

COMPARING FEDERAL & ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE HISTORY RESEARCH

Prepared by Frank Houdek — Spring 2009

STEPS IN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS	TYPICAL DOCUMENTS	FEDERAL SOURCES	ILLINOIS SOURCES
1. Idea	suggestions, hearings, messages		
2. Legislation Drafted	bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ microfiche collection ■ GPO Access (1993-94 to current) ■ Thomas (1989-90 to current) ■ LexisNexis Congressional (1989-90 to current) ■ LexisNexis (1989-90 to current) ■ Westlaw (1995-96 to current) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ microfiche collection from state ■ Illinois General Assembly Web site* (90th GA (1997-98) to current) ■ Westlaw (1991 to current) ■ LexisNexis (current session only)
3. To Committee	hearings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CIS (1970–83) or GPO (1983 to current) microfiche collections ■ GPO Access (1995-96 to current, selected) ■ Thomas → available through links to committee Web sites ■ LexisNexis Congressional (1989-90 to current) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ House — audiotaped; must request ■ Senate conducts hearings but does not record them
4. Committee Recommendation MOST IMPORTANT FEDERAL SOURCE	committee report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CIS (1970–83) or GPO (1983 to current) microfiche collections ■ <i>USCCAN</i> (1948 to current, selected reports only, arranged by P.L. No.) ■ GPO Access (1995-96 to current) ■ Thomas (1995-96 to current) ■ LexisNexis Congressional (1990 to current) ■ LexisNexis (1990 to current) ■ Westlaw (1948–89, selected; 1990 to current, complete) 	<p>very brief: “Do Pass”, “Do Not Pass”, “Do Pass As Amended”; included in <i>Legislative Synopsis & Digest</i> (1917 to current)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Illinois General Assembly website* included in bill status reports from 91st GA (1999-2000) to current ■ Westlaw included in bill status reports from 91st GA (1999-2000) to current (Illinois Legislative History Reports (IL-LH-REP)) ■ Lexis has “Illinois Legislative Bill History” database (2000 to current)
5. Floor Debate MOST IMPORTANT ILLINOIS SOURCE	transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Congressional Record ■ GPO Access (1994 to current) ■ Thomas (1989-90 to current) ■ LexisNexis Congressional → (1985 to current) ■ LexisNexis (1985 to current) ■ Westlaw (1985 to current) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ transcripts available on microfiche ■ Illinois General Assembly Web site* (transcripts from 77th GA (1971-72) to current) ■ Westlaw from 91st GA (1999-2000) to current (Illinois Legislative History Testimonies (IL-LH-TMY))
6. Reconciliation	conference report	same as 4	if issued, conference reports can be found in Journal of one of the chambers of the General Assembly — see Step 7)
7. Executive Action	presidential message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents ■ GPO Access (1993 to current) ■ LexisNexis (1979 to current) ■ Westlaw (1986 to current, signing statements; 2000 to current, messages) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ print: separately published journals of each chamber, House & Senate ■ Illinois General Assembly Web site* (91st GA (1999-2000) to current) ■ Westlaw from 91st GA (1999-2000) to current (Illinois Legislative History Journals (IL-LH-JRNLS)) ■ Lexis has “Illinois Legislative Bill History” database (2000 to current)

* Illinois General Assembly Web site, at <http://www.ilga.gov>