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Sources of Legislative History for Michigan

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**Reference Department
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By Lisa Dresner**

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INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS GUIDE

Legislative histories provide researchers with the status (i.e., progress in the state legislature) of a bill at any given time. They also identify and sometimes compile the texts of documents that are the result of action taken as a bill goes through each stage of the legislative process. Legislative history materials may also help researchers determine the legislative intent behind a law.

Michigan legislative history documents usually consist of the following items:

- A. *House and Senate Journals*
- B. Michigan Legislature *Final Status*
- C. Bills
- D. Laws
- E. Committee hearings
- F. Committee reports
- G. Committee records
- H. Floor debates
- I. Legislative studies and reports
- J. Executive agency reports
- K. Legislative analyses (bill analyses)
- L. Miscellaneous sources of information
- M. Internet sources
- N. Constitution

This guide is designed to help you find Michigan legislative documents in the Law Library and elsewhere. The guide briefly describes the major sources and notes their locations within the Law Library.

B. WHEN LEGISLATIVE HISTORY IS CONSIDERED BY MICHIGAN COURTS

Michigan case law establishes that, where statutory language is plain and unambiguous, courts avoid examining legislative history. If a statute is ambiguous, however, courts may construe the statute in accordance with the meaning legislators intended to give it. Finding the legislative history of an act is part of the process of determining legislative intent.

FOR HELP, ASK A REFERENCE LIBRARIAN AT THE REFERENCE DESK ON LEVEL S-1.

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

A. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE HISTORIES

On the federal level, there are two ways to obtain a legislative history:

1. Locating a previously compiled legislative history; and
2. Compiling your own legislative history.

On the state level, however, previously compiled legislative histories are seldom available. You will likely have to compile your own legislative history.

On the federal level, there are several popular sources for locating legislative history, including the *U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News*, *Congressional Digest*, *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, *Congressional Index*, and the *Congressional Record*.

On the state level, however, background materials on legislation are rarely compiled in a central location, due to the expense involved and the relatively small number of users of such information.

Therefore, if you seek the legislative history of a Michigan statute, you will likely have to compile your own legislative history for the statute. You should allow more time for so doing than you would have to allow when researching a federal statute.

B. GETTING STARTED

Begin by identifying what you already know about your statute or bill. The information you start with will affect your approach to the research. Listed below are factors to assess before you get started:

1. Statute or bill

Determine whether you want the history of

- a. An enacted statute (a bill that became a law when it was passed by the state legislature);
- b. A bill that failed to become law; or
- c. A bill that is currently being considered by the legislature.

2. Dates

Identify the approximate date the statute was passed or the bill was considered; this will help you identify which sources to consult.

C. PRELIMINARY CITATIONS AND TOPICAL INFORMATION

Note all of the citation and subject information you have for the statute or bill you are researching.

If you lack any of the citations necessary to compile your legislative history, consult the following section, which will enable you to use what you already know about the statute or bill to fill in the missing information. Find the heading that applies to your situation; there you will find a list of sources to consult to locate the other citations.

For enacted statutes (bills that have already become laws)

1. Finding the public act (P.A.) number:

- a. **When only the subject of the act is known:**

i. *Generally*

Use the subject index volumes to *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)* to find the citation. *M.C.L.A.* is located in REF COLL, S-1C and in MICH COLL, S-2N. The index to the set will refer you to the code citation. The public act number and year (e.g., P.A. 1962, No.174, § 2315) appear at the end of the text of the statute.

ii. *When a law has been enacted very recently*

New laws are published first in *West's Michigan Legislative Service* (REF COLL, S-1C and MICH COLL, S-2N), a series of pamphlets that is published around 6 times per year. These pamphlets provide the text of new laws in order of public act number. They also contain a brief alphabetical listing of the acts by subject in the front of each volume, a cumulative subject index in the back of each volume, and a handy table that converts house and senate bill numbers into public act numbers.

iii. *For early Michigan statutes*

There are several indexes available for early Michigan statutes: *Index to the local and special acts of the state of Michigan, 1803 to 1927* (closed stacks, MC 24 index 1803-1927); *Index to the Compiled laws and Public acts* (closed stacks, MC 25 index 1906); *Index of the Michigan statutes, 1904* (MICH COLL, S-2N); *Laws of the territory of Michigan, with marginal notes and index...* (closed stacks, MC 23 1820); *Reid's index to the amended laws of Michigan* (closed stacks, MC 25 index 1867).

b. When only the short or popular name of the act is known:

i. *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.) -- Popular Name Table*

The popular name table is located in the last general index volume of *M.C.L.A.* This source alphabetically lists popular names of selected acts and refers you to the code citation in *M.C.L.A.* The public act number and year (e.g., P.A. 1962, No.174, § 2315) appear at the end of the text of the statute.

ii. *Frequently Requested Acts Website*

The Library of Michigan has a website at <http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/law/lawpubacts.html> that contains the full text of selected acts. The public act number and year (e.g., P.A. 1962, No.174, § 2315) appear at the end of the text of the statute.

iii. *Shepard's Acts and Cases by Popular Name*

This source contains citations for selected state and federal acts and can refer you to the code citation in *M.C.L.A.* The public act number and year (e.g., P.A. 1962, No.174, § 2315) appear at the end of the text of the statute.

c. When only the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.) citation is known:

Look up the cited section in *M.C.L.A.* The public act number and year (e.g., P.A. 1962, No.174, § 2315) will appear at the end of the text of the statute.

d. When only the *Michigan Statutes Annotated (M.S.A.)* citation is known:

Look up the conversion table from *M.S.A.* to *M.C.L.A.* located in one of the Tables volumes at the end of *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)*. That table will give you the correct *M.C.L.A.* citation. Look up the cited section in the main volumes of *M.C.L.A.* The public act number and year (e.g., P.A. 1962, No.174, § 2315) appear at the end of the text of the statute.

