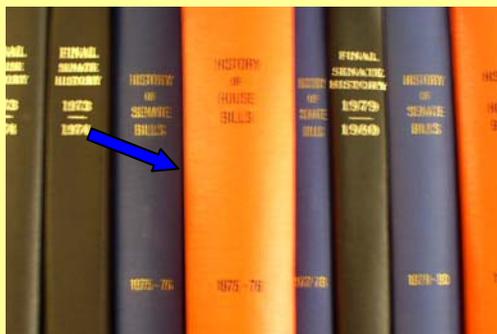


Go to page number (pamphlet number) 162 in the Laws of Pennsylvania for 1976.

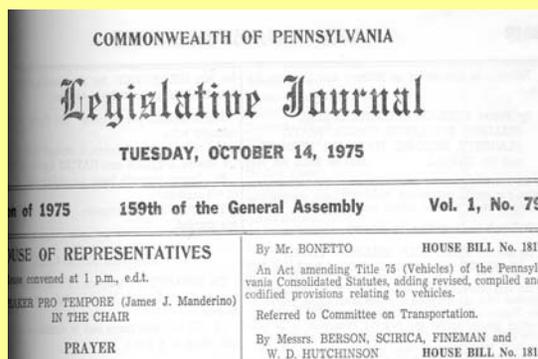
DO NOT CONFUSE THE PAGE NUMBER WITH THE ACT NUMBER.



On the top right hand corner, you will find **HB 1817**. This is the House Bill number 1817 that was introduced in the 1976 legislative session and later became act number 81.



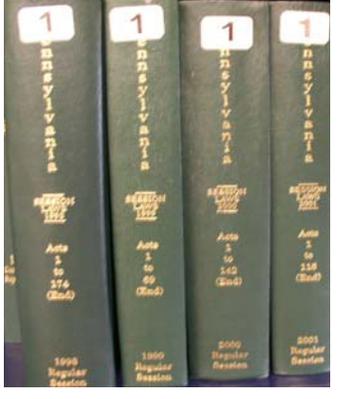
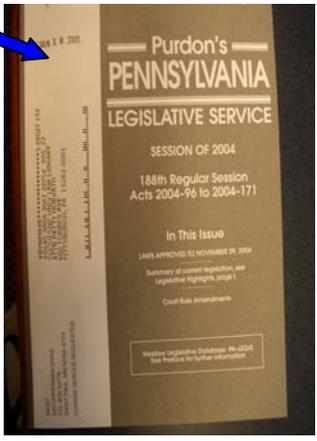
Now, go to the “History of the House Bills” for 1976 (shown below). You will see the chronological listing of events such as referral to committees and considerations on the bill.



The last step is to go the House Journal for 1976 and follow the dates listed on the history of House Bills above and see the deliberations on Bill NO. 1817.

NOTE: From reading the history of the bill, we learned that the bill was referred to the Transportation Committee on Oct 12, 1975. This is, however, reported in the Journal on October 14, 1975.

OTHER SOURCES TO FIND LAWS ENACTED IN PA

	<p>Pennsylvania Session Laws</p> <p>Beginning in 1997, the <u>Purdon's Pennsylvania Legislative Service</u> was bound into the Pennsylvania Session Laws. This publication is important for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It serves as a second source to find laws enacted in Pennsylvania since 1997. ❖ It provides the act as well as the bill number. ❖ Amendments and deletions to existing laws as designated by underling and strikeouts. ❖ It illustrates new law without legislative markings.
	<p>Purdon's PA Legislative Service</p> <p>Through a series of pamphlets issued during the current session of the General Assembly, this publication provides :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Amendments and deletions to existing laws as designated by underlining and strikeouts. ❖ Enactment of new laws chronologically. ❖ Separate page explaining the general effective dates of the laws and its exceptions and an alphabetical listing of Acts in that individual pamphlet. ❖ Cumulative tables showing Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes and Purdon's Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes affected by acts contained in this service. ❖ Cumulative table showing Senate and House Bill numbers of laws enacted, together with their designated Act Numbers in Purdon's Pennsylvania Legislative Service. ❖ Cumulative table listing court rules additions, amendments or deletions contained in the Service and a Cumulative descriptive word index.

VI. USE OF THE ANNOTATED VERSION OF PURDON'S

The annotated version of Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes are helpful as a supplement to the legislative history research for the following reasons.

