

Nevada Legislative History

Definition and Purpose

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 interpret what the legislators intended to be the purpose of a statute.

Legislative Session Calendar

Since the Nevada legislature meets biennially, legislative materials are only available every other year (odd years).

Legislative Counsel Bureau

Before beginning research, check the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/dbtw-wpd/SimpleSearch.cfm> to see if a legislative history has already been compiled. For information about other LCB publications, go to <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/Tutorial/WhereElseToLook.cfm>. Contact info for the LCB is found at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/General/Feedback.cfm>.

Research Starting with a Section of the Nevada Revised Statutes

- Step 1: Identify a specific section of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) to research.
- Step 2: Find the historical notes in parenthesis following the statute.
 - a. The historical notes provide a year and page number that refers to the Statutes of Nevada (session laws) where language making up the statute is found.
 - b. Example: (Added to NRS by 1979, 1087; A 1989, 1252; 1997, 2956) refers to the origination of the law in the 1979 Statutes of Nevada at page 1087; the law was amended (A) in the 1989 Statutes of Nevada at page 1252; law amended again in the 1997 Statutes of Nevada at page 2956.
- Step 3: For each historical note found in the parenthesis at the end of the statute, find the year and page for each session law in the Statutes of Nevada.
- 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.
- Step 5: If so, note the bill number, the chamber (Assembly or Senate) and the committee name found at the beginning of each session law.
- Step 6: Optional
Check the Assembly or Senate Histories if a general daily record of activity on a bill is needed.
- Step 7:
 - a. If earlier than 1993, find committee minutes, organized by year and committee name, in Drawer 21A in the microfiche room.
 - b. If 1993 or after, go to <http://www.leg.state.nv.us> and click on Session Info for committee minutes.
- Step 8: The first fiche in each packet has an index of bills and dates bills were discussed. Locate the fiche using the relevant dates.

Research Starting with a Bill

- Step 1:
 - a. From 1999 browse the appropriate year by number, index or search at

<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Law1.cfm>.

b. Before 1999 browse appropriate year of Statutes of Nevada in print.

Step 2: Proceed with Step 7, finding committee minutes, under Research Starting with a

Research Starting with a Subject or Area of Law

Step 1: a. Browse print index to the Nevada Revised Statutes.

b. Browse index or table of contents or search current Nevada Revised Statutes at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Law1.cfm>.

Step 2: After a statute is identified for research, proceed with Step 2, finding historical notes, under Research Starting with a Section of the Nevada Revised Statutes. Section of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

Research Materials

1. Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)

Purpose: All statutes laws of Nevada of a general, public or permanent nature.

Call number/location: NRS KFN638 1957 Reserve

Michie's NRS Annotated KFN630 1957. A43

Reference Desk and State Collection

West's NRS Annotated KFN630 1957.A45 Reserve

2. Statutes of Nevada

Purpose: Statutes of Nevada passed at the session of the legislature.

Call number: KFN625.A23

Location: reserve

3. Assembly and Senate Histories

Purpose: Lists all actions on all bills in general terms.

Call numbers: Assembly KFN615.N27 Senate KFN615.N37

Location: reserve

4. Assembly and Senate Committee Minutes

Purpose: Minutes from Nevada Assembly and Senate committee meetings where bills are discussed. Considered the best source for legislative intent.

Location: KFN606 Drawer 21A Microforms

5. Journals of the Senate and Assembly

Purpose: Daily record of activity on Assembly and Senate floor.

Call number: Assembly KFN618.N3 Senate KFN618.N4

Location: reserve

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