2. Finding the *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)* citation

a. When only the public act (P.A.) number and year are known:

Look in the conversion table that converts public act numbers to *M.C.L.A.* sections located in one of the “Tables” volumes at the end of *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated*. Make sure you look up the public act number under the correct year. You may have to look in a supplementary “Tables” volume or a pocket part in order to find conversion tables for recent public acts. Bear in mind that a single public act may modify several *M.C.L.A.* sections.

You can also use the beta test version of *M.C.L.A.* online at <http://198.109.122.10/law/default.asp> Hit “Advanced Search” and then search by public act number and year. This search should retrieve all *M.C.L.A.* sections affected by that public act number.

b. When only the bill number and year are known:

You will have to convert the bill number to a public act number, and then convert the public act number to the *M.C.L.A.* citation. Find the transfer table of bill numbers to public act numbers in the appropriate volume by year of the Michigan Legislature’s *Final Status*. (MICH COLL, S-2N). The transfer table will be located near the end of the volume. Once you have the public act number, look in the conversion table that converts public act numbers to *M.C.L.A.* sections located in one of the “Tables” volumes at the end of the *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated* set. (REF COLL, S-1C and MICH COLL, S-2N). Make sure you look up the public act number in the correct year. You may have to look in a supplementary “Tables” volume or a pocket part in order to find conversion tables for recent public acts. A single public act may modify several *M.C.L.A.* sections.

c. When only the subject of the law is known:

Look in the general index to *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)* (MICH COLL, S-2N and REF COLL, S-1C), under as many synonyms for the subject area as it takes to find the correct law. Alternately, look in the general index under the heading “words and phrases” to see if a key word is listed there.

d. When only the popular name of the law is known:

Use the popular name index located after general index in the last index volume of *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)* (MICH COLL, S-2N and REF COLL, S-1C).

3. Finding the bill number

a. For bills that have become law:

i) When only the public act number and year are known:

Find the transfer table of public act numbers to bill numbers in the appropriate volume by year of the Michigan Legislature’s *Final Status*. (MICH COLL, S-2N). The transfer table will be located near the end of the volume.

Alternately, use the Table of Acts and Bill Numbers in the back of the last volume for the appropriate year of the *Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan* and/or the *Journal of the Senate of the State of Michigan* (MICH COLL, S-2N).

ii) When only the *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated* (M.C.L.A.) citation is known:

You will have to convert the M.C.L.A. citation to a public act number, and then convert the public act number to a bill number. A section of M.C.L.A. may have been amended many times, so you may have several public act numbers and bill numbers to look up for one section of M.C.L.A. Look up the appropriate section of M.C.L.A. The public act number(s) and year(s) (e.g., P.A. 1962, No.174, § 2315) appear at the end of the text of the statute. Find the transfer table of public act numbers to bill numbers in the appropriate volume by year of the Michigan Legislature's *Final Status* or the *House and Senate Journals* (MICH COLL, S-2N). The transfer table will be located near the end of the volume.

iii) When only the sponsor and year are known:

Look in the sponsor index in the appropriate volume by year of the Michigan Legislature's *Final Status*. (MICH COLL, S-2N). Bills that became law are marked with a star.

b. For bills that failed to become laws

i) When only the topic and year of the bill are known:

Use the bill and joint resolution index (subject index) in the *Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan* and/or the *Journal of the Senate of the State of Michigan*. (MICH COLL, S-2N). Look up the topic of your bill in this index in the volume that covers the appropriate year and appropriate house of the legislature. If you do not know in which house of the legislature the bill originated, you may have to use the bill and joint resolution indexes from both the *House Journal* and the *Senate Journal*. Remember that a year of the *House Journal* and the *Senate Journal* will be covered by more than one volume (a year may be covered by anywhere from two to five volumes). The indexes are in the last volume for each year.

Alternately, use the categorical index in the appropriate volume by year of the Michigan Legislature's *Final Status* (MICH COLL, S-2N). The index is located near the front of the volume. Bills that failed to become law do not have a star next to them.

<http://www.MichiganLegislature.org> allows you to search for bills from 1997-present by subject.

ii) When only the sponsor and year of the bill are known:

Use the general index in the *Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan* and/or the *Journal of the Senate of the State of Michigan* (MICH COLL, S-2N). Look up the last name of the bill's sponsor in this index in the volume that covers the appropriate year and appropriate house of the legislature. Remember that a year in the *House Journal* and the *Senate Journal* may be covered by more than one volume (a year may be covered by anywhere from two to five volumes). The indexes will be found in the last volume for each year.

Alternately, use the sponsor index in the appropriate volume by year of the Michigan Legislature's *Final Status* (MICH COLL, S-2N). The index is located near the front of the volume. Bills that failed to become law do not have a star next to them.

