

NEVADA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Introduction

Legislative history is a collection of events and documents leading to the passage of a statute. The events and documents are recorded in order to help understand what the legislature's intent was at the time it enacted a statute. A court may refer to legislative history to help the court interpret a statute.

I. Nevada Legislative History Materials

Nevada legislative history materials are typically found by searching in the sources listed below. Since the Nevada legislature meets biennially, new legislative materials are generally only available every other year in odd-numbered years.

Nevada Revised Statutes (Nev. Rev. Stat. or NRS)

The NRS is a codification of all statutory laws of Nevada of a general, public, and permanent nature.

NRS (official) – print KFN630 1957.A22 / Reading Room, Reserve, Reference

NRS (official) – electronic <http://leg.state.nv.us/law1.cfm>

Michie's NRS Annotated KFN 630 1957.A43 / Reading Room & Reserve

West's NRS Annotated KFN 630 1957.A45 / Reading Room & Reserve

Statutes of Nevada

The Statutes of Nevada is a chronological publication of all bills and resolutions enacted into law during each legislative session.

Print version: KFN625.A23 / Reserve Room

Electronic version: [HeinOnline Session Laws](#) (available only in the Law Library)

Nevada Legislature's Website (<http://leg.state.nv.us/law1.cfm>)

Assembly and Senate Histories

The Assembly and Senate Histories indicate actions taken by the Assembly and Senate on all measures during each session.

Print version: KFN615.N27 / Reserve Room (Assembly)

KFN615.N37 / Reserve Room (Senate)

Electronic version: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/> (click on "Histories")

Assembly and Senate Committee Minutes

The Assembly and Senate Committee Minutes describe the hearings on legislative bills before the Assembly and Senate Committees. Committee minutes did not exist before 1965, and there is varying availability of committee minutes through 1977.

Microfiche version: Microforms – Drawer 21A (Assembly Committee Minutes)

Microforms – Drawer 21B (Senate Committee Minutes)

Electronic version: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/> (click on "Committee Information")

Journals of the Senate and Assembly

The Journals of the Senate and Assembly record daily activities on the Assembly and Senate floors.

Print version: KFN618.N3 / Reserve (Assembly Journals)

KFN618.N4 / Reserve (Senate Journals)

Electronic version: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/> (click on "Journals")

Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau ("LCB") Publications and Other Sources

The LCB publishes the Legislative Counsel Bureau Bulletins and other publications that may provide insight into the history of certain legislation. Information on such publications is available on the LCB website at:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/LegHistory/Tutorial/LCBPublications.cfm>.

Other potential sources for legislative history research, such as audio recordings and agency reports, are discussed at www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/LegHistory/Tutorial/WhereElseToLook.cfm.

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II. Compiled Nevada Legislative Histories

Before beginning research, check the LCB website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/dbtw-wpd/SimpleSearch.htm> to see if the LCB Research Library has already compiled a full legislative history for the bill. Few online legislative histories are available before 1985. If you do not have the bill number, follow Steps 1 through 5 of “Research Starting with a Section of the Nevada Revised Statutes” below.

III. Research Starting with a Section of the Nevada Revised Statutes

Step 1. Identify a specific section of the NRS to research.

Step 2. Find the historical notes in the parentheses following the statute. The historical notes provide a year and page number that refers to the *Statutes of Nevada* (session laws) where the language of the statute originated.

Example: (Added to NRS by 1979, 1087; A 1989, 1252; 1997, 2956)

This historical note refers to the original enactment of the law in the 1979 *Statutes of Nevada* at page 1087. The law was then amended (A) in the 1989 *Statutes of Nevada* at page 1252, and it was amended again in the 1997 *Statutes of Nevada* at page 2956. The significance of other numbers and abbreviations in the history line is described at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/LegHistory/Tutorial/NRSHistoryLine.cfm>.

Step 3. For each historical note in the parentheses, go to *Statutes of Nevada* and locate the volume that corresponds with the year and page number for each session law.

Step 4. Find the language in each session law that is also found in the statute to determine if it is relevant to your research. Added language is noted by **bolded, italicized text** and omitted language is noted by **[bracketed text]**.

Step 5. For bills that are relevant to your research, note the bill number, the chamber (Assembly or Senate), and the committee name found at the beginning of each session law.

Step 6. Check the Assembly or Senate Histories for the chronological record of activity on a bill.

Step 7. Find the relevant Assembly and Senate Committee Minutes.

a. If earlier than 1993, find committee minutes, organized by year and committee name, in Drawers 21A and 21B in the microforms room.

b. If 1993 or after, go to <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/> for committee minutes.

Step 8. The first microfiche in each packet has an index of bills and dates bills were discussed. Locate the microfiche relevant to the bill using the dates in the index.

Step 9. Look up the bill number in the index of the Assembly or Senate Journals to see where the bill is mentioned in the Journals. Look at the pages cited to find floor votes, amendments, and floor debate regarding the bill on the dates referenced in the Assembly or Senate Histories.

Step 10. Compare the text of the bill as it moved through the legislative process. Copies of introduced bills, reprints of amended bills, and enrolled bills are available for recent legislative sessions through the Nevada Legislature’s website under “Bill Information.” Copies of introduced bills after 1999 are available in the Reserve Room at Call No. KFN608.N3 (Senate Bills) and KFN608.N1 (Assembly Bills). For copies of bills or amendments that were introduced but not passed in earlier legislative sessions, contact the [LCB](#).

IV. Research Starting with a Bill Number

Step 1.

a. If the bill is prior to 1985, check the Assembly or Senate Histories for the chronological record of activity on a bill.

b. If the bill is from 1985 to the present, go to <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/> and click on “Bill Information” and “History of Specific Legislation” to locate the history of the bill.

c. You may also want to look up the bill number in the index to the *Summary of Legislation* (Call No. KFN615.L437 in the Reserve Room or <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Publications/SoL/index.cfm>), which describes enacted bills.

Step 2. Proceed with Step 7 and the remaining steps in “Research Starting with a Section of the Nevada Revised Statutes” above.

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V. Research Starting with a Subject or Area of Law

Step 1.

- a. Browse the index to the Statutes of Nevada for the particular session of interest.
- b. Browse the print index to the Nevada Revised Statutes.
- c. Browse the index (<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRSindex/>), browse the table of contents (<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/Index.cfm>), or search (<http://search.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS.html>) the Nevada Revised Statutes online.

Step 2.

- a. If a statute is identified for research, proceed with Step 2 and the remaining steps in “Research Starting with a Section of the Nevada Revised Statutes” above.
- b. If a bill is identified for research, proceed with “Research Starting with a Bill Number” above.

VI. Sources for Additional Research

Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau, *Legislative History Tutorial*,
<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/LegHistory/Tutorial/Start.cfm>

Susan Southwick & James L. Olmstead, *Researching Legislative History in Nevada*, 54 INTER ALIA F1 (July/August 1989).

Legislative Counsel Bureau Contact Information <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/About/index.cfm>