- Provide case law at the end of the section of the statute interpreting that section of the statute by courts. This may lend itself to actually defining what the law is.
- Provides law review articles written on that section, thus providing the meaning and purpose of the statute
- Provides sources for encyclopedias, thus further reading into the law
- Provides ALR Annotations that provide write ups on a particular act and providing additional secondary materials
- Gives West digest topic and key number as well as Westlaw key number

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY, STATUTORY, ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RESEARCH

ONLINE SOURCES

A. WESTLAW

I. [PA-LH](#) : This multi database contains documents setting out the legislative history of laws passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Documents include Bill histories and Senate journals from the 183rd General Assembly (1999) through the 187th General Assembly (2003). It combines the PA-LH-Rep, PA-LH-JRNLS, and PA-LH-MSG. It provides

1. Journals and bill histories from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania Senate.
2. Messages from the Governor of Pennsylvania.
3. House journals from October 20, 2003 through December 8, 2003. Governor's messages from 2003.

SEARCHING

1. USE OF FIND

- a. **PA B. Hist in the find template then type 2003 Reg. Sess. In the template , H.B. 200** to obtain the chronological history for House Bill 200 from the 2003 Regular Session. Or
- b. In the find template type Pa. B. Hist., 2003 Reg. Sess., H.B. 200
- c. 3. Type **PA B. Hist. in the find template and then type 2002 Reg. Sess., S.B. 893** in the template to obtain the chronological history for Senate Bill 893 from the 2002 regular session or
- d. Type Pa.H. 2002 reg. sess., s,b. 2002 in the find template
- e. Type **PA H.R. Jour. In the find template and then type 2003 Reg. Sess. No. 99** in the template to obtain the House Journal from the ninety-ninth legislative day of the 2003 Regular Session.
- f. Type **PA S. Jour in the find template and then type 1999 Reg. Sess. No. 50** in the template to obtain the Senate Journal from the fiftieth legislative day of the 1999 Regular Session.
- g. Type **PA Gov. Mess. In the find template and then type , 9/30/2003 in the template** to obtain the September 30, 2003 message from the Governor of Pennsylvania.

2. Using terms and connectors and natural language
3. Use fields TI, SO, TE, YE

NOTE: Field search helps to narrow down your research, particularly when you are researching a part of a statute. Not all fields are applicable to all the databases. Look for the specific fields for each database. Here is a listing of all fields that are searchable on Westlaw.

CI	CITATION	Reference for citing a specific document (e.g., a bill number).
PR	PRELIM	Version of the bill (e.g., "enacted"), Public Act Number (if enacted) and other preliminary information.
AU	AUTHOR	Author(s) or sponsor(s) of the bill.
RE	REFERENCES	Where available, citations to "companion" bills. Note: "Companion" bills are listed in the CITATION field of full text documents.
SU	SUMMARY	Summary information about the bill. Note: The SUMMARY field contains a chronological history of the actions that have been taken on the bill to date.
TI	TITLE	Title of document, if any.
YE	YEAR	All dates.
ST	STATE	Full name or postal abbreviation of the state of origin. (This field is searchable but not displayed).
CA	CAPTION	Section number, followed by terms that generally describe the statute contents
TE	TEXT	Text of the section
WP	WORDS AND PHRASES	Legal terms and phrases defined within statutory text
SD	SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENT	That portion of a statute composed of the citation, prelim, caption, text and credit fields
CR	CREDIT	Statutory credits
HN	HISTORICAL NOTES	Historical notes o the statute, including legislative and amendment notes
RE	REEFERENCES	References following the section, eg., cross references and law review commentaries in annotated statutes.