<http://www.MichiganLegislature.org> allows you to search for bills from 1997-present by sponsor.

c. For bills whose year of introduction is not known:

Use the *Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan* for bills introduced in the House, and the *Journal of the Senate of the State of Michigan* for bills introduced in the Senate. Search the bill

and joint resolution index (subject index) for the bill's topic and/or the general index (name index) for the bill's sponsor for all years in which the bill could have been introduced.

If you think the bill was introduced in 1997 or later, you can search by sponsor or by topic on <http://www.MichiganLegislature.org>, the website for the Michigan Legislature. This website allows you to search all available sessions of the legislature if you search by sponsor; if you do a topic search, you will have to search each available session of the legislature separately.

d. For bills that are currently under consideration by the Legislature

i) When only the topic of the bill is known:

<http://www.MichiganLegislature.org>, the website for the Michigan Legislature, allows you to use a full-text keyword search to search all documents from the current session of the legislature. A search for

bill and [topic of the bill]

should bring up a list that includes the right bill.

ii) By browsing

If the keyword search does not work, this website also allows you to browse bills from the current session of the legislature by number. Using the brute force method, you can browse every bill from the current session to see if it is the correct one.

COMPILING YOUR OWN LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

A. *House and Senate Journals*

The first sources of background material you should examine are the *House and Senate Journals*:

Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan 1835- [The years 1835-1869 are in LR (Locked Range), except for 1855, which is in MICH COLL, S-2N; the years 1870-present are in MICH COLL, S-2N.]

Journal of the Senate of the State of Michigan 1837- [The years 1837-1870 are in LR (Locked Range); the years 1870-present are in MICH COLL, S-2N.]

House Journals and *Senate Journals* since 1997 are available online at <http://michiganlegislature.org/>, the Michigan Legislature website.

1. What the *House and Senate Journals* contain:

These journals are *not* a transcript of the proceedings of the legislature, but they do contain citation information, names of a bill's sponsors, names of the committees that considered the bill, dates when action was taken on the bill, and roll call votes. These journals sometimes also contain amendments to bills that were defeated, "no vote" explanations by members, and titles of committee reports.

2. Using the tables and indexes in the *House and Senate Journals* to track a bill's history

The tables and indexes in the *House Journal* (MICH COLL, S-2N) and the *Senate Journal* (MICH COLL, S-2N) allow you to track a bill's history. Start your search of the tables and indexes in the year that you think the

law was passed; you may also have to search the tables and indexes in the preceding or subsequent issues. Your first step should be to find the bill number.

3. Finding the bill number

a) Finding a bill number when you know the topic of the bill:

Use the bill and joint resolution index or the general index for the *House Journal* or the *Senate Journal*.

b) Finding a bill number when you know the public act number:

Use the table of acts and bill numbers in the back of the *House Journal* or the *Senate Journal*.

4. Tracking all actions taken on a bill by the Michigan Legislature:

Look at the bill history sections (history of house bills in the house, history of senate bills in the house, history of house bills in the senate, history of senate bills in the senate) in the back of the *House Journal* or *Senate Journal*. These sections list which actions were taken on a bill and when they were taken, and refer you to the relevant pages of the *Journal* detailing those actions. If the page numbers listed in the bill history sections are printed in bold type, the numbers refer to pages in the prior year's *Journal*.

5. Tracking all actions on resolutions introduced into the House:

Look in the resolution history sections (history of house resolutions in the house, history of house concurrent resolutions in the house, history of senate resolutions in the senate, history of senate concurrent resolutions in the senate) in the back of the *House Journal* or the *Senate Journal*.

6. Finding all the bills and resolutions introduced by a particular legislator:

Use the "bills and resolutions introduced by representatives" section in the back of the *House Journal* or *Senate Journal* for each year that the legislator served in the Michigan legislature.

B. Michigan Legislature *Final Status*

The "House Bills" and "Senate Bills" sections of Michigan Legislature *Final Status* (MICH COLL, S-2N) provide a list of what actions happened when for each bill. This information is also available in the *House Journal* and/or the *Senate Journal* (MICH COLL, S-2N), as noted above.

C. Bills

1. Bills as introduced

Texts of bills as introduced (starting in 1931) are bound and shelved in MICH COLL, S-2N. For 1997-present, bills as they are introduced are available at <http://www.michiganlegislature.org/> -- the Michigan Legislature website.

2. Intermediate versions of bills

Bills may go through many versions before passage by either or both legislative houses. These intermediate versions are sometimes available at the Law Library, but are more often available at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. For 1997-present, intermediate versions of bills are available at <http://www.michiganlegislature.org/> -- the Michigan Legislature website.

A history of actions taken on a bill is available through the *Michigan Legislative Status*, the *House and Senate Journals*, or (for bills introduced 1997-present) at <http://www.MichiganLegislature.org/> -- the Michigan Legislature website.

3. Final Versions of Bills/“Enrolled Bills”

Final versions of bills are “Enrolled Bills.” Enrolled bills contain the text of the bill as passed by both houses and sent to the Governor for signature. Enrolled bills (starting in 1931) are bound and shelved in MICH COLL, S-2N.

For 1997-present, enrolled bills are available at <http://www.michiganlegislature.org/> – the Michigan Legislature website.

