

GUIDE TO
ALASKA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIALS

Alaska State Legislature
Legislative Reference Library
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Introduction/Directory

The table of contents list on the previous page can serve as a checklist for performing Alaska legislative history searches. This guide will describe the materials, where they are located, and in what form.

The Alaska Legislature and its agencies have for years been working to make legislative records easily accessible and available to the public. The legislative teleconference system, begun in 1978, has 21 Alaska Legislative Information Offices (LIOs) statewide. The *Alaska Legislative Computer System (ALECSYS)*, begun in 1981-82, includes the text of the *Alaska Statutes*, bills and resolutions, session laws, journals, and committee minutes. A microfiche program for committee records (bill files, and minutes prior to 1982), set up in 1986, places microfiche in research libraries around the state. And, since 1997, legislative electronic information is available on the Internet, at the *Alaska State Legislature Home Page*.

The Internet (Net) now contains a wealth of Alaska legislative history information. This guide mentions what's on the Net, the location and form of material prior to when it starts on the Net, as well as explains those materials not available on the Net.

Important sources of legislative history information are (area code 907):

<i>Alaska Legislature Home Page</i>	http://www.legis.state.ak.us
Legislative Reference Library.....	465-3808
Alaska State Archives.....	465-2270
Anchorage Legislative Information Office	269-0111
Fairbanks Legislative Information Office	452-4448
Juneau Legislative Information Office.....	465-4648
Anchorage Law Library	264-0585
Fairbanks Law Library.....	452-9241
Juneau Law Library.....	463-4761
University of Alaska, Anchorage, Library	786-1848
University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Library	474-7482
House Records	465-2214
Senate Records	465-2870
House Finance Committee.....	465-6814
Senate Finance Committee.....	465-4935
Chief Clerk of the House.....	465-3725
Senate Secretary	465-3701
Alaska State Library.....	465-2921

This guide covers mainly those materials produced by the State of Alaska. It does not attempt to cover commercially marketed forms of these materials.

TABLE: LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIAL LOCATIONS

	SESSION LAWS OF ALASKA (SLA)	BILL HISTORY & JOURNAL INDEX	JOURNALS	FLOOR TAPES
ANCH LAW LIBRARY	1913+	1975+*	1913+	1982+
ANCH LIO	1945-47, 1949+	1975+*	1975+	-
U OF A - ANCH	1959+	1975+*	1913+	-
FBKS LAW LIBRARY	1913+	1976+*	1913-92	-
FBKS LIO	1913+	1975+*	1975+	-
U OF A - FBKS	1913+	1976+*	1913+	1975-2004
JUNEAU LAW LIB.	1913+	H-1975 / S-1976*	1913+	-
LEG. REF. LIBRARY	1913+	1975+*	1913+	-
AK STATE LIBRARY	1913+	1975+*	1913+	current 2-4 years
AK STATE ARCHIVES	1913+	1975+*	1913+	1975+
OTHER LIOS **	most = 1979+	most = 1979+*	most = 1979-92	-
OTHER LAW LIBS.***	most = 1975+	most = 1975+	-	-
OTHER DEPOS. LIBS****	1913+	1979+	1913+	-
INTERNET (See p. 20)	1981+	1993+	1987+	audio 2002+

(see p. 2)

(see p. 3)

(see p. 5)

(see p. 11)

* *Final Status* is the same (except Fairbanks Law Library has 1985+). (see p.4)

** There are 21 Alaska Legislative Information Offices (LIOs). The 19 other LIOs (besides Anchorage and Fairbanks) are: Barrow, Bethel, Cordova, Delta Jct., Dillingham, Glennallen, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Matsu, Nome, Petersburg, Seward, Sitka, Tok, and Valdez. (LIO addresses and telephone numbers are on the Internet at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/home/liolist.htm>)

*** There are 17 law libraries in Alaska. The 14 other law libraries (besides Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau) are: Barrow, Bethel, Dillingham, Homer, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, Palmer, Petersburg, Sitka, Valdez, and Wrangell. (Law Library addresses, telephone numbers and hours are at <http://www.state.ak.us/courts/library.htm>)

**** There are 5 Alaska state publications depository libraries. The other 2 (besides State Library, U of A Fairbanks, and U of A Anchorage) are in Anchorage: the Loussac Library and the Alaska Resources Library (which used to keep its Alaska legislative history material in the U.S. Courts Library, both ARL and Courts Library now have collections).