IDENTIFYING FIELDS IN STATUTORY DOCUMENTS

	CA FAM § 501
Citation	West's Ann. Cal. Fam. Code § 501
Prelim	WEST'S ANNOTATED CALIFORNIA CODES FAMILY CODE DIVISION 3. MARRIAGE PART 4. CONFIDENTIAL MARRIAGE CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS Copr. © West Group 2000. All rights reserved. Current through 1999 portion of 1999-2000 Reg. Sess. and 1st Ex. Sess.
Caption	§ 501. Issuance of license
Text	Except as provided in Section 502, a confidential marriage license shall be issued by the county clerk upon the personal appearance of the parties to be married and their payment of the fees required by Sections 26840.1 and 26840.8 of the Government Code and any fee imposed pursuant to the authorization of Section 26840.3 of the Government Code.
Credit	CREDIT(S) 1994 Main Volume [Stats. 1992, c. 162 (A.B. 2650), § 10, operative Jan. 1, 1994.] <General Materials (GM) - References, Annotations, or Tables>
Historical Notes	LAW REVISION COMMISSION COMMENT 1994 Main Volume Enactment [Revised Comment] Section 501 continues the second sentence of former Civil Code Section 4213(a) without substantive change. [23 Cal. L. Rev. Comm. Reports 1 (1993)] HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES 1994 Main Volume Derivation: Civ.C. former § 79, added by Code Am. 1877-78, c. 51, § 1. C.v.C. former § 4213, added by Stats. 1969, c. 1608, § 8, amended by Stats. 1971, c. 1244, § 1; Stats. 1973, c. 142, § 11; Stats. 1977, c. 585, § 1; Stats. 1980, c. 676, § 59; Stats. 1981, c. 872, § 1; Stats. 1982, c. 125, § 1; Stats. 1982, c. 449, § 1; Stats. 1983, c. 476, § 1; Stats. 1984, c. 149, § 1; Stats. 1985, c. 586, § 2; Stats. 1986, c. 1460, § 3; Stats. 1992, c. 318, § 9.
References	CROSS REFERENCES Certificate of registry, preparation and filing, see <u>Family Code § 359</u> . License, Necessity, see <u>Family Code §§ 300, 350</u> . Offense of solemnization of marriage without license or authorization, see <u>Penal Code § 360</u> . Return of license to county recorder, see <u>Family Code § 423</u> . Solemnization requirements, see <u>Family Code § 420 et seq.</u>
Annotations	NOTES OF DECISIONS In general 1 1. In general Marriage license must be obtained by parties except in special situations dealt with by statute and there must be a solemnization. <u>Argonaut Ins. Co. v. Industrial Acc. Commission</u> (App. 5 Dist. 1962) 23 Cal. Rptr. 1, 204 Cal. App. 2d 805.

- II. [PA-LH-JRNLS](#) This database contains full text of Senate journals from the 183rd General Assembly (1999) through the 187th General Assembly (2003), House journals from October 20, 2003 through December 8, 2003. It also contains documents setting out the legislative history of laws passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Documents include full text journals from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania Senate.

SEARCHING

1. USE OF FIND

- a. To view find citation format templates, type **PA LH JRNLS** in the Find template **type 2003 Reg. Sess. No. 99** in the template to obtain the House Journal from the ninety-ninth legislative day of the 2003 Regular Session.
- b. Type **PA S. Jour in the find template and then type 1999 Reg. Sess. No. 50** to obtain the Senate Journal from the fiftieth legislative day of the 1999 Regular Session.

2. Searching the Fields:

- a. In this database you may choose the Terms and Connectors search method or the Natural Language search method.
- b. Use a date restriction in your query to retrieve documents issued on a specific date or during a specific range of dates, e.g., da(aft mm/dd/yyyy & bef mm/dd/yyyy).
- c. Fields used in this database are CI, TE, SO, TE, YE,

- III. [PA-LH-MSG](#) Contains messages from the Governor of Pennsylvania related to laws passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly from 2003 legislative year.

SEARCHING

1. USE OF FIND

- a. Use **PA Gov. Mess., 9/30/2003** to obtain the September 30, 2003 message from the Governor of Pennsylvania.
- b. In this database you may choose the Terms and Connectors search method or the Natural Language search method.
- c. NOTE: When searching in [PA-LH-MSG](#), results in this database are ranked in reverse chronological order.

2. Fields used are CI, TI, SO, TE, YE

- IV. [PA-LH-REP](#) Pennsylvania Legislative History Reports contain legislative history documents related to laws passed by the 183rd Pennsylvania General Assembly (1999) through the 187th General Assembly (2003).

Searching

1. USE OF FIND

- a. To view find citation format templates, type **PA LH REP** in the Find Window.
- b. Use **PA B. Hist., 2003 Reg. Sess., H.B. 200** to obtain the chronological history for House Bill 200 from the 2003 Regular Session.
- c. Use **PA B. Hist., 2002 Reg. Sess., S.B. 893** to obtain the chronological history for Senate Bill 893 from the 2002 Regular Session.

2. You may choose the Terms and Connectors search method or the Natural Language search method.

NOTE. When searching in PA-LH-REP results in this database are ranked by document type in this order: House bill histories; and Senate bill histories.

3. Fields used are CI, TI, SO,

OTHER SOURCES

- I. [PA-ST-ANN](#) – database contains the Pennsylvania statutes, Constitution, and state and local court rules for Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia, Central and Western Region court rules

SEARCHING

1. USE OF FIND

- a. In this database you may choose the Terms and Connectors or the Natural Language search method.