D. Laws

1. Where the laws are:

Michigan has one official codification and two unofficial codifications of its laws. The unofficial codifications are easier to update and provide more information for the researcher.

a) *Michigan Compiled Laws, 1979* (official codification)

The official codification of Michigan statutes is *Michigan Compiled Laws, 1979*. (MICH COLL, S-2N) This compilation reflects the laws as they stood at the end of 1979. It must be updated using the *Public and Local Acts—Michigan* (1871- in MICH COLL, S-2N; 1835- in closed stacks, LR [locked range]) or *West’s Michigan Legislative Service* (MICH COLL, S-2N and REF COLL, S-1C). Earlier official codifications of the laws were printed in 1857, 1871, 1897, 1915, 1929, 1948, 1970, and 1979. (MICH COLL, S-2N, except for 1857 edition, which is in closed stacks, MC 25 1857 and in closed stacks, LR [locked range])

b) *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)* (unofficial codification)

The text of current laws is available through *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated* (MICH COLL, S-2N and REF COLL, S-1C). It is updated by supplements and pocket parts and by *West’s Michigan Legislative Service* (MICH COLL, S-2N and REF COLL, S-1C).

c) *Michigan Statutes Annotated* (unofficial codification).

The text of current laws is also available through *Michigan Statutes Annotated* (MICH COLL, S-2N). It is updated by supplements and pocket parts and by a “Current Legislation” binder.

d) *Public and Local Acts of the Legislature of the State of Michigan* (session laws).

Michigan’s session laws are published in *Public and Local Acts of the Legislature of the State of Michigan* (MICH COLL, S-2N). The session laws are the laws presented in the order in which they have been passed by the legislature (instead of codified by subject, as they are in *M.C.L.A.*, for example). They can prove useful tools for tracking changes to a particular law over the years.

e) *Howell’s*

The Law Library owns two editions of Andrew Howell’s compilations of and annotations to Michigan statutes. The 1882 edition is *The general statutes of the State of Michigan* (MICH COLL, S-2N, or closed stacks, MC 25 1882); the 1913-14 edition is *Howell’s annotated statutes of the State of Michigan* (MICH COLL, S-2N).

f) *Revised Statutes of the State of Michigan*

These compilations were made in 1838 and 1846 (closed stacks, LR [locked range]).

g) How to find very recent legislation:

Very recently passed laws are available in *West's Michigan Legislative Service* (MICH COLL, S-2N and REF COLL, S-1C) and the "Current Legislation" Binder of *Michigan Statutes Annotated* (MICH COLL, S-2N).

2. How to figure out when a law has been amended:

a. When you have the *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)* citation:

Look up the relevant section(s) in the most recent version of *M.C.L.A.* (don't forget to try the pocket part first) (MICH COLL, S-2N and REF COLL, S-1C). Immediately below the statute, there will be a list of amendments to the statute, along with the public act (P.A.) number and year. The historical and statutory notes section that sometimes follows may give details about which parts of the act were amended by which amendments. Look up the public acts for the amendments that interest you in *Public and Local Acts of the Legislature of the State of Michigan* (MICH COLL, S-2N).

b. When the law has been repealed:

Try looking up the law under its old *M.C.L.A.* section number in the current version of *M.C.L.A.* (MICH COLL, S-2N and REF COLL, S-1C). There may be a note there about the fact of repeal (including the public act number and year for the repealing amendment) and a historical note or historical and statutory notes section that lists all amendments to the law. If there is no note there, look in successively older versions of *Michigan Compiled Laws (M.C.L.)* (MICH COLL, S-2N) until you find the law and its accompanying notes. Look up the public acts for the amendments that interest you in *Public and Local Acts of the Legislature of the State of Michigan* (MICH COLL, S-2N).

c. When you have the public act number and year:

Use the conversion table in one of the Tables volumes of *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)* (MICH COLL, S-2N and REF COLL, S-1C) to convert the public act number and year into an *M.C.L.A.* citation. Then follow the instructions under a) or b) immediately above.

3. How to track all prior amendments to a law

Look up the sections of law in which you are interested in *Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)* (MICH COLL, S-2N and REF COLL, S-1C). Directly after each section of the law, you will see a "Historical Note" section that lists the prior session laws (by year and public act number) that instituted or changed that section of the law. [In the more recent pocket parts, there is a list of amendments to the statute immediately below it, along with the Public Act number and year. The "Historical and Statutory notes" section that sometimes follows may give more details about which parts of the act were amended by which amendments.]

You can use this information in two ways to track prior amendments to the law:

- a) You can look up each public act mentioned in the Historical Note section in *Public and Local Acts of the Legislature of the State of Michigan* (MICH COLL, S-2N) to see how a law has changed over the years. This is the most thorough way of tracking changes, since it will catch multiple changes between official codifications.
- b) You can also use the references in the historical note section that show the section number for that law in earlier editions of *Michigan Compiled Laws* (the official codification of the laws) from various years (official codifications of the laws were printed in 1857, 1871, 1897, 1915,

1929, 1948, 1970, and 1979). Use those notations to look at the appropriate section numbers in all of the prior versions of *Michigan Compiled Laws*. This is a less reliable way of tracking changes to the law, since multiple amendments to the law could have occurred between codifications, and not all of them will wind up in the official codifications.

For very old laws, you may also see references to sections of *Revised Statutes of the State of Michigan* (closed stacks, LR [locked range]). These compilations were made in 1838 and 1846.

E. Committee Hearings

Hearings are transcripts of testimony before a House or Senate Committee about a bill. Most hearings held by the Michigan Legislature are unpublished. The library's holdings of a few selected hearings may be accessed by doing a Lexcalibur author search under Michigan. Legislature. House of Representatives [or Senate]. Name of Committee. The title will be the name of the hearing.