TABLE: LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIAL - CONTINUED

	BILLS	COMMITTEE RECORDS	VIDEOTAPE INDEX	A.S. (PRIOR YEARS)
ANCH LAW LIBRARY	1953-04	*	1977-89	1960+
ANCH LIO	-	*	-	-
U OF A - ANCH	1913-41 broken, 1953-04	*	1977-82 / 1985-89	1977+
FBKS LAW LIBRARY	1959-04	*	-	1960+
FBKS LIO	-	*	-	-
U OF A - FBKS	1913-41 broken, 1953-04	*	1977-89	-
JUNEAU LAW LIB.	-	-	-	1960+
LEG. REF. LIBRARY	1953+	*(+ originals for last 6 years)	1977-89	1960+
AK STATE LIBRARY	1913-41 broken, 1953+	-	1977-89	1960+
AK STATE ARCHIVES	1913-41 broken, 1959+	*(+ originals over 6 years old)	1977-89 (+video tapes)	-
OTHER LIOs	-	-	-	-
OTHER LAW LIBs.	-	*Ketchikan	-	Ketchikan 1965+
OTHER DEPOS. LIBs.	-	-	-	-
INTERNET (see p. 20)	1983+	minutes 1982+** audio 2002+ files 2009+	index for last 2-3 weeks (+live video)	1993+

(see p. 6)

(minutes - see pp. 7-8)
(tapes - see p.10)
(files - see p. 9)

(see p. 12)

(see p. 1)

* *Committee Records on Microfiche:* Minutes 1965-82;
(See Appendix A) Tapes (Photocopies) 1970-82
Files 1965+
Committee Tapes and Minutes 1982-2004 Index (also at the Soldotna LIO)
(See Appendix B)

** Finance Committee minutes are online 1981+

TABLE: LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIAL - CONTINUED

	LEGISLATIVE REPORTING SERVICE	AK REPORTING SERVICE	FISCAL NOTES *	CONF. COMMITTEE BOOKS
ANCH LAW LIBRARY	5/4/81-7/27/93	-	1977+	-
ANCH LIO	-	-	1977-88	1976+
U OF A - ANCH	1960-75	9/28/59-12/4/67	1977+	1973+
FBKS LAW LIBRARY	-	-	1977-88	-
FBKS LIO	-	-	1977-88	1984+
U OF A - FBKS	1960-93	1959-69/70	1977+	1972+
JUNEAU LAW LIB.	-	-	1977+	-
LEG. REF. LIBRARY	1959-76, 1979-93	1959-65	1977+	1973+
AK STATE LIBRARY	1/27/60-7/27/93	9/28/59-10/6/70	1977+	1973+
AK STATE ARCHIVES	-	-	1977+	-
OTHER LIOs	-	-	most=1979-88	recent years
OTHER LAW LIBs.	-	-	-	-
OTHER DEPOS. LIBs.	-	-	1977+	-
INTERNET (see p. 20)	-	-	1993+	1998+

(see p. 16)

(see p. 16)

(see pp. 5, 18-19)

(see p. 19)

* Fiscal Notes: 1977-88 in the Journals, 1989+ on microfiche.

Alaska Statutes (AS)

Session laws that added or amended a certain section of the *Alaska Statutes* are listed at the end of that section. You may need to read the full text of all the laws listed to find which one or ones added or amended the specific words or section you're interested in.

Also check any notes following the *AS* section. Revisor's notes, editor's notes, and notes as to "effect of amendments" and "legislative history reports" can be very helpful.

Additional Information

If you want to know what the law was at a certain time or research a section which has since been repealed, check the older versions of the *AS*.

To find how the *AS* read at a certain time with "annotations," (session law citations, notes, and court opinion citations) see the paper copy: (or *ALECSYS*, see p.20)

1962-95	<i>AS</i> replaced titles and cumulative supplements	<i>AS</i> sets 1962-95 were binders of pamphlets (titles and supplement) updated each year by replacing the supplements and a few titles.
1996+	<i>AS</i> replaced sets	<i>AS</i> sets 1996+ are paper bound, reprinted every 2 years, updated in the intervening year by a 1-volume supplement.

To find how the *AS* read at a certain time without annotations see the Internet:

1993+	Internet	Alaska Legislature Home Page
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Available (see table p. iv)

Paper copy - Current: at LIOs, Alaska Court System Law Libraries, University of Alaska libraries, Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, Alaska State Archives, U. S. Courts Library, and most municipal libraries.

- Replaced titles, supplements and sets: at Law Libraries in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks; University of Alaska Libraries in Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library; and Legislative Reference Library.

Internet - unannotated 1993+ *Infobases* (see p. 20)

Session Laws of Alaska (SLA)

The first page of a session law shows the number of the bill which became that session law. This bill number is the number you need to locate legislative history materials.

Be sure to read the session law to check for (1) any amendments that relate to your particular statute under consideration, and (2) any bits of temporary or special law that may be important, such as those sections stating "purpose", "findings and intent", or "applicability". (Temporary and special law sections of a session law are those parts which do not have *AS* section numbers preceding them; they won't be codified, but rather placed in *AS* under "temporary and special acts" section.)

Additional Information

(See p. 18 for budget session law information)

Available (see table p. iii)

Paper copy - Complete set, 1913+: at LIO in Fairbanks; Law Libraries in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau; University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, and Alaska State Archives.