2. The abbreviations for the **fields** in this database are: CI, PR, CA, TE, CR, WP, SD, HN, RE, and AN

- II: [PA-LEGIS](#): Pennsylvania Legislative Service contains Acts and resolutions passed by the current Pennsylvania General Assembly. Includes Acts 2004-1 to last bill enacted at the time of your research during the Regular Session.

SEARCHING

1. USE OF FIND

- a. To view a document with a known citation, access Find a Document and type the citation.
- b. Type **pa st 40 ps s 484** in the find template to get 40 P.S. s 484
- c. Type **pa const art 7 2** for Const. Art.7, section 2
- d. Type **pa rcp rule 51** for Civil Procedure Rule 51.
- e. To view find citation format templates, type **find** followed by the document abbreviation and press **ENTER** pa st, pa, const, pa rules
- f To retrieve a document by an act or bill number, type **pa** followed by the document abbreviation and number, and press **ENTER**.

e.g. **pa act 1998-24** will retrieve 1998 Pa. Legis. Serv. Act 1998-24 (H.B.595) (Purdon's).

2. To retrieve slip copy documents, include a citation field term in your query, or use the phrase "slip copy" alone or with other search terms. e.g. Use **ci("slip copy") & "your search terms"** .
3. To restrict a search to amendments to a specific statute in editorially enhanced documents, include a citation field term in your query. e.g. Use **ci(30 +5 305)** to retrieve documents amending 30 Pa.C.S.A.§ 305.

- III. [PA-LEGIS-OLD](#) . Database contains documents passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly from 1988 through 2003 regular one year before the current year. (1988-2003)

SEARCHING

1. USE FIELDS

- a. To view a document with a known citation, use a citation field search. Use **ci(legis +5 1995-1)** for 1995 Pa. Legis. Serv. Act. 1995-1 (H.B. 3).

Use **ci("h.b. 3" & 1995)** for 1995 House Bill No. 3.
- b. To restrict a search to proposed constitutional amendments, use **ca("constitutional amendment")**

- c. To restrict a search to amendments to a specific statute in editorially enhanced legislative service documents, include a citation field term in your query. Use **ci(40 +5 23)** to retrieve documents amending 40 P.S. s 23.

IV. [PA-BILLS](#) Pennsylvania Bill Tracking - This is a multibase which combines PA-BILLTRK with PA-BILLTXT. PA-BILLS contains summary bill tracking materials (summary of bill and status information) for Pennsylvania, as well as the full text of all available bills (introduced, amended and enacted versions) from Pennsylvania. document is a bill summary (tracking document) or full text bill. This database also contains a legislative session status calendar providing the latest information about session status, adjournment dates and action deadlines for all states. Coverage includes all available bills from current legislative sessions. This database is updated daily.

SEARCHING

1. USE OF FIND

- a. to view a bill with a known citation, type **find** followed by the citation and "SN" and press ENTER. Use **pa h.b. XXXX sn** to find Pennsylvania House Bill No. XXXX from the most recent legislative session.
- 2. To view the legislative session status calendar, use the citation field search **ci(calendar)**.
- b. To retrieve legislation sponsored by a specific legislator, search for his or her name in the AUTHOR field; e.g., **au(Krebs)**
- 3. The WestClip service on Westlaw allows you to monitor news and legal developments. Your results are delivered to the destination you specify.
- 4. NOTE: Search results in this database are ranked in reverse chronological order.
- 5. For full text documents, additions are indicated by <<+ Text +>>, deletions by <<- Text ->>, and any vetoed provisions by <<V Text V>>. action deadlines for all states. Coverage includes all available bills from current (and recently-ended) legislative sessions. All regular and special legislative sessions are included. This database is updated daily.

SEARCHING

1. USE OF FIND

- a. To view a bill with a known citation, type **find** followed by the citation and "SN" and press ENTER. Use **ma h.b. XXXX sn** to find Massachusetts House Bill No. XXXX from the most recent legislative session.