You can also find lists of committee hearings in *Michigan Documents*, a bibliography of state documents compiled by the Library of Michigan in Lansing. (Lists from 1952-1978 are available in BIBLIOG MI_Docum, S-1N.) Hearings found with this research tool are available for public use from the Library of Michigan. The Library of Michigan is now putting its document holdings information in its on-line catalogue, "ANSWER." That on-line catalogue contains records for the documents received by the Library of Michigan since 1990; the library is in the process of adding all of its older document records to ANSWER over the next few years. ANSWER can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://opac.libofmich.lib.mi.us/screens/opacmenu.html>

F. Committee Reports

Committee reports contain a committee's recommendation on the passage of a bill and a voting record of its members. These records tend to be brief. They are available in Lansing. From 1997-present, House Committee Records of this type are available at <http://www.michiganlegislature.org/> -- the Michigan Legislature's website.

G. Legislative Committee Records

Committee records may include committee minutes (date, time, place of meeting; decisions made; roll call votes), bill analyses, letters and written testimony submitted to the committee. Recordings or transcripts of public hearings may also be available. The State Archives contain certain House committee records 1955-1969. The State Archives have all house committee records from 1969-present available on microfilm or in paper. The State Archives contain some Senate committee records from 1965-1978. The State Records Center has Senate committee records for 1979-1982.

H. Floor Debates

The *House and Senate Journals* -- *Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan* and *Journal of the Senate of the State of Michigan* (MICH COLL, S-2N) -- contain a record of actions taken on legislative matters on the House and Senate floors. Using these records, you can figure out on which date(s) your bill was debated.

The State Archives have recordings of House sessions 1970-1980. The Clerk of the House has recordings of House sessions 1981-present. The Secretary of the Senate has tape recordings of Senate sessions from 1970-present. These are available with the approval of the Majority leader.

I. Legislative Studies and Reports

The Library of Michigan and the State Law Library may have some legislative studies and reports. These are usually indexed by subject, not by bill or act number. You can also contact special or interim committees, caucus staff, standing committee staff, legislators, the House and Senate fiscal agencies, the Auditor General, the Law Revision Commission, and the Uniform State Law Commission.

The Michigan Law Revision Commission examines state laws and judicial decisions, considers proposals for changes, and recommends revisions and reforms to the legislature. The Michigan Law Revision Commission authors an annual *Report* (MICH COLL, S-2N), which lists the issues being considered that year and which may contain study reports. The *Report* lists enactments of laws based on the commission's recommendations and lists which issue contains the study report for that topic.

J. Executive Agency Reports

Executive agency reports are prepared by a governor's task force or commission, or by an executive agency. Commissions and agencies often put out annual reports, which may or may not comment on pending legislation. These reports may be available at the Library of Michigan or the State Law Library. Check the catalogue information at <http://opac.libofmich.lib.mi.us/screens/opacmenu.html> – the Library of Michigan's on-line catalogue, called ANSWER.

K. Bill Analyses

Bill analyses are analyses of pending legislation. They include a statement of the problem being addressed, arguments for and against the bill, and other background information. Bill analyses are written by state agencies, the House Legislative Analysis Section [(517) 373-6466], the Senate Fiscal Agency [(517) 373-5383], the House Fiscal Agency [(517) 373-8080], or by legislative caucus staffs. The Library of Michigan Information Services Unit has a bill analyses collection from 1970-present (some bill analyses are also available for 1968-69).

The U. of Michigan Law Library has bill analyses from 1973-1985 bound with the bill being analyzed. From 1986-on, they are bound separately. (MICH COLL, S-2N). Bill analyses for the current legislature are shelved with *Michigan Legislative Status* in REF COLL, S-1C. From 1997-present, they are available at <http://www.michiganlegislature.org/> -- the Michigan Legislature website.

L. Other sources of information

1. Bill Request Folders

Bill request folders contain correspondence and related documents requesting the Legislative Service Bureau to draft a particular bill. They are not currently available for public use.

2. Michigan and National Newspapers

Michigan and national newspapers may contain background information on legislation:

The Detroit News index is available from 1987-present at the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, Call #: AI21.D48.

The Michigan Newspaper Index indexes the *Detroit News*, the *Detroit Free Press*, the *Grand Rapids Press*, and the *Lansing State Journal*. The Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library has 1984-1985 (Grad Library Serials, MICRO-F X340).

The *New York Times* index is available from 1913-present in the law library (Bibliog, S-1N).

3. Legal Journals

The *Michigan Bar Journal* and other law journals may contain discussions of pending or recently enacted legislation. These journals are indexed on LegalTrac.

4. Lobbying Groups, Legislators, and Agencies

You may also wish to contact the groups that lobbied for the passage of legislation (for any information they have retained on the passage of the bill), the legislators who sponsored the bill (for information on reports or press releases pertaining to the bill), and the state and local agencies that administer an act (for rules, regulations, policies, or guidelines that might explain how the law has been interpreted).

M. Internet Sources

University of Michigan Documents Center

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/>

Excellent, comprehensive website for the University of Michigan Documents Center; links to a variety of sources for governmental information.