- Sets for recent years (years vary): at rest of LIOs (Anchorage LIO has 1949+); rest of Law Libraries; University of Alaska, Anchorage (has 1959+); Loussac Library and U. S. Courts Library.

Internet - 1981+ *Infobases*; 1993+ *BASIS* "Session Law" link allows you to find the bill number which became that session law, and link to its Bill History/Action page. Use the "Archive" link to get to prior 2-year legislatures. (see p. 20)

Bill History and Journal Index

The *Bill History and Journal Index* lists for each bill all House and Senate floor actions, and the pages of the *House* and *Senate Journals* on which these actions are mentioned. It shows among other things who sponsored the bill, which committees the bill was referred to, and whether there was a letter of intent. This is available for every legislature 1975+.

Prior to 1975, a section in the back of the *House* and *Senate Journals* lists those pages in the journals on which a bill is mentioned, but you must look at each of those pages to find out the bill action and the date on which it occurred.

Available (see table p. iii)

Paper copy - Complete set, 1975+: at LIOs in Anchorage and Fairbanks; Law Libraries in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau; University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, and Alaska State Archives.

- Sets for recent years (years vary): at rest of LIOs (generally 1985+); rest of law libraries; Loussac Library and U. S. Courts Library.

Internet - 1993-94+ *BASIS*: a bill search brings you to the Bill History/Action page for that bill, with links to journal pages, committee minutes and audio, committee documents, and all versions of the bill. (see p. 20)

Final Status of Bills

The *Final Status of Bills* lists all bills in the two-year legislature by subject, by bill number, and by sponsor, and tells the final version of each bill.

The *Final Status* can help you discover if an identical or similar bill was introduced in the other house. If so, part of the committee discussion on the issue may be under the other bill number. To find a possible duplicate or related bill, check the *Final Status* under the subject of your bill: a duplicate bill will be from the other house but with the exact same title (unless one has been amended extensively). Look for a duplicate bill if the bill being researched was a controversial one and it either went through a major committee "too fast" (in only a day or two) or didn't go to a logical major committee at all.

Research may lead back to a previous legislature. It sometimes takes several legislatures for a bill on a specific subject to get passed, and there will have been discussion and modifications during each session. Bills "die" at the end of each legislature but may be reintroduced the next legislature - usually with a different bill number.

Available (see table p. iii)

Paper copy - Complete set, 1975+: at LIOs in Anchorage and Fairbanks; Law Libraries in Anchorage and Juneau; University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, and Alaska State Archives.

- Sets for recent years (years vary): at rest of LIOs; Fairbanks Law Library (has 1985+); Loussac Library and U. S. Courts Library.

Internet - 1993+ *BASIS*: see "Subject Summary" and "Sponsor Summary" links *

* See also the *BASIS* "Statute Informational Retrieval System (SIRS)" link to find an identical bill introduced in the other house or bill that merged into your bill. If one is suspected, search for an *Alaska Statutes* (AS) citation in your bill. This will tell you all other bills that have this citation in them. (For 1983+, you may search by AS citation, or key words, in *Infobases* "Measures", see p. 6 and p. 20; for 1976-82, contact Legislative Library, 465-3808, which has a computer print-out list of A.S. sections in bills for those years, see p. 6 and 21.)

House and Senate Journals

The *House* and *Senate Journals* are the daily legislative record of floor actions for each body. These include all motions made and votes taken on each bill. The floor debate is not transcribed, but tapes are available (see p. 11).

Check all *House* and *Senate Journal* entries especially floor amendments, letters of intent, the governor's transmittal letter (always printed in the journal at the first reading of a governor's bill), and the governor's return letter (for bills signed into law or bills allowed to become law without his signature). Also, for bills that became law by the legislature overriding the governor's veto, look for the governor's veto message.

Additional Information

Journal Supplements contain material related to floor action on bills, such as sectional analyses and commentary on bills, long committee reports, and fiscal notes. *Supplements -- House, Senate, or Joint --* are numbered separately starting with "1". To locate a supplement in the journal, go to the journal page or the date listed for it in the index and then page forward until you find it.

Fiscal notes contain the estimated costs to state agencies if a proposed bill were to become law. They are in the journal supplements, 1977-1986; in separate volumes with the journals, 1987-1988; and on microfiche, 1989+. (See pp. 18-19 for more fiscal note information.)

Available (see table p. iii)

Paper copy - Complete set, 1913+: at Law Libraries in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau; University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, and Alaska State Archives.

- Sets for recent years (years vary): at LIOs (Anchorage and Fairbanks LIOs have 1975+); Loussac Library and U. S. Courts Library.

Internet - 1987+ *Infobases*; 1993+ *BASIS* (see p. 20)

Index - *Bill History and Journal Index* (see p. 3)

All Versions of a Bill

Check all versions of a bill to see if the section you are interested in was included in the first version or added or amended later by a committee substitute or floor amendment. This could narrow down your search and save you time and effort.

