

# OREGON LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Oregon's legislative history records are organized by the session year and bill number. Follow the steps below to locate the bill number when all you have is the Oregon Revised Statutes section. Additional links are available at Boley Law Library's Oregon Legal Research page, <http://lawlibguides.lclark.edu/Oregon>.

## 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.

<b>Example:</b> 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... <b>[1987 c.52 s68; 1993 c.403 s4]</b>
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### **Oregon Revised Statutes**

1953-Present	Boley Law Library's Oregon State Section
1999-Present	<a href="http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/Pages/ORS.aspx">http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/Pages/ORS.aspx</a>
1953-1993	<a href="https://archives.oregonlegislature.gov/Pages/ORS-Archives.aspx">https://archives.oregonlegislature.gov/Pages/ORS-Archives.aspx</a>

**Tip:** If there is no date at the end of the statute, it was enacted prior to 1953. Ask a librarian for assistance.

## 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.

<b>Example:</b> CHAPTER 52  AN ACT <b>SB 303</b>  Relating to corporations; creating new provisions; repealing ORS 57.002, 57.004, 57.025, 57.030, 57.035, . . .
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### **Oregon Laws**

1866-Present	Boley Law Library's Oregon State Section
1999-Present	<a href="http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/Pages/Oregon-Laws.aspx">http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/Pages/Oregon-Laws.aspx</a>

**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 audiotapes, which constitute the verbatim record of discussion.

**If one is available, you can skip directly to step 5.**

1981-Present	<a href="http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records/legislative_tracings.aspx">http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records/legislative_tracings.aspx</a> Search feature <b>only</b> compatible with Internet Explorer. Contact the Oregon State Archives for assistance at 503-373-0701.
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**STEP 4      Find the House and Senate Committee to which the bill was referred and Dates of Action from the Senate and House Journal.**

- A) Senate Committee name (e.g., Business, Housing, and Finance)
- B) House Committee name (e.g., Consumer and Business Affairs)
- C) Dates on which action occurred regarding your bill (e.g., hearings and work sessions)

Example:	SB 303
2-10(S)	First reading. Referred to President's desk.
2-12	Referred to Business, Housing, and Finance.
2-12	Public Hearing and Work Session held...
3-19(H)	First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.
	Referred to Consumer and Business Affairs
3-24	Public Hearing and Work Session held...

**House and Senate Journals**

1872-Present	Boley Law Library's Oregon State Section
1915-1989	LLMC Digital (subscription required)
2002-Present	Senate Journal <a href="https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/secretary-of-senate">https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/secretary-of-senate</a>
2001-2014	House Journal <a href="https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/chief-clerk/Pages/publications.aspx">https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/chief-clerk/Pages/publications.aspx</a>
2007-Present	Committee information linked to from each bill <a href="https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws">https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws</a>  To locate committee information for each bill, follow these steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Select <b>Bills and Laws</b></li> <li>2) Select <b>Previous Session Details</b> from the left menu</li> <li>3) Select the session you need, then select <b>Bills</b> from the top right-hand menu and locate the Bill number</li> <li>4) Select <b>Measure History</b></li> </ol>

## STEP 5 Find the Minutes and Exhibits.

Now that you have the bill number and the relevant Senate and House committees, you'll want to find the committee minutes in which the bill was discussed and to read the exhibits prepared by the witnesses.

Unfortunately, **there are no transcribed committee minutes in Oregon.** Instead, a researcher can either listen to the proceedings on audio and/or read a summary of the minutes, depending on the year.

### **Committee Minutes - Verbatim Audio Recordings**

1981-1998	Order or visit. Cassette tapes are available at the Oregon State Archives.
1999-Present	<a href="https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/Legislative-Video.aspx">https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/Legislative-Video.aspx</a>

To determine at what point in the work session or hearing your bill was discussed, use the Committee Minute Summaries on microfilm from 1961 to 2001, and online from 2003 and 2005, and the Audio Log for minutes from 2007-2013, listed below.

### **Committee Minute Summaries and Audio Logs**

1947-1959	Microfilm. Boley Law Library. Some committee minutes preserved.
1961-1995	Microfilm. Boley Law Library. All committees have Minute Summaries preserved on microfilm.
1991-2014	All committees have Minute Summaries or Audio Logs in PDF at <a href="http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records/legislative_minutes.aspx">http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records/legislative_minutes.aspx</a>

In both the microfilm cabinets and online, the Minute Summaries are arranged by year, then by House, Senate, or Joint Committee, then by committee name, with the minutes listed by date of action.

### **Committee Exhibits**

1955-1959	Microfilm. Boley Law Library. Some committees have Exhibits preserved.
1961-1995	Microfilm. Boley Law Library. All committees have Exhibits preserved.
1997-Present	Order or visit. Contact the Oregon State Archives.
2007-Present	Some exhibits available at the Oregon Legislature website, organized by session and bill number at <a href="https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/sessions/">https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/sessions/</a>

In the microfilm cabinets, the exhibits are usually arranged by the bill number.

Tip: Check the corresponding minutes reel first, looking for the **Measures and Status Index Table** at the beginning of each committee's records, for help locating the exhibits on the reel.

**STEP 6 Find additional Legislative Records Associated with the Bill.**

Other sources of legislative history include bills, floor proceedings, and staff reports.

**Bills**

1971-2011	Boley Law Library's on-site storage.
2013	Boley Law Library's Oregon State Section.
2005-Present	Westlaw (subscription required)
2007-Present	<a href="https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws">https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws</a>

**House Floor Proceedings**

1963-1991	Visit. Reel to reel recordings housed at the Oregon State Archives.
1993-1998	Order or visit. Cassette and CD recordings from the Oregon State Archives.
1999-Present	<a href="https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/Legislative-Video.aspx">https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/Legislative-Video.aspx</a>

**Senate Floor Proceedings**

1973-1979	Visit. Reel to reel recordings housed at the Oregon State Archives.
1981-1998	Order or visit. Cassette and CD recordings from the Oregon State Archives.
1999-Present	<a href="https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/Legislative-Video.aspx">https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/Legislative-Video.aspx</a>

**Reports**

The Oregon Legislature posts reports in two different locations:

1) Reports tied to individual bills (Staff Measure Summaries, Revenue Impact Statements, Fiscal Impact Statements), if available, are linked to each bill listed in the Oregon Legislative Information System ("OLIS") under the individual bill's Analysis and Overview tabs.

2007-Present	<a href="https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/sessions/">https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/sessions/</a>
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2) Reports that are legislation related (Summaries of Legislation, Background Briefs, subject specific reports, and reports required by statute).

Various Dates	<a href="https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/Publications-Reports.aspx">https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/Publications-Reports.aspx</a>
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