2. To view the legislative session status calendar, use the citation field search **ci(calendar)** .
 - b. Use **ci(ballot)** & other relevant search terms to restrict your search to ballot measures.
 - c. To retrieve legislation sponsored by a specific legislator, search for his or her name in the AUTHOR field; e.g., **au(jones)**.
 - d. The WestClip service on Westlaw allows you to monitor news and legal developments. Your results are delivered to the destination you specify:
 - e. NOTE: Search results in this database are ranked alphabetically by state. and then in reverse chronological order within each state.
- V. The [PA-BILLTXT](#) database contains the full text of all available bills (introduced, amended and enacted versions) from the current session of the Pennsylvania legislature. A document is a bill, resolution, or other legislative initiative. This database also contains a legislative session status calendar providing the latest information about session status, adjournment dates and action deadlines for all states. Coverage includes all available bills from current (and recently-ended) legislative sessions. Coverage includes all regular and special legislative sessions and all available amended versions of a given bill. This database is updated daily.

SEARCHING

1. USE OF FIND

- a. To view a bill with a known citation, type **find** followed by the citation and "SN" and press ENTER.
 - b. Use **pa h.b. XXXX sn** to find Pennsylvania House Bill No. XXXX from the most recent legislative session.
 - c. To view a bill with a known citation, type **find** followed by the citation and "SN" and press ENTER. Use **ma h.b. XXXX sn** to find Massachusetts House Bill No. XXXX from the most recent legislative session.
2. To view the legislative session status calendar, use the citation field search **ci(calendar)**.
 - b. Use **ci(ballot)** & other relevant search terms to restrict your search to ballot measures.
 - c. To retrieve legislation sponsored by a specific legislator, search for his or her name in the AUTHOR field; e.g., **au(jones)**.

3. The WestClip service on Westlaw allows you to monitor news and legal developments. Your results are delivered to the destination you specify:
4. Additions are indicated by <<+ Text +>>, deletions by <<- Text ->>, and any vetoed provisions by <<V Text V>>.
5. Search results in this database are ranked alphabetically by state and then in reverse chronological order within each state.

VI. [PA-BILLTXT-OLD](#) database contains full-text bills from past legislative sessions (regular and special). Bills are included whether or not they were passed into law. A document is a full text bill. Documents are removed from the PA-BILLTXT database and placed in PA-BILLTXT-OLD after a particular legislative session has been finalized. Coverage begins with 1991.

SEARCHING

1. Terms and Connectors search method or the Natural Language search method. With a Terms and Connectors search, you enter a query, which consists of key terms from your issue and connectors specifying the relationship between those terms. With Natural Language, you can retrieve documents by simply describing your issue in plain English.
2. Committee bills are identified by the word "drafted," which can be searched for in the PRELIM field; e.g., **pr**(drafted) & other relevant search terms.
 - b. To retrieve legislation sponsored by a specific legislator, search for his or her name in the AUTHOR field; e.g., **au**(Stripp).
 - c. Use a date restriction in your query to retrieve documents issued on a specific date or during a specific range of dates, e.g., **da**(aft mm/dd/yyyy & bef mm/dd/yyyy).
3. Search results in this database are ranked in reverse chronological order.
4. For full text documents, additions are indicated by <<+ Text +>>, deletions by <<- Text ->>, and any vetoed provisions by <<V Text V>>.

B. LEXIS

A. PENNSYLVANIA STATUTES

I. PA Bill Tracking and Full-Text Bills: PABILL

Group file containing Pennsylvania bill tracking and bill text from the current session.

II. PA Full-Text Bills: PATEXT: The PATEXT file contains the full text of bills pending in the Pennsylvania state legislature. **COVERAGE:** Full text of bills pending in the current legislative session.

A> <A - Enclosed within the brackets is language added to existing statutory law. The text is UPPERCASE.

D> <D – Enclosed within the brackets is language deleted from existing statutory law.

III. PA Bill Tracking Reports: PATRCK: The PATRCK : contains a summary and legislative chronology of all pending Pennsylvania legislation in the current legislative session. Changes made to bills during the legislative process are not reflected in the SYNOPSIS section of the bill tracking report. Consequently, the full text of the bill should be consulted and reviewed for any changes to the language of the bill.

SEARCHING

a. CITE(h.r. 1 or s. 2 or h.j.r. 1) for billtype and number

b. DATE = 1994 group segment of DATE-INTRO and LAST-ACTION

c. DATE_INTRO = 1/11/94

d. HEADING(house bill 2)

e. LAST-ACTION = 5-3-94 for last date action was taken on a bill or resolution

f. SPONSOR(JOHNSON) for original sponsor of a bill

IV. CODE-All Titles are current through Act 36 of the 2004 Legislative Session. This file contains the statutory code from the Pennsylvania Statutes. The Pennsylvania Statutes include all laws of a general and permanent nature, as enacted by the Pennsylvania Legislature. It is updated regularly

SEARCHING

a. Segments used in this database are
CITE(40 AND 776.3),

- b. HEADING (contains the number and name of the title, chapter, article, part, division under which the document has been codified,
- c. heading(tax AND property)
- d. section(minimum, standards and benefits) contains the section number and caption of the document
- e. text(nonprofit health services) contains the full text of the document
- b. You may use terms and connectors and natural language

VII. **PAALS**: The Pennsylvania Advance Legislative Service (ALS) contains the full text of all laws enacted during a legislative session. **COVERAGE**: 1989-2003 Sessions Complete: 2004 Act No. 95, approved on July 20, 2004.

