

Guide Series

How to Find Pending Legislation: California and Federal

I. California Legislation

- A. **Legislative Index:** Provides subject access to bills pending before the California Legislature. The *Legislative Index* is arranged in alphabetical order by subject. References to California bills follow the index entries. The current issue of the *Index* is housed in a file box preceding the pending bills in the California Collection at KFC 6 .A87.

Sample index entry: HEALTH FACILITIES. See also HOSPITALS.
Complaints, grievances, etc.,
retaliatory action, discriminatory treatment, etc., SB 1149
toll-free telephone number, AB 1621

SB = Senate bill SB 1149 is Senate bill number 1149;
AB = Assembly bill AB 1621 is Assembly bill number 1621

- B. **Table of Sections Affected:** Identifies pending bills that impact sections of the California Codes. The *Table* is arranged alphabetically by the name of the Code, and then in numerical order by Code section affected. Abbreviations are listed inside the front cover. The *Table* is shelved with the *Legislative Index*.
- C. **Weekly History:** These separate weekly histories for the California Assembly and California Senate cumulate information about the bills introduced during the legislative session. The first part of the *History* provides useful information: names of legislators and their addresses, committee assignments, messages and other items printed or noted in the *Assembly Journal* or *Senate Journal*. The rest of the *Weekly History* gives histories of the pending bills. These bill histories are arranged in numerical order by bill number, and provide vital information about each bill: sponsor, Code section affected, dates of introduction, reading, committee assignment, and whether the bill died in committee, was vetoed, or chaptered into law. The *Weekly Histories* are located in file boxes preceding the pending bills.
- D. **Bills:** Pending California bills are divided between Assembly and Senate, and arranged in separate file boxes in numerical order. All versions of a bill are filed together, with the most recent version appearing first.
- E. **Chaptered bills:** If a bill is chaptered into law, the final form plus a short digest can be found in the *Statutes and Amendments to the Code* (KFC 25 .A25). The *Statutes and Amendments* are arranged in chronological order by year, and within each year, in numerical order by chapter. Chapters for the most recent years are in unbound, stapled pamphlets shelved at the end of the set.
- F. **Other sources:** You may also check the *Assembly Journal* (KFC 5 .A87) and *Senate Journal* (KFC 5 .S46) for more information about your bill.

II. Federal Legislation

- A. ***Congressional Index*** (Reference Index KF 49 .C6; previous years in Reading Room): A two- volume looseleaf set published by Commerce Clearing House (CCH) which provides subject access to current federal legislation. Reissued for every two-year Congress, the set is divided into Senate and House volumes.

1. Volume One (Senate) contains a "How to Use this Reporter" instructional section, as well as the subject index and author index.

Sample entry from the Subject Index, 103d Congress:

Health and Medical Facilities

- trauma care
- brain injury . . . H 2606
- program revision . . . S 1113

S = Senate bill

H = House of Representatives bill

S 1113 is Senate bill number 1113, H 2606 is House bill number 2606.

2. Volume One has tabbed sections for Senate materials; Volume Two has House materials. Read the page or two of description after each tab to orient yourself. There are sections in the appropriate volume for Senate or House bills, arranged first by date of introduction, then by bill number, which provide the sponsor(s), a brief synopsis, and the committee assignment. These sections are followed by a section on bill status, which is arranged by bill number, and gives the dates when some action (e.g., introduction, committee assignment, amendment, etc.) was taken on the bill. Note: The *Congressional Index* does not contain the texts of the bills.

- B. ***Final Cumulative Finding Aid, House and Senate Bills*** (Reference Index KF 16 .U54): Used to access federal bills from 1980 to 2001 on microfiche. Take the Congressional session number and the bill number found in the *Congressional Index* to the appropriate volume of the *Finding Aid*. Pending bills are divided into the following eight groups: Senate (S.), Senate Resolutions (S. Res.), Senate Joint Resolutions (S. J. Res.), Senate Concurrent Resolutions (S. Con. Res.), House of Representatives (H.R.), House Resolutions (H. Res.), House Joint Resolutions (H. J. Res.), House Concurrent Resolutions (H. Con. Res.).

1. Turn to the appropriate section (Senate, House, correct session number, etc.).
2. Each page is divided into three columns. The columns are arranged in numerical order by bill number. Look in the appropriate column and find your bill number. Note the fiche number and X-Y coordinate number. The X-Y coordinate will direct you to the exact location of the bill text on the fiche card. One or more plus signs (+) following the X-Y coordinate number indicates the text is carried over onto the following fiche card(s).

- C. **Locating the texts of bills:** As indicated above, the LRC has the federal bills on microfiche back to 1980. The fiche are found in the microfiche cabinets at KF 16 .U54. The fiche are arranged in numerical order by congressional session. Use the fiche number found in the *Final Cumulative Finding Aid* to locate the correct fiche card. Be sure to retrieve all the microfiche in order to read the entire text of the bill.

Before 1980, federal bills were not systematically distributed by the government through the depository library system. Occasionally, older bills can be found in the *Congressional Record* (KF 35 .R43), or in a compiled legislative history.

III. Bills Online

California Bills are available at www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html

Full text : 1993 - current session

Status: 1993 - current session

History: 1993 - current session

Index: 1993 - current session

Analysis: 1993 - current session

Federal Bills are available at thomas.loc.gov

Full text : 101st Congress (1989) - current.

Summaries & Status: 93rd Congress (1974) - current

Index: 104th Congress (1995) -current

Committee Reports: 104th Congress (1995) -current

Public Laws: 93rd Congress (1974) - current

State and federal bills can be found on LEXIS and WESTLAW. Consult a current database list for each system for up-to-date information.

NOTE: Only currently enrolled USD law students and law faculty may access LEXIS and WESTLAW for educational purposes.

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE CONTACT A REFERENCE LIBRARIAN