Sometimes a section added in a later version may have been taken from a different bill on the same subject that year. To easily check for this (in those bills 1983+) use the all versions of bills infobase for that legislature, and search for the key words of the section or the AS citation. This will show what other bill(s) those key words or AS section were in. You may want to then research the bill the section came from since much of the committee discussion of the topic may be on that other bill. (See bottom of p.4: searching for bills with certain AS citations, 1976-1982, and 1993+.)

Additional Information

Bills on paper and microfilm have underlining "___" to show proposed additions to current law, and brackets "[]" to show proposed deletions. These markings make it easy to see what the proposed changes of each bill version are.

Bills on the Net have underlining and brackets 1993+. Use of underlining started in 1993. Use of brackets started in 1983 (the one exception is the 1991-92 legislature when instead of being bracketed deleted material was CAPITALIZED following the added material, and deleted numbers merely followed the added numbers).

Bills on paper and microfilm (and the Net: 1995+ *BASIS* pdf version only), include page and line numbers. This can be helpful since committee hearings and floor sessions refer to changes in bills by bill version, page number, and line number.

(See p. 18, and p. 19 for budget bill information.)

Available (see table p. iv)

Paper copy – 1953+: at Legislative Reference Library

Microfilm – 1953-2004: at Anchorage Law Library; University of Alaska, Anchorage* and Fairbanks*. - 1959-2004: at Fairbanks Law Library. - 1959+: Legislative Reference Library, Alaska State Archives*, and Alaska State Library*. *also have "Alaska Territorial Legislative Records," which include an incomplete set of bills 1913-41

Internet - 1983+ *Infobases*; 1993+ *BASIS* (see p. 20)

Index - by subject: 1959-94 *Legislative Reporting Service* (see p. 16)

1975+ *Final Status of Bills* (see p. 4)

Committee Minutes

Check the committee minutes for discussion on the understood purpose of the bill or amendment.

Committee minutes are summaries of discussions and actions in a committee. They vary from extremely brief to almost word for word. If you need to know exactly what was said in a meeting, you may request a copy of the committee tape. Transcripts (verbatim description of meetings) are seldom made.

Committee minutes are available from all committees, and in a consistent form only after the start of the legislative computer system in 1982.

Additional Information

To find minutes before 1982 (when most start on the Internet*) check the paper copy or microfiche to see if there is a minute index. If there is no index you must page through the committee's minutes between the dates the bill went into and out of committee. The committees a bill went to and the dates in and out are shown 1959+ in the indexes in the back of the Journals, and 1975+ in the *House and Senate Bill History and Journal Index*. The date a bill is "read the first time" is the date it goes into the first committee. The date that committee reports it back to the House or Senate (with recommendations such as "do pass", "do not pass" or replace with "committee substitute") is the day it goes into the next committee.

Minutes prior to 1982 often have additional materials such as meeting agendas, witness registers, and committee reports. All these additional materials, 1967-1981, are included in the minute microfiche. Because minutes 1982+ are on the Net (and therefore don't need to be microfiched) any attachments to them are available only from whomever has the paper minutes -- mostly the Alaska State Archives. Finance Committee minutes through 1996, often have "attachments" of materials presented at the meetings. (See pp. 18-19 for Finance Committee information.)

For the most part, committee minutes from 1982+ are available on the Net. However a number of minutes are not on the Net, but are available in paper copy at the Legislative Reference Library (this is true mostly for the years 1983-88). Also, Senate Finance Committee has many meetings 1997-99 for which no minutes were created or only incomplete minutes. See *Alaska Legislature Committee Tapes and Minutes Index, 1982-2004* for lists of meetings held, and whether there are minutes on the Net, paper copies, transcripts, tape logs, or just tapes.

Committee minutes are in:
< minutes and tape logs, 1965-82 (microfiche);

- < tapes, 1970-82 (microfiched photocopies of tapes and tape jackets) - tape logs on outside of tapes are sometimes the only "minutes" available;
- < files 1965+ (microfiche) -- special committee files sometimes contain committee or conference committee minutes and transcripts;
- < *House and Senate Journals* -- journals included a few committee minutes during 1960's and 1970's;
- < LLIB collection 1953+ (see p. 13) -- a few minutes and transcripts are there, sometimes as part of a legislative report;
- < minutes, 1965+ (paper copy);
- < Internet, 1982+*

Transcripts when available are either in the LLIB collection, in committee files (special committees mostly) or with the paper copy of the minutes. Any Finance Committee transcripts are with the Finance Committee minute binders.