Michigan Legislature—Bills, Intermediate Versions of Bills, Enrolled Bills, Fiscal Bill Analyses, Bill Histories, House and Senate Journals

<http://michiganlegislature.org/>

Allows you to search bills and to see versions as first introduced, as passed by the house and senate, as enrolled; has fiscal bill analyses and bill histories (what action was taken when). Also has *House and Senate Journals* from 1997-present.

Michigan Legislature—Michigan Compiled Laws

<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/law/>

Michigan Compiled Laws beta-test; can search by *M.C.L.* section no[s], statute no[s], popular name, chapter no[s], session, catchline, long title, history, prospectives, repeals, provisionals, division type, division no[s], division title, *M.S.A.* number, public act (P.A.) number. Full text search also available.

Michigan Legislature—M.C.L. Tables

<http://michiganlegislature.org/MCLs.asp>

Michigan Compiled Laws Tables; PDF format; available from 1997-present.

Michigan Legislature—Public Act Tables

<http://michiganlegislature.org/PAs.asp>

Public Act Tables from 1997-Present; PDF format.

Michigan Legislature—Legislative Information Searching

<http://michiganlegislature.org/query/SearchForm.asp>

Michigan Legislature website allows you to search legislative information from 1997-present; full-text keyword search available; can search House and Senate calendars, *House and Senate Journals*, introduced bills, enrolled bills, public acts, joint resolutions, legislative analyses, and fiscal analyses.

State Archives—General Reference Services

<http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/referenc.html>

State Archives of Michigan General Reference Services; provides information about how patrons may submit reference requests about records of Special Committees, Standing House Committees, and Standing Senate Committees.

State Archives—Collection Information

<http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/circular.html>

State Archives of Michigan list of circulars detailing what the archives has in its collection on a particular subject.

Senate Republican Caucus

<http://www.gop.senate.state.mi.us/>

Michigan Senate Republican Caucus website.

Senate Democratic Caucus

<http://www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/>

Michigan Senate Democratic Caucus website.

N. Michigan Constitution

The text of the 1963 Michigan Constitution is available on-line at

<http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/law/constitution.html>

The texts of Michigan's three earlier constitutions (adopted in 1835, 1850, and 1908) are available on-line at

<http://documents.michiganlegislature.org/manual/chap2.html>

FINDING LEGISLATIVE MATERIALS

ITEM	DATES	LOCATION	FORMAT	HOW TO FIND
House and Senate Bills as introduced	1931-present	MICH COLL; not generally available at graduate library	Paper	Need year, house of legislature, and bill number.
House and Senate Bills as introduced	1997-Present	http://www.michiganlegislature.org/	PDF	Need year, house of legislature, and bill number.
House and Senate Bills as introduced	Current	Legislative Document Room in Lansing	Paper	Need bill number and house of legislature.
Text of Bills – intermediate version	Older-present	Law library may have these, but not necessarily; not generally available at graduate library. More likely place to find them is Library of Michigan in Lansing. Alternately, look at all references to amendment of the bill in the House and Senate Journals – these might show when certain language was added or dropped.	Paper	Need bill number and house of legislature.
House and Senate bills – Intermediate Version	1997-Present	http://www.michiganlegislature.org/	PDF	Need year, house of legislature, and bill number.
Text of Enrolled Bills (final version of bills as sent to governor for signature)	1931-present	MICH COLL; not generally available at graduate library	Paper	Need year, house of legislature, and bill number.
Original Enrolled Bills	Last 20 years	Office of the Great Seal in Lansing	Paper	Need year, house of legislature, and bill number.
Enrolled Bills	1997-Present	http://www.michiganlegislature.org/	PDF	Need year, house of legislature, and bill number.
Public Acts	Law Lib: 1870-on and 1835-on Buhr: 1837-1980 Doc Center: 1980-	MICH COLL, 1870-on LR (Locked Range), 1835-on Buhr, 1835-1980 Documents Center, 1980-on Call #: K .M62 A2	Paper	Need year and act number.
Public Acts (original signed Public Acts)	1837-present	State Archives in Lansing	Paper and fiche	Need year and act number.

ITEM	DATES	LOCATION	FORMAT	HOW TO FIND
<i>Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)</i>	Current	MICH COLL and REF COLL; not generally available at graduate library.	Paper	Need section number, or use indices or tables to translate keywords or public act numbers into <i>M.C.L.A.</i> sections.
<i>Michigan Compiled Laws (M.C.L.)</i>	1970	MICH COLL, MC 25 1970, and LR (locked range); GRADUATE LIBRARY, Call #: KFM 4230 1970 .A24; UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY Call #: KFM 4230 1970 .A24	Paper	Need section number.
<i>Michigan Compiled Laws (M.C.L.)</i>	1979	MICH COLL, Reading Room, and LR (locked range)	Paper	Need section number.
<i>Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan (House Journals)</i>	1835-1869, except 1855	LR (Locked Range)	Paper	Need bill number, or use indexes or table in the last volume for each year to translate keyword or public act number into bill number.
<i>Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan (House Journals)</i>	1855 and 1870-present	MICH COLL	Paper	Need bill number, or use indexes or table in the last volume for each year to translate keyword or public act number into bill number.
<i>House Journals</i>	1835-present	BENTLEY HIST LIB Storage Call #: EA 46 H842	Paper	Non-Circulating. Check MIRLYN for holdings (some issues damaged or missing). Title is "Journal"; Author is "Michigan. Legislature. House of Representatives." Then ask at Bentley Historical Library for access. Some volumes are bound with Senate Journal
<i>Senate Journals</i>	1835-1968	Buhr stores older issues	Paper	Do a MIRLYN search. Author is "Michigan. Legislature. Senate"; title is "Journal." Some volumes may be missing. Some volumes are bound with House Journal.
<i>Senate Journals</i>	1969-present	GRADUATE LIBRARY Call #: J87 .M5b	Paper	Do a MIRLYN search. Author is "Michigan. Legislature. Senate"; title is "Journal."

