



MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE HISTORY RESOURCES

Source Checklist:

- Bills
- Committee Files
- House and Senate Journals
- Legislative Analysis (ONLY GOES BACK to 1973!!)
- Session Laws/Public Acts
- Historic Michigan Statutory Compilations
- Law Review Commission Reports
- Studies or Commission Reports
- Newspapers

Where to Find These Materials Online

[Michigan Legislature Website](#)

History notes for current Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) sections provide citations to the public acts that enacted and have amended the section. PDF copies of bills, House and Senate Journals, and analyses from 1995 are available, and are easily accessed through the [Public Act \(Signed Bills\)](#) link. The website is gradually being populated with legislative materials dating back to 1993 and 1994.

[Governing Michigan](#)

State of Michigan publications digitized by the Library of Michigan. Analysis for **selected** public acts are in the *Legislative and Statutory Materials Collection*. To determine if materials are included, search for the public act year and number in the following format: Year-PA-Public Act # (for example, 1994-PA-451). Governing Michigan also includes *Final Status Tables* covering bill information from 1949 -1996, as well as publications containing commentary on the Revised Judicature Act of 1961.

[Michigan Law Revision Commission Annual Reports](#)

The Commission's purpose is to "examine the common law and statutes of the state and current judicial decisions for the purpose of discovering defects and anachronisms in the law and recommending needed reforms." The Commission's Annual Report can provide insight into why legislation may have been drafted as it was. Reports are available online back to 1995, and earlier materials (back to 1966) are available on the LLMC Digital Law Library (see information below) and in print in the State Law Library.

[Hathi Trust Digital Library](#)

Includes digitized State of Michigan publications, including older public acts and statutory compilations. Many resources dated after 1923 have not been opened for full viewing and downloading may be restricted.

[Michigan Senate and House Committee Materials](#)

After determining which House and Senate committee has reviewed a bill, follow the prompts on that committee's webpage to access testimony and minutes. Materials are generally included for the current legislative session only.

[Library of Michigan ANSWER Catalog](#)

Use ANSWER to find reports, studies, or commentaries on notable pieces of legislation. The catalog also covers some holdings at the [State Archives](#) as well, in which case it may be possible to locate information in legislators' papers.

The following online resources are available in the Library of Michigan and State Law Library. State of Michigan Employees may be able to access some of these using their Library of Michigan card and PIN - for more information, contact the State Law Library at lmlawlib@michigan.gov.

HEIN Online

Searchable databases include session laws from all 50 states and statutory compilations (Michigan goes through 1948 and supplements). The State Law Library subscription includes full-text PDF images of law review and bar journal articles, which can be invaluable when trying to find discussions of older state legislation.

[LLMC Digital Law Library](#)

Access to session laws, Michigan legislative analysis from 1988 to 1994, legislative journals, and attorney general opinions. Keyword searchable.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Detroit Free Press, 1831-1999

Resource for possible commentary on historical bills before the Michigan Legislature, as well as context for the issues and events that may have given rise to the legislation.

Michigan Historical Annotated Statutes

The State Law Library's subscription to Westlaw includes historical Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (MCLA) sections back to 1989. The Law Library also keeps superseded print volumes of the MCLA, Michigan Compiled Laws Service, and Michigan Statutes Annotated.

Places for Research

[Library of Michigan](#) and [State Law Library](#)

The Library of Michigan is charged with obtaining a copy of all state publications. Legislative history materials, including copies of bills, are housed in the State Law Library, Michigan Documents, and Michigan Official Collections. Newspapers and periodicals are accessible. Some materials circulate. Contact lmlawlib@michigan.gov or call 517-335-1480 for more information.

[State Archives](#)

Although in the same building as the Library of Michigan, the [State Archives](#) is a separate department. The Archives is the last stop for state-generated records with permanent retention schedules, including bill files. Use the Archives to

find committee materials, recordings, letters from constituents, etc. Coverage varies, please contact the Archives directly for information.

For availability of legislative history materials at other law libraries throughout the State, please see the [Directory of Michigan Law Libraries](#).

State Constitutional Materials

Print

Materials on Michigan Constitutional Conventions are available in the State Law Library and the Michigan/Mich Docs Collections in the Library of Michigan. To see the range of materials, search on the keywords **constitutional conventions Michigan** in the [ANSWER](#) catalog.

Online

[Governing Michigan](#), *Michigan Constitutional Law* collection. Link to the *Official Record* and the *Journal of the Constitutional Convention* under the Heading “Most Requested Publications.” The items have been scanned as PDF files, so a keyword search can be done on them in the browser, or you can download the pages you need.

You can also link to the [Official Record](#) and [Journal](#) through the Library’s [ANSWER](#) catalog.

There is additional material online at the [Bentley Library](#) (Ann Arbor) website.

Dictionaries

Older editions of dictionaries, sometimes helpful in showing intent, may be found in the Library of Michigan.

Quick links to digital copies of statutory materials on free websites

Michigan Compiled Laws, 1979 (Limited to searching only, not available in full text)

[ANSWER](#)

[Hathi Trust](#)

Michigan Compiled Laws, 1970

[ANSWER](#)

[Hathi Trust](#)

[Governing Michigan](#)

The Compiled Laws of the State of Michigan, 1948

[ANSWER](#)

[Hathi Trust](#)

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