SEARCHING

- a. See the different segments used for this database

XI. LEGISLATIVE ARCHIVE

 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes Archive from 1991		 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 1997
 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 2003		 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 1996
 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 2002		 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 1995
 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 2001		 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 1994
 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 2000		 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 1993
 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 1999		 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 1992
 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 1998		 PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 1991

1. **PA ARCHIVE FROM 2003** PA - Pennsylvania Statutes, 2003. This is current through the 2003 legislative session.

2. SEARCHING

- a. Fields used: CITE, HEADING, HISTORY, NOTES, etc.

3. IMPORTANT PENNSYLVANIA WEB SITES FOR LEGISLATIVE MATERIALS

1. Go to the Pennsylvania Legislature Website, at www.legis.state.pa.us
2. Under Law Information, there is a link to Legislation Enacted Since 1975. Click on that link.

Visitor Information	Law Information
Virtual Tour of the Capitol	Session Laws
Driving Directions	Rules and Regulations (PA Code)
Capitol Tour Information	PA Bulletin
	Legislation Enacted Since 1975

3. You will then find a table of the different parts of the published volumes of the [Laws of Pennsylvania](#), the official version of the chronological laws passed by the General Assembly.

Legislation Enacted

[Acts on general legislation approved](#)
[Appropriation acts approved](#)
[Bills that have been vetoed](#)
[Joint Resolutions \(amendments to the Constitution\) passed](#)
[Supplemental assistance plans adopted](#)
[Reorganization plans adopted](#)
[Court rules reports adopted](#)

4. Click on Acts on general legislation approved in order to get a chronological breakdown of the laws from 1975 to 2004.

Section 1.01 Acts On General Legislation Approved

Select A Year:

2000'S:

[2004](#) [2003](#) [2002](#) [2001](#) [2000](#)

1900'S:

[1999](#) [1998](#) [1997](#) [1996](#) [1996/2](#) [1995](#) [1995/1](#) [1994](#) [1993](#) [1992](#)
[1991](#) [1990](#) [1989](#) [1988](#) [1987](#) [1986](#) [1985](#) [1984](#) [1983](#) [1982](#)
[1981](#) [1980](#) [1979](#) [1978](#) [1977](#) [1976](#) [1975](#)