Available (see table p. iv)

Paper copy – standing and special committees':

- < current 2-year legislature are with House Records or Senate Records; all earlier, 1965+, are at the Legislative Reference Library

Paper copy - Finance Committees':

- < current 2-year legislature are with the committees; prior 6 years are at Legislative Reference Library; all earlier, 1967+, are at Alaska State Archives

Microfiche - 1965-82:

- < LIOs in Anchorage and Fairbanks
- < Law Libraries in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Ketchikan
- < University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks
- < Legislative Reference Library
- < Alaska State Archives

Internet - 1982+ *Infobases* (* Finance Committee minutes are 1981+)
1993+ *BASIS* (see p. 20)

Index

- < 1965-82 *Alaska Legislature Committee Records on Microfiche Index*:
Volume 1 - Minutes 1965-82
- < 1982+ *Alaska Legislature Committee Tapes & Minutes, 1982-2004 Index*; and
Alaska Legislature Committee Minutes, 2005+ Index
Volume(s) 1 - Committees (except Finance) 1982-2004; 2005+
Volume(s) 2 - Finance Committee 1995-2004; 2005+ (The only Finance minute indexes 1982-1994 are in the minute binders, and only reference bill number and page number of the minutes, don't mention meeting date or tape number.)

Committee Files

Committee files contain material created by or collected by a committee during its deliberations. Most are on bills or resolutions referred to the committee, and contain bill drafts, amendments, fiscal notes, correspondence, sectional analyses, research material, and testimony. A few files on issues discussed by the committee (executive orders, confirmation hearings, overviews of departments, and briefings) may be found at the beginning of the bill files. Be sure to check the entire list of a committee's files to make sure you've found all the files on your bill or subject.

Special committees are legislative committees, commissions, or task forces set up for a limited time to accomplish a specific task: to study an issue and report on it by a certain time, or to be an additional committee of referral for bills on a specific topic, such as oil and gas or fisheries. Files are similar to those of standing committees (permanent committees) but may include research and meeting files.

Included with the special committee (SCOMM) files are a few collections of subject files, created by legislative committees, on topics of ongoing interest, such as workers' compensation and oil and gas.

Additional Information

(See p. 18 for more Finance Committee file information.)

Available (see table p. iv)

Paper copy - All committees (including Finance): current 2-year legislature are with the committees; prior 6 years at the Legislative Reference Library; all older (1965+) are at the Alaska State Archives.

Microfiche - Standing committees 1965+, Finance Committees 1971+, Special Committee/Subject (SCOMM) 1972+: at same locations as the committee minutes. Files are microfiched within 2 years after the end of each legislature.

Internet - 2009+ *BASIS*: includes many of the documents kept in a committee file, but not necessarily all; see paper or microfiche for all. (see p. 20) Documents are also online for 2008 Finance Committees.

Index - *Alaska Legislature Committee Records on Microfiche Index*:

Volume 3 - Standing Committees 1965+

Volume 4 - Finance Committees 1971+

Volume 5 - Special Committees 1972+

Committee Audio Recordings

Tapes of committee meetings are worth listening to if the minutes are not in enough detail or if you need to know exactly what was said during a meeting. It is usually best to review committee minutes before requesting tapes so that you can request just those tapes that discuss the section or aspect of the bill you're interested in.

There may be tapes available for committees for which there are no committee minutes or bill files.

Additional Information

Digital audio recording by the legislature of all committee meetings started in 2005, and is available on the Internet 2005+.

Live audio on the Internet of all committee meetings started in 2002, as part of public television legislative coverage, *Gavel to Gavel*. Audio is archived online for January 2002+. This is not the official recording of meetings (that is done by the legislature) and may be incomplete or contain material added by the commentators.

Tape requests: Finance Committee tapes, 1981-94 must be requested by tape number from the Alaska State Archives. Find the tape numbers from the minutes on computer. (See p. 17 for conference committee tapes, and pp. 18-19 for Conference Committee on the Budget tapes.)

Available (see p. iv)

Tapes - 1971-2004: at the Alaska State Archives. Finance tapes are 1976-2004.

Internet - 2005+ *BASIS*: digital audio recorded by the legislature. See "Committee Minutes and Audio" link, or do a bill search -- the audio is there with the minutes.

- 2002+: live audio, plus archived audio, produced by KTOO. See *Alaska Legislature Home Page*: <http://www.legis.state.ak.us> or *Gavel to Gavel*: www.ktoo.org/gavel. (Recordings may be incomplete, not the official record)

Index

- < 1970-82 *Alaska Legislature Committee Records on Microfiche Index*:
Volume 2 (Photocopies of Tapes and Tape Jackets) - (except Fin. Com.)
- < 1982+ *Alaska Legislature Committee Tapes & Minutes 1982-2004 Index*; and
Alaska Legislature Committee Minutes 2005+ Index
Volume(s) 1 - All committees (except Finance) 1982-2004; 2005+
Volume(s) 2 - Finance Committees 1995-2004; 2005+

House and Senate Floor Session Audiotapes

Audiotapes of floor sessions are important when changes or debate have taken place on the floor of the House or Senate. The journals will indicate sessions where amendments were made or attempted and where debate was likely to have occurred.

