

ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE HISTORY RESEARCH

Prepared by Frank Houdek — Spring 2009

	GO TO:	IN ORDER TO:
Step 1	<p>Illinois Compiled Statutes (any version) OR</p> <p>Illinois General Assembly website*: Legislation & Laws → Illinois Compiled Statutes</p>	<p>identify Public Act number (e.g., P.A. 78-255) listed at end of each <i>ILCS</i> section</p> <p>[remember that first number relates to the number of the General Assembly, the second to the numerical sequence in which statutes were enacted during that particular General Assembly]</p>
Step 2	<p><i>Laws of the State of Illinois</i> [KFI1225 .I4 (1819–present)]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Illinois General Assembly website*: Legislation & Laws → Public Acts (90th G.A. (1997–98) to current)</p>	<p>identify bill number from listed at top of P.A.</p> <p>print: bill number listed at top of P.A.</p> <p>website: use lists to find Public Act by P.A. number; for Public Acts from previous General Assemblies, select G.A. from dropdown menu on Previous General Assemblies page; for some G.A.'s, there is “Public Act to Bill Number Conversion Table”</p>
Step 3	<p><i>Legislative Synopsis & Digest</i> [print, arranged by bill number] AND</p> <p>House and Senate bills [micro]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Illinois General Assembly website*: Legislation & Laws → Bills & Resolutions (90th G.A. (1997–98) to current)</p>	<p>review chronology of bill to identify likely dates of floor debate (e.g., “2nd reading” or “recalled to 2nd reading”)</p> <p>print: KFI1215 .I4 (1917–current)</p> <p>micro: Fiche V-S 0243 and 0244 (1987–98) film KFI1206 .I4 and .I42 (1877–1986)</p> <p>website: for bills and resolutions from previous General Assemblies, select G.A. from dropdown menu on Previous General Assemblies page; click on “listing” link under Legislation & Laws to find the bill number; retrieve status information and links to full text of bill</p>
Step 4	<p><i>Index of Transcripts for H or S Debate in the __ General Assembly</i></p> <p>website: skip this step</p>	<p>determine page #s for dates of debate on the bill</p> <p>print: KFI1210.I4 H67 and KFI1210 .I45 (1971–98), on cabinets in micro room; must look at both S & H indexes for the bill since there are separate fiche sets for each chamber; NOTE: page numbers are essential because each legislative day begins at page 1</p>
Step 5	<p>Debates of General Assembly, House and Senate [microfiche]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Illinois General Assembly website*: Senate or House → Transcripts (77th G.A. (1971–72) to current)</p>	<p>read actual debate re the bill</p> <p>micro: Fiche V-S 0002 and 0003; remember to consult fiche sets for both chambers</p> <p>website: for transcripts from previous G.A., select from dropdown menu on Previous General Assemblies page; retrieve by legislative day or date and then use “search” feature of Adobe reader to locate relevant debate (search for bill number)</p>
Step 6	<p><i>Journals of the House and Senate</i> [print]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Illinois General Assembly website*: Senate or House → Journals</p>	<p>locate any conference committee report or veto message from governor</p> <p>print: KFI1218 .H62 and .S43 (1844–current); use “Record of Bills” at end of last volume for year, which lists each page in Journal where bill is mentioned</p> <p>website: journals for 91st G.A. (1999–2000) to current; for journals from previous G.A., select from dropdown menu on Previous General Assemblies page; retrieve by legislative day or date and use “Find on this Page” feature of browser to locate conference committee report or veto message</p>

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