5. Click on the particular year you are looking for, e.g., act 26 of 1980

Section 1.02 General Acts Enacted During 1980 Session

ACT DATE BILL SUBJECT

- 1 Jan 10 [SB 525](#) Human Relations Act - unlawful discriminatory practices (effective 60 DAYS)
- 2 Feb 8 [HB 173](#) Public School Code - eligibility for school director, etc. (effective immediately)
- 3 Feb 8 [SB 735](#) Second Class County Code - grants to nonprofit art corporations (effective 60 DAYS)
- 4 Feb 8 [SB 857](#) Second and second A class cities - grants to nonprofit art corporations (effective 60 DAYS)
- 5 Feb 13 [HB1544](#) 1979-1980 Capital Budget - public improvement projects (effective immediately)
- 6 Feb 14 [SB 137](#) Conveyance - Commonwealth property in Lackawanna County (effective immediately)
- 7 Feb 15 [HB 367](#) Game Law - bond for deputy protectors (effective immediately)
- 8 Feb 15 [SB1005](#) Vehicle Code (75 Pa.C.S.) - registration, equipment, costs, etc. (effective IMMEDIATELY WITH EXCEPTIONS)
- 9 Feb 19 [SB 507](#) Real Estate Licensing Act - enactment (effective IMMEDIATELY WITH EXCEPTION)
- 10 Feb 22 [SB 790](#) Right-of-way - Commonwealth property in Centre County (effective immediately)
- 11 Feb 22 [HB2045](#) 1979-1980 Capital Budget - public improvement project (effective immediately)
- 12 Feb 29 [HB1850](#) Judicial Code (42 Pa.C.S.) - juvenile delinquents and dependents (effective 60 DAYS)
- 13 Feb 29 [HB 339](#) Veterans Memorial Commission - creation, powers, and duties (effective immediately)
- 14 Feb 29 [SB 702](#) Feature Motion Picture Fair Business Practices Law - enactment (effective 60 DAYS)
- 15 Mar 24 [HB 725](#) Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act - omnibus amendments (effective immediately)
- 16 Mar 24 [HB1385](#) Borough Code - State association delegate expenses (effective immediately)
- 17 Mar 24 [HB1384](#) First Class Township Code - State association delegate expenses (effective immediately)
- 18 Mar 24 [HB1843](#) Stony Creek Wild and Scenic River Act - enactment (effective immediately)
- 19 Mar 27 [HB 268](#) Skiing Responsibility Act - enactment (effective immediately)
- 20 Mar 27 [HB1256](#) Fuel taxes proceeds - use by municipalities (effective 60 DAYS)
- 21 Mar 27 [HB1512](#) Second Class County Code - employe retirement system eligibility (effective JAN. 1, 1980)
- 22 Mar 27 [SB 274](#) Public Official Compensation Law - compensation of House minority leader (effective DEC. 1, 1980)
- 23 Mar 27 [SB 815](#) Third Class City Code - police hours of service (effective immediately)
- 24 Mar 27 [SB 915](#) Tax Reform Code - gross receipts tax credit for railroad expenditures (effective immediately)

- 25 Apr 1 [HB 55](#) Judicial Code - (42 Pa.C.S.) - impaneling jury from another county (effective immediately)
 26 Mar 2 [HB 640](#) Divorce Code - enactment (effective 90 DAYS)

6. Click on the House bill or Senate bill number in order to bring up the bill and its history; click on HB 640.

(a) Bill Information
Regular Session 1979-80
House Bill 640

Bill History

Current PN: 3045 [Text](#) [As Printed \(PDF\)](#)
 Prior PN: 3043 [Text](#) [As Printed \(PDF\)](#)
 Prior PN: 2891 [Text](#) [As Printed \(PDF\)](#)
 Prior PN: 2290 [Text](#) [As Printed \(PDF\)](#)
 Prior PN: 2225 [Text](#) [As Printed \(PDF\)](#)
 Prior PN: 1571 [Text](#) [As Printed \(PDF\)](#)
 Prior PN: 692 [Text](#) [As Printed \(PDF\)](#)

[How to Read a Bill](#) [About PDF Documents](#)

7. The information provided shows that the bill went through seven versions before it became enacted into law as the current pn [printer's number] 3045. Click on the text or As Printed (PDF) to see the text of the bill.

7A. The Text version will run the pages together.

SENATE AMENDED
 PRIOR PRINTER'S NOS. 692, 1571, 2225, 2290, 2891, 3043
 PRINTER'S NO. 3045

(i) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Article II. HOUSE BILL

No. 640 Session of 1979

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. SCIRICA, BERSON, SPENCER, RHODES,
 MOEHLMANN, NOYE, WILLIAMS, HOFFEL, KNEPPER, MRS. M. H.
 GEORGE, MRS. HARPER, MESSRS. COHEN, WEIDNER, WAGNER, WHITE,
 LEVIN, LASHINGER, EARLEY, WACHOB, RICHARDSON, KUKOVICH
 AND CHESS, MARCH 12, 1979

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, MARCH 11, 1980

AN ACT

- 1 Consolidating, revising and amending the divorce and annulment
- 2 laws of the Commonwealth and making certain repeals.

3	TABLE OF CONTENTS
4	Chapter 1. Preliminary Provisions
5	Section 101. Short title.
6	Section 102. Legislative findings and intent.
7	Section 103. Construction.
8	Section 104. Definitions.
9	Chapter 2. Dissolution of Marital Status
10	Section 201. Grounds for divorce.
11	Section 202. Counseling.
12	Section 203. Annulment of void and voidable marriages.
13	Section 204. Annulment or invalidity of void marriages.
14	Section 205. Grounds for annulment of voidable marriages.
15	Section 206. Proceedings to determine marital status.

7B.PDF page

8. The bill history is also provided from the Final House and Senate Journal Indexes
Click on bill history.

(a) Bill Information
Regular Session 1979-80
House Bill 640

[Bill History](#)

9. In reading the bill history, you are generally looking for a listing of the pages where debate occurred. Look for (Remarks, See House or Senate Journal Pages...)

