

Re: Montana Legislative Histories

Thank you for contacting the State Law Library of Montana regarding a Montana legislative history. The Montana Legislature meets every two years, commencing in January of odd-numbered years. The primary sources for determining legislative intent in Montana are the minutes of meetings of the legislative committees that considered the bill, the exhibits to those hearings, and the various versions of the bill that were proposed throughout the process. Where these materials “live” generally depends upon the date of their creation.

Legislative Bills

- Pre-1977 - contact Montana Historical Society at 444-2681
- State Law Library has collected and bound all versions of bills beginning with the 1975 session
- Online starting with 1997 session - <http://leg.mt.gov/css/bills/Default.asp>

Legislative Minutes

- Pre-1977 - contact Montana Historical Society at 444-2681
- 1977-1995 - available at State Law Library. The law library in the process of putting them online at <http://courts.mt.gov/leg>
- 1997-1999* – Audio tapes at Historical Society
- Online print minutes 2001-2005 <http://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/Session/Default.asp>
- Online audio/visual minutes 2007 to present. No transcribed minutes <http://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/Session/Default.asp>
- Floor debates online since 2005 - <http://leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/default.asp>

Legislative Exhibits

- Pre-1977 - contact Montana Historical Society 444-2681
- 1977-2003 – available at State Law Library. The law library in the process of putting them online at <http://courts.mt.gov/leg>
- Online starting with 2005 session - <http://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/Session/Default.asp>

Legislative Histories

After the 2005 session, histories are done using online resources. The State Law Library keeps copies of all legislative histories compiled by us. Check with us first. Call 444-3660 or e-mail lawlibcirc@mt.gov.

**The 1997 and 1999 House and Senate Committee written minutes are sparse. The minutes are available via audio tape at the Montana Historical Society.*

If you have any questions regarding legislative histories, please contact the State Law Library at 444-3660 or lawlibcirc@mt.gov. Thank you.

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