Additional Information

The House and Senate started taping their floor sessions in 1975; no tapes are available prior to that year.

Live audio on the Internet of all floor sessions, *Gavel to Gavel*, started in 2002. Audio is archived online for January 2002+. This is not the official recording of floor sessions (that is done by the legislature) and may be incomplete or contain material added by the commentators.

2010 Alaska Legislature starts recording floor sessions digitally

Available (see table p. iii)

Tapes - 1975-2009: originals sent each day to the Alaska State Library, kept until June or July, then originals sent to the Alaska State Archives and copies sent to the Anchorage Law Library.

- Holdings: 1975+, at the Alaska State Archives; 1975-2004, at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; 1982+, at the Anchorage Law Library (for listening only, but may be checked out); last 2-3 years, at the Alaska State Library.

(Legislative Reference Library has no floor tapes.)

Internet - live audio, plus archived audio January 2002+. See *Alaska Legislature Home Page*: <http://www.legis.state.ak.us> or *Gavel to Gavel*: www.ktoo.org/gavel. (Recordings may be incomplete -- not the "official record")

Index – 1975-2003, at the same locations as the tapes (and at the Legislative Reference Library)

Videotapes of Television Coverage of Legislature

The legislature funded television coverage of its sessions from 1977 to 1989. Coverage included important floor debate, committee meetings (including some conference committee meetings), and interviews with legislators.

Public television coverage of the legislature, *Gavel to Gavel* started in 1996. The series is produced by KTOO Television and funded by a private corporation and the city of Juneau. Coverage includes floor sessions, some committee hearings, and a weekly evening call-in program, *Alaska Talks*, where legislators or groups testifying before the legislature answer questions.

Gavel to Gavel started streaming live video of the legislature on the Internet in 2002. In cooperation with ACS, it streams live video of all floor sessions and some committee hearings.

Additional Information

An index created by the Alaska State Library provides access to the videotapes by subject, personal name, bill number and date for 1977-1981; and only by subject, personal name and date for 1982-1989. No index, and few tapes, are available 1996+.

Available (see table p. iv)

Videotapes

- < 1977-89: *Capital '77-'89* at the Alaska State Archives.
- < 1996+: *Gavel to Gavel* available for current 2-3 weeks only; a few programs of continuing interest are available longer. List of available videotapes is at <http://www.ktoo.org/gavel>; tapes may be ordered online, or by calling KTOO (586-1670).

Internet - live video only, none archived online. See *Alaska Legislature Home Page*: <http://www.legis.state.ak.us> or *Gavel to Gavel*: <http://www.ktoo.org/gavel>.

Index

- < 1977-89: at University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, and Alaska State Archives.
- < 1996+ : (no index -- only list of available videotapes)

Legislative Reference Library LLIB Collection

The LLIB collection contains entries for the library's Alaska legislative history materials. The catalog includes reports written by or contracted by the legislature, or requested by the legislature from other state agencies (not annual reports), and some transcripts of legislative meetings.

Additional Information

(see p. 21)

Available

Paper copy - 1953+ : Legislative Reference Library

- Some of these legislative reports and transcripts may be held at other Alaska libraries.

Internet - 1953+, catalog (see p. 20)

Department of Law Bill Review Files

Bill review files are created for virtually all bills that have passed and are to be signed or vetoed by the governor. If a bill proposed by the Governor is passed, its bill drafting file (which is normally confidential) and bill review file are combined.

Important bill reviews 1988+ have become *Department of Law Memoranda of Advice/Attorney General Informal Opinions*.

Available

Paper copy - 1969+ Legislative Bill Review Files

Contact the Department of Law (465-3600) for bill review files for the last 7 years. Contact the Alaska State Archives (465-2270) for earlier files.

Office of Governor Files

The Governor's Office has always requested introduction of certain bills, tracked them and lobbied for their passage. The governor's legislative or subject files can be helpful for bills from earlier years for which little other information is to be found. Files available include those of Territorial Governors (1909-1958).

Available

Contact the Alaska State Archives (465-2270).

Other Executive Branch Files

State agencies, which are affected by a bill and consulted during the deliberations on the bill, sometimes keep legislative files or subject files. These files might include the agency's testimony or position papers and letters by citizens, groups, and federal agencies. These are most helpful for earlier years when little else is available. Some executive branch files date from the early 1900's.

Available

Contact the Alaska State Archives (465-2270).

Legislators' Legislative Files

Several legislators have donated their legislative files to the Alaska State Archives. Other former legislators have donated their papers to the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Archives or to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Archives. The Alaska State Archives accepts only those files related to a legislator's public office, while the University of Alaska Archives accept all categories of a legislator's "papers".