ITEM	DATES	LOCATION	FORMAT	HOW TO FIND
<i>Senate Journals</i>	Latest issues	GRADUATE LIBRARY Documents Center has recent issues.	Paper	Do a MIRLYN search. Author is "Michigan. Legislature. Senate"; title is "Journal."
<i>Journal of the Senate of the State of Michigan (Senate Journals)</i>	1837-1870	LR (locked range)	Paper	Need bill number and year. Lexcalibur Author search for "Michigan. Legislature. Senate.
<i>Journal of the Senate of the State of Michigan (Senate Journals)</i>	1870-present	MICH COLL	Paper	Need bill number and year. Lexcalibur Author search for Michigan. Legislature. Senate.
<i>House and Senate Journals</i>	1835-present and 1837-present; some missing	Library of Michigan—Main Library	Paper	Need year and bill number, or use indexes or table in the last volume for each year to translate keyword or public act number into bill number.
<i>House and Senate Journals</i>	Current	Legislative Document Room in Lansing	Paper	Need house of legislature and bill number or sponsor or subject.
<i>Michigan Legislative Status</i>	Current	Legislative Document Room in Lansing	Paper	Need house of legislature and bill number or sponsor or subject.
<i>Michigan Legislative Status</i>	Current	REF COLL; DOCUMENTS CTR. (Non-Circulating): Call #: KFM 4215 .A32 (Doc Center has 1993-present)	Paper	Need house of legislature and bill number or sponsor or subject.
<i>Final Status</i>	1964-1998	MICH COLL; DOCUMENTS CTR (Non-Circulating): Call #: KFM4215 .A32 (Doc Center has 1975/1976-1993)	Paper	Need year, house of legislature, and bill number or sponsor. Transfer tables in back of volume convert bill numbers to public act numbers and public act numbers to bill numbers
<i>Final Status</i>	1938-1961	Bound at front of relevant volume of enrolled bills in MICH COLL	Paper	Need year, house of legislature, and bill number or subject.
Bill Histories (like those found in <i>House and Senate Journals</i> and <i>Michigan Legislative Status</i>)	1997-Present	http://www.michiganlegislature.org/	PDF	Need year, house of legislature, and bill number.

ITEM	DATES	LOCATION	FORMAT	HOW TO FIND
Committee Hearings	Various	Various, most start with MC 48. Law library has <i>very</i> few of these. Graduate Library has a few hearings (Using MIRLYN, do an “a” search by Michigan. Legislature. House of Representatives. [or Senate] Name of Committee)	Paper	Do a Lexcalibur “Author” search for Michigan. Legislature. Senate. [or House of Representatives]. Name of committee.
Committee Hearings	1952-1978	Library of Michigan—Main Library in Lansing has some of these. Selected hearings only.	Paper	Use <i>Michigan Documents</i> (BIBLIOG MI_Docum, Level S-1N) in our Library to see what hearings are available in Lansing.
Committee Hearings	1979-1989	Library of Michigan in Lansing	Paper or fiche	In a few years, these records will be catalogued in the Library of Michigan’s on-line catalogue ANSWER.
Committee Hearings	1990-Present	Library of Michigan in Lansing	Paper or fiche	Use Library of Michigan’s on-line catalogue ANSWER, available at http://opac.libofmich.lib.mi.us/screens/opacmenu.html
House and Senate Committee Hearings	1963-1996 (selected)	State Archives in Lansing	Recording	Need to know committee name, bill number, and year.
Committee Reports	Various	Library of Michigan—Main Library in Lansing. Selected reports only. Graduate Library has a few reports also. (Using MIRLYN, do an “a” search by Michigan. Legislature. House of representatives. [or Senate] Name of Committee)	Paper	Use Library of Michigan’s on-line catalogue ANSWER, available at http://opac.libofmich.lib.mi.us/screens/opacmenu.html
House Committee Records	1955-1996 (selected records)	State Archives in Lansing.	Paper Or film	Name of committee, bill number, and year.
House Committee Records	Jan 1989-Dec 1994 (records eventually transferred to State Archives)	State Records Center	Likely film	The records technically belong to the House committee until transferred to State Archives. Go through appropriate House committee to get permission. The Committee itself has the working paper copy.

