



Colorado Legislative History

Colorado publishes no comprehensive source for written legislative history (debates, committee reports, or transcripts of hearings held before legislative committees). Look for legislative history references in a variety of resources. Here are some guidelines:

AUDIO RESOURCES:

As of January 1973, audiotapes of Colorado House/Senate debates and floor proceedings, House/Senate committee hearings, House/Senate standing and interim committee meetings, and other materials are available at the following:

Colorado State Archives -OR-

1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-2390

Closed Wednesday

<http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/legis.html>

Colorado Legislative Council

200 East Colfax Ave.
State Capitol Building, Room 029
Denver, CO 80203

(303) 866-3521

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff

Researchers can also burn a CD for the following from 2003 to present:

Colorado House/Senate debates and floor proceedings,
Colorado House/Senate committee hearings, and
Colorado House/Senate standing and interim committee meetings.

Contact:

Colorado Legislative Council Library

200 East Colfax Avenue
State Capitol Building, Room 048
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-4011

SESSION LAWS:

Be aware that session laws or Laws Passed at the Session of the General Assembly of the State of Colorado (Level 3 KFC 1825 .A226) are published after each annual legislative session and **may** provide a very brief purpose statement for acts passed into law. Trace bill amendments in session laws: new text is capitalized and deletions are crossed through. Determine the legislative sponsor of the House or Senate bill in question and interview him/her about legislative intent.

Use the Red Book of legislative updates and locate Colorado statute changes by House/Senate bill number or statute citation.

Look for specific legislative history citations to Colorado session laws after the statute text in each version of the Colorado statutes; e.g.:

**Colorado Air Pollution Prevention and Control Act
Colo. Rev. Stats. § 25-7-101 et seq.**

1. Colorado Revised Statutes (LexisNexis) (Level 3 KFC 1830 1997 .A2):

Source: L. 79: Entire article R&RE, p. 1017, § 1. L. 92: Entire section amended, p. 1165 § 3, effective July 1.

- Find legislative history citation(s) online in LexisNexis (password protected): Colorado Revised Statutes from Westminster Law Library's Web page:
<http://www.law.du.edu/forms/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool/>
> enter password > click Research System tab > click Legal tab > States Legal – U.S. > CO – Colorado Revised Statutes Annotated. **Search: CITE(25-7-101)**. Toll-free Customer Service: 1-800-543-6862.
- See how Colorado S.B. 92-105 evolved (1991-) in LexisNexis (password protected) from Westminster Law Library's Web page:
<http://www.law.du.edu/forms/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool/>
> enter password > click Research System tab > click Legal tab > States Legal – U.S. > CO – Bill Tracking and Full Text Bills. **Search: CITE(CO) & S.B. 105**. Toll-free Customer Service: 1-800-543-6862.

2. West's Colorado Revised Statutes Annotated (Level 3 KFC 1830 1989 .A2):

Repealed and reenacted by Laws 1979, H.B. 1109, § 1. Amended by Laws 1992, S.B. 92-105 § 3, eff. July 1, 1992.

- Find legislative history citation(s) online in Westlaw (password protected) West's Colorado Revised Statutes Annotated from Westminster Law Library's Web page:
<http://www.law.du.edu/forms/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://lawschool.westlaw.com> > enter password > click Directory > U.S. State Materials > Colorado > Statutes & Legislative Materials > Colorado Statutes – Annotated (CO-ST-ANN). **Search: CI(25-7-101)**. Toll-free Customer Service: 1-800-WESTLAW.
- Use Colorado session laws from 1989- and other legislative materials in Westlaw (password protected):
<http://www.law.du.edu/forms/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://lawschool.westlaw.com> > enter password > click Directory > U.S. State Materials > Colorado > Statutes & Legislative Materials > Colorado Historical Legislative Service (1989-2007). (CO-LEGIS-OLD). **Search: CI(25-7-101)**. Toll-free Customer Service: 1-800-WESTLAW.