Available

Contact: The Alaska State Archives (465-2270); the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Archives (786-1849); and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Archives (474-6773).

Newspapers

Newspaper accounts of interviews with legislators about a bill before the bill is passed may discuss the understood intent of the bill or the problem the bill was addressing and why.

Available

Microfilm - all Alaska newspapers: at University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; and Alaska State Library.

Legislative Reporting Service and Alaska Reporting Service

Legislative Reporting Service: This commercial service, 1959-1993, provides the only index/subject access to bills from 1959-1974. It also occasionally contained some additional information not provided in the journals.

Alaska Reporting Service: This weekly report, 1959-1970, put out by the publisher of the *Legislative Reporting Service*, covers activities in all branches of state government. It sometimes contained detailed coverage of committee meetings when no other is available. There is no index. You need to page through the issues between the date the bill was introduced and the date it was passed into law.

Available (see table p. v)

Paper copy - at University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library and Legislative Reference Library.

Conference Committees

Prior to 1999, Conference committees were seldom recorded in any form. The Conference Committee on the Budget is the exception: it was recorded and indexed, 1971+. (See pp. 18-19 for Conference Committee on the Budget.)

To locate conference committee material ...

Check the lists of committees with materials on microfiche (Appendix A).

Conference committees with materials are listed as follows:

- < **minutes**, 1965-82 -- before the standing committees;
- < **files**, 1967+ -- at the end of the standing committees;
- < **tapes** (photocopies of), 1970-82 -- with the special committees following the standing committees.

Check the lists of committees with tapes and minutes, 1982-2004 and committees with minutes, 2005+ (Appendix B). Conference committees with **tapes** and/or **minutes**, are listed with the special committees following the standing committees.

If a bill was sponsored by or was referred to a special committee, check that special committee's (SCOMM) list of files on microfiche. Some special committees included conference committee **minutes**, **transcripts** or **files**.

Check videotapes index for videotapes. (see p. 12)

Some conference committee (CC) **tapes** (1970's-80's) are not listed as a separate group of tapes, but are part of another committee's tapes -- often the committee in whose room the CC was held. Check which legislators are on the CC (in journal or bill history/journal index). Check their committee assignments (in first volume of journal for that year). If any chaired a committee (preferably one which had discussed the bill) then the CC may have been held in that committee's room. Check that committee's tapes between the dates the bill went into and out of CC and at the end of the committee's tapes for that year. (For pre-1982 bills look at index/microfiche photocopies of tapes and tape jackets; for 1982+ audio see lists in *Committee Tapes and Minutes, 1982-2004* and *Committee Minutes, 2005+ Indexes*.)

Check the Internet for:

- < **minutes** -- 1982+ *Infobases*; 1993+ *BASIS*
- < LLIB Infobase contains entries for materials in LLIB collection such as **minutes** and **transcripts**, as well as the lists of committees with materials on microfiche (minutes, files, or tapes) (Appendix A) and committees with tapes and minutes 1982+ (Appendix B).

Finance

Finance Committee records differ from those of other standing committees mostly because of the nature of budget documents and the appropriations process. *

See *Alaska State Legislature Budget Guide: The Swiss Army Knife of Budget Handbooks* by Legislative Finance Division, for an explanation of the appropriations process and historical resource documents (on *Legislative Finance Division Home Page* at <http://www.legfin.state.ak.us>).

A few things to note

Through 1997, parts of the budget bills and budget session laws are on the Internet, but not all. The pages of departmental allocations, appropriation items, and appropriation funding sources are, until 1998, available only on paper and microfilm. Complete budget bills are on the Net: 1998+ *BASIS* pdf version only; and 2002+ *Basis* text version and *Infobases*. Complete budget session laws, including the Governor's line item vetoes, are on the Net: 2003+ *BASIS* pdf version only.

Fiscal notes are on the Internet in an abbreviated form 1993-98: showing only the next fiscal year and no analyses. Complete fiscal notes are on the Net 1999+: *BASIS* pdf form. (See paper or microfiche for complete fiscal notes, 1993-98.)

Additional materials are kept with the paper copy of the minutes (and are not on microfiche):

- < Materials presented at Finance committee meetings, 1982-96, are included with the minutes as attachments. (Such materials 1997+ are put in the bill files and microfiched.)
- < Conference Committee on Budget materials and index, 1982-2006 are in a binder with the minute binders. Materials include minutes, log notes, motions sheets on budget areas, and fiscal notes. (Such materials 2007+ are put in bill files and microfiched.)

(Pre-computer minutes, 1967-82, and any materials with them, including Conference Committee on Budget materials are on microfiche; but minutes and the materials with them 1982+ are not microfiched since the minutes are on computer.)