ITEM	DATES	LOCATION	FORMAT	HOW TO FIND
Senate Committee Records	1965-1988 (selected records)	State Archives in Lansing	Paper	Name of Committee, bill number, and year.
Senate Committee Records	Jan 1989-Dec 1998 (records eventually transferred to State Archives)	State Records Center	Micro-film	The records technically belong to the Senate committee until transferred to State Archives Go through the appropriate Senate committee to get permission. The Committee itself has the working paper copy.
House Committee Bill Records	1999-Present	http://www.michiganlegislature.org/	PDF	Need committee name.
House Floor Debates	1963-1996 (selected)	State Archives in Lansing	Recording	Need to know month, day, and year. Can bring a blank tape to make a copy. Useful to call ahead to see if they have the date(s) you are seeking. Call (517) 373-1408.
Senate Floor Debates	1970-present	Secretary of the Senate	Recording	Need permission of the Secretary of the Senate. Need to know date of session desired. Cost is \$5 per audiotape (some sessions may require more than one tape). Make checks payable to "Michigan Senate."
Senate Floor Debates	1963-1996 (selected)	State Archives	Recording	Might need permission of the Senate Majority Leader
Legislative Studies and Reports	Selected	Library of Michigan and State Law Library	Paper	Usually indexed by subject, <i>not</i> by bill or act number. Can search Library of Michigan's online catalogue ANSWER, available at http://opac.libofmich.lib.mi.us/screens/opacmenu.html Do an "Author" search for Michigan. Legislature. Senate. [or House of Representatives] name of committee

ITEM	DATES	LOCATION	FORMAT	HOW TO FIND
Legislative Studies and Reports	Proposed law reforms	Michigan Law Revision Commission's Annual <i>Report</i> , MICH COLL, S-2N	Paper	Look in the appropriate years for the report – you may have to look through several years before the bill you are researching was introduced or the law you are researching was passed. There is sometimes a Table of Contents in the front, but sometimes there is just a list of topics the committee is considering. You may have to flip through the reports (there are a few per issue) to find out if one exists on your topic.
Executive Agency Reports	Most Reports	Library of Michigan—Main Library or State Law Library	Paper	Michigan's executive agencies and commissions often put out annual reports, which may or may not comment on pending legislation about the subject area under their control. Search Library of Michigan's on-line catalogue ANSWER, available at http://opac.libofmich.lib.mi.us/screens/opacmenu.html Try an "author" search for Michigan. Name of Commission [or Name of Department]. If that search is not successful, try a keyword search.
Executive Agency Reports	Selected Reports	State Archives	Paper	Bound with Committee Reports
House Fiscal Reports	Selected Reports	House Fiscal Agency in Lansing Graduate Library also has selected years. (Using MIRLYN, do an "a" search for Michigan. Legislature. House of Representatives. Fiscal Agency.)	Paper	Need to explain scope of research project.
Senate Fiscal Reports	1980-present	Senate Fiscal Agency in Lansing Graduate Library also has selected years. (Using MIRLYN, do an "a" search for Michigan Legislature Senate Fiscal Agency.)	Paper	Need title or topic of report and date, if possible.

ITEM	DATES	LOCATION	FORMAT	HOW TO FIND
Fiscal Analyses of House Bills	Appropriations bills	House Fiscal Agency in Lansing Graduate Library also has selected years. (Using MIRLYN, do an “a” search for Michigan. Legislature. House of Representatives. Fiscal Agency.)	Paper	Need bill number and year.
Fiscal Analyses of Senate Bills	Appropriations bills	Senate Fiscal Agency in Lansing Graduate Library also has selected years. (Using MIRLYN, do an “a” search for Michigan Legislature Senate Fiscal Agency.)	Paper	Need bill number and year.
House and Senate Fiscal Analyses	1997-Present	http://www.michiganlegislature.org/	PDF	Need bill number, house of legislature, and year.
Legislative Analyses (Bill Analyses)	1973-1985	MICH COLL, S-2N, bound with the bill being analyzed.	Paper	Analysis is bound with the bill being analyzed.
Legislative Analyses (Bill Analyses)	1986-present	MICH COLL, S-2N, bound separately	Paper	Analysis is bound separately.
House Legislative Analyses (Bill Analyses)	1973-present	House Legislative Analysis Section in Lansing	Paper	Need bill number and year.
Senate Legislative Analyses (Bill Analyses)	1980-present	Senate Fiscal Agency	Paper	Need bill number and year.
Legislative Analyses (Bill Analyses)	1968-72 (selected)	Library of Michigan in Lansing – in their Reference Collection under Michigan Docs	Paper	Need bill number and year.
Legislative Analyses (Bill Analyses)	1973-present	Library of Michigan in Lansing – in their Reference Collection under Michigan Docs	Paper	Need bill number and year.
Legislative Analyses (Bill Analyses)	1997-Present	http://www.michiganlegislature.org/	PDF	Need year, house of legislature, and bill number.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LANSING LEGISLATIVE HISTORY SOURCES

Library of Michigan
P.O. Box 30007
717 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan 48909
(517) 373-1300

Office of the Great Seal
Secretary of State
Michigan State Library & Historical Center
717 W. Allegan, Ground Floor, Museum Wing
Lansing, Michigan 48918-1750
[use 48915 as zip code if using a courier service]
(517) 373-2531

Legislative Document Room
North Capitol Annex
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-0169

House Legislative Analysis Section
9 South
House Office Bldg.
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-6466

House Fiscal Agency
124 North Capitol
North Tower, 4th Floor, HOB
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 373-8080

Senate Fiscal Agency
201 N. Washington Square
The Victor Center, Suite 800
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-5383

Secretary of the Senate
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-2400

State Archives
Bureau of History
Library and History Center
717 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48918-1800
(517) 373-1408

State Law Library
Law Building
525 W. Ottawa
P.O. Box 30012
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-0510

State Records Center
3405 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing, MI
FAX: fax (517) 335-9418
RecordsCenter@state.mi.us

For additional information about Records Center Operations contact
Doug Case, State Records Center
(517) 335-9131

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