HB 640 By Representatives SCIRICA, BERSON, SPENCER, RHODES, MOEHLMANN, NOYE, WILLIAMS, HOEFFEL, KNEPPER, M. H. GEORGE, HARPER, COHEN, WEIDNER, WAGNER, WHITE, LEVIN, LASHINGER, EARLEY, WACHOB, RICHARDSON, KUKOVICH and CHESS.

Prior Printer's Nos. [692](#), [1571](#), [2225](#), [2290](#), [2891](#), [3043](#).
Printer's No. [3045](#).

An Act consolidating, revising and amending the divorce and annulment laws of the Commonwealth and making certain repeals.

[Referred to JUDICIARY, March 12, 1979](#)
[Reported as amended, May 24, 1979](#)
[First consideration, May 24, 1979](#)
[Laid on the table, May 24, 1979](#)
[Removed from table, June 13, 1979](#)
[Second consideration, June 14, 1979](#)
[Laid on the table, July 2, 1979](#)
[Removed from table, Sept. 17, 1979](#)

(Remarks see House Journal Page 1825-1837), Sept. 25, 1979
(Remarks see House Journal Page 1842-1864), Sept. 26, 1979
Third consideration, with amendments, Oct. 10, 1979
(Remarks see House Journal Page 1945-1976), Oct. 10, 1979
Vote on third consideration reconsidered, Oct. 16, 1979
Third consideration, with amendments, Oct. 16, 1979
Final passage, Oct. 16, 1979 (148-51)
(Remarks see House Journal Page 2033-2036), Oct. 16, 1979

In the Senate

Referred to JUDICIARY, Oct. 22, 1979
Reported as amended, Feb. 11, 1980
First consideration, Feb. 11, 1980
Second consideration, March 4, 1980
Amended on third consideration, March 10, 1980
(Remarks see Senate Journal Page 1364-1378), March 10, 1980
Amended on third consideration, March 11, 1980
(Remarks see Senate Journal Page 1383-1388), March 11, 1980
Third consideration and final passage, March 18, 1980 (43-6)
(Remarks see Senate Journal Page 1422-1428), March 18, 1980

In the House

House concurred in Senate amendments, March 25, 1980 (128-53)
(Remarks see House Journal Page 790-792), March 25, 1980

Signed in House, March 25, 1980

Signed in Senate, March 25, 1980

In hands of the Governor, March 27, 1980

Last day for action, April 6, 1980

Approved by the Governor, April 2, 1980

Act No. 26

10. In reading the pages, be aware that the final page numbers may go beyond what number is listed in the index. Also, if there is a parliamentary procedure, like a point of order called before a vote, the debates may continue on later pages, without a reference in the index.

OTHER IMPORTANT WEBSITES

1. <http://www.palrb.us/stlarge/index.asp> : provides a site for the Laws of Pennsylvania, volumes 1(1682-1700) to vol. 18 (1806-1809). These volumes contain public and private laws of the Province and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through 1809. This is not a full-text search. Search options are limited due to early colonial spelling, which often differs from modern English spelling. For example, "fellons" describes modern-day "felons," and "gaolers" describes "jailers."
2. <http://www.romingerlegal.com/state/pennsylvania.html> : Provides Pa. Constitution, statutes, executive orders rules of civil procedure, and Attorney General opinions.
3. <http://members.aol.com/StatutesPa/Index.html>: The statutes on this web site may not be current. Contains only those statutes that have not been repealed at the time of posting.
4. <http://www.megalaw.com/pa/pa.php> : provides Pa statutes, legislation and other links to courts and forms.
5. http://www.ca3.uscourts.gov/useful_links.htm : provides court rules (non local)
6. <http://www.legis.pa.us> : provides info on the general assembly, the Senate, House and session info.
7. <http://www.dgs.state.pa.us>: provides Pa. Manual, forms, etc.
8. <http://www/ll.georgetown.edu/states/pennsylvania.cfm>: provides info on Pa. Bills, the General Assembly, House of Representatives, the Senate and the statutes.
9. <http://www.lawsources.com/also/usa.cgi?pa> : provides Pa Constitution, bills, Laws of Pa. codified laws, court rules, administrative law, local laws, County Home Rule Charters, Municipal Codes and legal forms.
10. <http://www.state.pa.us/papower/taxonomy/taxonomy.asp?DLN=30> provides Pennsylvania agencies.
11. http://law.cornell.edu/topics/state_statutes.html : provides Pa Statutes by title.