Available

Minutes (see pp. 7-8, and p. 19 - Conference Committee on the Budget)

Files (see p. 9)

Tapes (see p. 10, and p. 19 - Conference Committee on the Budget)

Conference Committee on Budget (operating budget)

- Minutes 1967-82 - microfiche and paper copy (in with Finance Committee minutes)
1982+ - paper copy (in binder with Finance Committee minute binders); thru 2006, includes log notes, motion sheets, etc.
1982+ - Internet
- Tapes 1967-04 - (same as Finance Committee tapes - see p. 10)
- Files - (none created; but 2007+, motion sheets, etc. put in files and microfiched with house and senate finance committee files)
- Index 1971-82 - microfiche and paper copy (in with Finance Committee minutes)
1982+ - paper copy (in binder with Finance Committee minute binders)

(1995+ indexes to Conference Committee on the Budget tapes and minutes are also in *Alaska Legislature Committee Tapes and Minutes 1982-2004 Index*, Vol. 2 - Finance, and *Alaska Legislature Committee Minutes 2005+ Index*, Vol. 2 - Finance)

Conference Committee Books/Budget Reports: a series of reports on the budget passed during a session: operating budget reports, a summary of appropriations, and a capital projects election district report. (see table p. v)

- Paper copy - FY67+ - Legislative Finance Division
FY73+ - University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks;
Alaska State Library and Legislative Reference Library
- Internet - FY 98+ - *Legislative Finance Division Home Page*
<http://www.legfin.state.ak.us>

Fiscal Notes: Fiscal notes are included in the journals, 1977-88, (see p. 5 for fiscal note information.) (see table p. v)

- Paper copy - 1989+ - Legislative Reference Library
- Microfiche - 1989+ - Law Libraries in Anchorage and Juneau; University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library; Legislative Reference Library; Loussac Library and U. S. Courts Library.
- Internet - 1993-98 - abbreviated version -- on *BASIS (Bill Action and Status Inquiry System)* (see pp. 18 & 20)
1999+ - complete (pdf version) -- on *BASIS (Bill Action and Status Inquiry System)* (see pp. 18 & 20)

* Starting in 1995-96, Finance Committee records have the same type of indexes, tape-minute lists, and microfiche as other committees. This is because, in November 1995, responsibility for maintenance of Finance Committee records was transferred from Legislative Finance Division to the Legislative Reference Library which was responsible for all other committees' records.

Alaska Legislature Electronic Information

Alaska Legislature electronic information is on the Internet in *BASIS* and the *Alaska State Legislature Infobases Online*. In the listings below, an underline indicates that the information is available in one system, but not in the other.

BASIS (Bill Action and Status Inquiry System) - contains information on each bill 1993+: a list of all floor actions on the bill with links to journal entries and committee minutes, audio of committee meetings 2005+, all versions of each bill in pdf form 1995+, session laws in pdf form 2003+, committee documents 2009+, and fiscal notes. BASIS does not have text search features (although you may be able to use the "find" feature on your web browser). This information is found using the "bill & laws" link on the top of the legislature's home page.

Alaska State Legislature Infobases Online - is text searchable, and consists of infobases for the *Alaska Statutes (unannotated)*, session laws, journals, all versions of bills and resolutions, committee minutes, and Legislative Reference Library catalog (LLIB). This is found using the "infobases" link on the bottom of the legislature's home page.

Additional Information

ALECSYS (Alaska Legislative Computer System) Infobases, which is not on the Internet, contains the same infobases as the *Infobases Online*, but with an easier to use interface. It is on the legislature's local area network (lan) to which all legislative offices have access, and the public may access at public terminals in the Legislative Information Offices. (Use the Start menu and select "Programs", "*ALECSYS Infobases*".) The *Alaska Statutes (annotated)* is available only in the *ALECSYS Infobases*.

Alaska Legislature Home Page has links to audio and video of floor sessions and committee hearings (*Gavel to Gavel*).

Available (see table pp. iii - v)

Internet - 1982+ *Infobases*: session laws 1981+, journals 1987+, bills and resolutions 1983+, committee minutes 1982+ (finance committees 1981+), *Alaska Statutes* 1993+

- 1993+ *BASIS*

Legislative Reference Library

The Legislative Reference Library has materials that may help in your legislative history search, but that aren't cataloged in the LLIB database. These include:

- donated material not yet added to LLIB, some from early years
- computer print-outs of AS sections in 1976-82 bills (see pp. 4 and 6 for use).

Staff may be of help if you must research part of a major revision to the *Alaska Statutes* such as the Municipal Code revision in 1985, Ch. 74, SLA 1985, which was originally drafted in 1980-91 and took three legislatures to pass; or the 1978 Criminal Code revision, Ch. 166, SLA 1978.

Library staff may also help you by asking what you have searched, suggesting additional materials to examine, and by guiding you through a search of the legislature's electronic records on *BASIS* and the *Infobases*.

Available

Contact the Legislative Reference Library (465-3808).

legislative_library@legis.state.ak.us