TIPS FOR RESEARCHING ALASKA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY USING ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE WEB SITE
www.akleg.gov

➢ BASIS
➢ INFOBASES
➢ LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY (LLIB) INFOBASE
➢ GUIDE TO ALASKA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIALS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
legislative.library@akleg.gov
(907) 465-3808
February 2017
Introduction:

The Alaska State Legislature website at [www.akleg.gov](http://www.akleg.gov) has legislative materials including session laws, journals, bills, committee records (minutes, audio, documents), and *Alaska Statutes*.

*BASIS* (*Bill Action Status Inquiry System*) covers the years 1993 to the present. Prior to 1993 you must use *Infobases*, which cover 1982 to the present and include some materials not found on BASIS.

*Infobases* are text-searchable. You can search all the documents of an Infobase for the entire two year legislature (and also search in multiple Infobases).

*BASIS* is also text-searchable. You may use the *BASIS* search box (in top red circle on the next page) to do text searches in the *Alaska Statutes*, *Alaska Administrative Code*, journals, bills, and minutes of recent two year legislatures. Information is being continually added.

Following are tips for performing an Alaska legislative history search using these legislative online resources.
This is the home page for the Alaska Legislature's website (aka BASIS). The search box is located in the upper right portion of most pages.

To get to the "Bills & Laws" page, click on "Bills & Laws" in the left navigation bar.
The "Bill and Laws" page allows you to search by bill number and find a bill’s Bill History/Action page with links to floor and committee action. Use the "Past Legislatures (Archives)" links for prior two-year legislatures (1993 to current).

Use the "Session Laws" link to find the bill that became the session law.

Use the "Statute Information Retrieval System (SIRS)" to find a companion bill or bill that merged into your bill. SIRS will allow you to find all bills that modify a given statute section. These other bills may have important discussions of intent.
If you know the bill number you are looking for, type it into the search box and hit enter. This will bring up the bill history page:

Click “**Full Text**” for all versions of your bill, to see if the language you are interested in was present in the first version of the bill or added later by a committee substitute or floor amendment. If a large section was added, look for another bill that may have merged into yours.

Committee minutes and audio are available at “**Minutes and Audio.**” "**Display Committee Actions**” will expand the list below to include committee action and minutes. The "**Journal Page**" column links to documents for the associated actions.
“Documents” are materials created or collected by a committee during its deliberation. They include bill drafts, amendments, sectional analyses, and public comments. 2009 is the first year some of these are available online. Committee Bill Files are the complete set of documents, and are kept in the Legislative Reference Library and the State Archives. The Guide to Alaska Legislative History Materials (on the Publications page) has a comprehensive listing of which resources are available, and where.
Infobases are used primarily for legislative history searches 1982-1992, but are also helpful to use with BASIS, 1993 to present. You can:

1) examine materials not available in BASIS: replaced titles of Alaska Statutes from 1993 to present are one example.

2) locate information not easily found in BASIS: executive orders and confirmation hearings (must know date and committee to find in BASIS)
3) search materials not in BASIS, such as the Legislative Library LLIB catalog of legislative history materials.

**Measures** (all versions of bills) and **Committee Minutes** are the Infobases used most for legislative history searches.


The Alaska Legislature also has Infobases on each computer desktop as **ALECSYS Infobases**. **ALECSYS** includes everything the web version
does, and additional Infobases such as the *Alaska Statutes annotated*. ALECSYS is also much easier to use.

The **Legislative Library Catalog Infobase** (LLIB) contains entries for materials helpful to those doing legislative history searches:

- reports done by or for the legislature, now digitized and downloadable
- legislative history compilations
- lists of committees, including Conference Committees, and which committee materials are available -- files, minutes, and/or audio.
Go to the “Publications” tab to find the “Guide”

The “Guide to Alaska Legislative History Materials” is a comprehensive description of legislative materials and where they are. The table of contents may be used as a checklist for doing legislative history searches.

Library staff, (907) 465-3808, can help you with legislative history searches in BASIS and Infobases.
ATTACHMENT:

Guide to Using INFOBASES on Alaska State Legislature web site
Guide to Using INFOBASES on AK State Legislature website:

To find the Infobases use the Quick Link at the bottom of any page on the legislative website at www.akleg.gov.
Choose an Infobase, such as Committee Minutes 1989-1990.
Click on the oval Query button.
When you query put quotes around a phrase or bill number: “hb 4”
Put a check by "Records with Hits" and “Headings with Hits” display options. Click on Search.
After you get the number of results, click on the “records with hits” bar
Then click on the “Contents” button

This displays the table of contents (clicking on 4 expands to date level)
Refer back to contents list to make sure you stay within your search.

Use “next hit” and “prev hit”, rather than “next” and “previous”.
To print: Highlight what you want, then select “File”, “Print”

Choose Print “Selection”, not Print “All”. (All = entire Infobase)
To search multiple infobases, go to Infobase main page, select Query
Highlight the infobases you want to search, in “Select Infobases to search” box. To select Infobases that aren’t next to each other on the list, hold down the Ctrl key while you click on the infobases.
Query results will appear for each Infobase which has your search term.

To get back to these results, you need to use the browser "back" button. "Contents" will only view the Infobase you click into.