3. See session laws from 1993- at Colorado General Assembly site <http://www.leg.state.co.us/>. On left frame, scroll to and click Session Laws. This site also features House/Senate journals, calendars, legislative status sheets, full-text bills, and Colorado Revised Statutes.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES:

This office keeps track of Colorado statute changes and assists researchers with legislative history. Contact:

Office of Legislative Legal Services
Colorado General Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 091
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-2045

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/olls/olls1.htm. > Legal Topics > “Memos of Interest”
Researching Legislative History.

COLORADO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS:

The Legislative Council staff is the nonpartisan research arm of the Colorado General Assembly and provides staff support to legislative committees, responds to requests for research and constituent services, prepares fiscal notes, provides revenue projections, and performs other related services.

Search Colorado Legislative Council Research Publications online at Westminster Law Library:

<http://www.law.du.edu/forms/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://law.du.edu/forms/library/clcsearch.cfm>
Researchers can also access related legislation and information on performing legislative history at the state and federal levels.

To review summaries, see topical tables of content from 1999 to date at Colorado Legislative Council site http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff. > Research Publications > Major Issues by Year.

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Consult a print subject index (1954-) to Colorado Legislative Council Research Publications at Colorado Supreme Court Law Library. See <http://www.state.co.us/courts/sctlib/>

ANNUAL SURVEY OF COLORADO LAW:

See this Continuing Legal Education in Colorado, Inc., publication at **Level 3 KFC 1870 .A55**. This resource features expert commentaries on a variety of subjects (contracts,

family law, environmental law, etc.) from 1970 to date. You may also find legislative, judicial, and administrative law developments. See also, Continuing Legal Education (CLE) – Colorado Bar Association: <http://www.cobar.org/cle/>

NEWSPAPERS:

Newspaper articles are sometimes the only source of legislative background for researchers. Contact the following libraries for more information:

Colorado Historical Society. Stephen H. Hart Library. Colorado's Historical Newspaper Collection and sort by date, title, language, city, or country at <http://projects.aclin.org/chnc/newspapers/titleList.cfm>. For location and hours, click Colorado Historical Society, Stephen H. Hart Library > Visitor Information.

Denver Public Library, 5th Floor Western History/Genealogy Department, Rocky Mountain News (1859-) and The Denver Post (1894-) in microfilm archives. For location and hours, see <http://denverlibrary.org> > Locations & Hours > Central Library.

University of Denver, Penrose Library. Affiliates can review The Denver Post (1946 to date) and Rocky Mountain News (1937-to date; 1860- for preceding titles). See <http://library.du.edu/>. Under "About the Library," click Hours & Location. (All non-affiliates should click For Visitors.)

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Westminster Law Library, Databases/Indexes, has restricted off-campus access to the following:

- Archive of Americana, an online archival newspaper collection.
http://www.law.du.edu/forms/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://0-infoweb.newsbank.com/bianca.penlib.du.edu/?db=NEWSBANK&s_sources=location
 - Under "America's Historical Newspapers," scroll to Access World News > Colorado > The Denver Post (06/1989-) and Rocky Mountain News (01/1989-). For 19th Century Colorado newspapers, click Places of Publication > Colorado.
- Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection (1859-1924) at <http://www.law.du.edu/forms/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/>.

Affiliates: see <http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/library> > Hours on right frame.

Non-affiliates: see <http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/library> > More . . . on right frame > Access & Use.

LEGAL PERIODICALS:

Goldie Burton, Researching Colorado Ballot Measures. 26 Legal Reference Services Quarterly 51 (2007). **Level 2 Bibliographic Services K 12 .E45.**

Andrea L. Hamilton, Conducting Colorado Legislative History Research. 37 Colorado Lawyer 113 (August 2008). **Level 1 K 3.O39, Level 2 Microform FICHE K 3.O39, & Level 3 KFC 1869.C62.**