

- For access to the Web-based guide *Resources for Law* connect to:  
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<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/online/research/bysubject/LawMenu.htm>

To determine legislative history and the intent behind the creation of a Connecticut law, consult the text of the legislation, the bills which led up to the enactment of a law, committee hearings in support of a bill, and the verbatim reports of the floor debates leading to a vote on a particular bill.

#### Connecticut Laws

*Connecticut Public and Special Acts* 1901+ Annual

Current issues: **Index Table 2 / Ref. KFC 3625 P8**

Back issues: **Connecticut Documents Collection, Level B / CONN KFC 3625 P79** and **CONN KFC 3625 P8**

Internet: (1993+) <http://cga.ct.gov> and (1996+) <http://www.cslib.org/psaindex.htm>

- Contains the text of laws passed by each session of the Connecticut General Assembly, arranged by date of passage and law number. At the beginning of each enacted law, note the bill number (e.g., S.B. 65). The law and bill numbers are the keys to beginning legislative history.
- For acts prior to 1901, consult the Law and Legislative Reference Service of the Connecticut State Library at **(860) 566-4601**.

*General Statutes of Connecticut* 1866+ Revised every other year

Current statutes: **Index Table 2 / Ref. KFC 3630 A22**

Back issues: **Connecticut Documents Collection, Level B / 7-A3.7/1:date**

Internet: <http://www.cslib.org/psaindex.htm> and

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic →

Legal Research → State Codes → Connecticut

- *Connecticut General Statutes* from 1716-1821 are available in Archives and Special Collections, Dodd Center.
- The official version of the codified laws of Connecticut.
- Every two years, the laws passed by the General Assembly are codified into Titles, representing broad subject categories. A Title is the name by which a body of law is known. For example: Title 14, Motor Vehicles; Title 46b, Family Law; and Title 47a, Landlord and Tenant.
- Consult the *Index* for a detailed subject approach to the *Statutes*.
- At the end of each section of a codified law, note the acts (e.g., P.A. 96-140), responsible for the content of the statute, then consult *Connecticut Public and Special Acts* (above) to find bill information.

*Connecticut General Statutes Annotated* Supplemented by annual pocket parts.

**Index Table 2 / Ref. KFC 3630 1958 A43**

Parallels the *General Statutes of Connecticut*, with additional commentary and citations to relevant court cases.

*Connecticut Legislative Service*

**Index Table 2 / Ref. KFC 3631 C6**

- Updates the official *General Statutes of Connecticut* and *Connecticut General Statutes Annotated*.
- Text of newly passed acts are available almost immediately after the end of a session of the General Assembly.
- Public Acts are arranged by date of passage and are also indexed.

*Summary of Public Acts* 1972+ Annual

Paper: **Index Table 2 / Ref. KFC 3615 G45**

Back issues: **Connecticut Documents Collection, Level B / 7-L 52/3.3:date** and **CONN KFC 3615 G45**

Internet (2000+): <http://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/OLRPASums.asp>

Summaries of laws enacted during each session of the General Assembly, arranged by legislative committee. Includes an *Index by Act Numbers* and an *Index by Subject*.

## **Bills, Hearings and Floor Debates**

*Connecticut General Assembly. Legislative Record Index.*

Ref. **KFC 3615 A1 L43 1949+**

- Index to the activities of each legislative session. Arrives approximately one year after the end of a legislative session, and records the final disposition of bills introduced during that session. Bills can be traced by subject or bill number. The Public Act number is given if the bill became law. Use this index to trace the dates of public hearings before the various committees of the Connecticut House and Senate as well as the dates of the general proceedings of the House and Senate. **These dates are essential in finding testimony and debates on bills before the Connecticut legislature.**
- For information on the status of bills during the current legislative session contact the Bill Room of the Connecticut State Library's Law and Legislative Reference Service at **(860) 757-6550**.

*Connecticut General Assembly. House Journal.*

Current issues: **Ref. KFC 3618 C6**

Back issues (1839+): **Connecticut Documents Collection, Level B / 7-A4.4:date** and **CONN KFC 3618 C6**

- The *journals* of the House and Senate provide the first record of the introduction of a bill before the legislature as well as a daily summary of action taken by the legislature on bills, resolves, petitions, and other matters. Each bill is noted by title, bill number, sponsor, statement of purpose, and committee reference.
- A record of a bill's **roll call vote** can be found in the *Journal*.

*Connecticut General Assembly. Senate Journal.*

Current issues: **Ref. KFC 3618 C66**

Back issues ((1848+): **Connecticut Documents Collection, Level B / 7-A5.4:date** and **CONN KFC 3618 C66**

See notes above for *Connecticut General Assembly. House Journal*.

*Connecticut General Assembly. House Proceedings.*

1978-1979 Paper copy at: **Connecticut Documents Collection, Level B / 7-A 4.5:date**

1980+ Microfiche: **Level B/Microfiche cabinets, filed alphabetically by collection title / Connecticut General Assembly Hearings and Proceedings: House Proceedings**

- The *Proceedings* include a verbatim record of the debate on the floor of the House, and lend excellent insight into the intent of a bill.
- **Accessing paper copy:** Use the *Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Record Index*. In the bill number index find the bill's discussion date. Use the *Proceedings* to review testimony for that date.
- **Accessing microfiche:** Use the *Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Record Index* to obtain the year and number of a bill. Then use the **microfiche index**, the first fiche filed under *House Proceedings* for that year, to find the appropriate fiche page number for the text of the debate.

*Connecticut General Assembly. Senate Proceedings.*

1978-1979 Paper copy at **7-A 5.5:date** (Connecticut State Documents Collection, Level B)

1980+ Microfiche: **Level B/Microfiche cabinets, filed alphabetically by collection title / Connecticut General Assembly Hearings and Proceedings: Senate Proceedings**

See notes above for *Connecticut General Assembly. House Proceedings*.

*Connecticut. General Assembly. Hearings.*

1978-1979 Paper copy (Connecticut State Documents Collection, Level B)

Committee hearings are shelved by a number assigned to specific committees. For example, **7-A3L66.5:year** is assigned to the Liquor Control Committee.

1980+ Microfiche: **Level B/Microfiche cabinets, filed alphabetically by collection title / Connecticut General Assembly Hearings and Proceedings: Joint Committees**

- Committee hearings on specific bills are open to the public. Although not official records of legislative intent, they lend insight into public sentiment that may have some effect on the wording or outcome of specific bills. Not all bills are addressed in committee hearings.
- **Accessing paper copy:** To find transcripts of hearings, use the *Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Index*. In the first section of the *Index*, find the appropriate bill number and the name of the committee that conducted a hearing on a specific date (the second date listed). Transcripts of hearings are found in paper copy, in order by committee and date.
- **Accessing microfiche:** Use the *Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Index* to determine the committee name, year and bill number. Use the **microfiche index**, the first fiche filed under committee name for that year, to locate the appropriate fiche page number for the hearing.
- For help in locating committee hearings, call the Law and Legislative Reference Service of the Connecticut State Library at (860) 757-6590. Records date back to 1911.

## Additional Sources Useful in Conducting Connecticut Legislative Histories

### Print

*Connecticut Legislative Guide* 1981+ Annual

**Ref. Desk / Ref. JK 3330 C67**

Back issues: **Connecticut Documents Collection, Level B / 7-A3 L52.6:date** and **CONN JK 3330 C67**

A compact but complete guide to the Connecticut Legislature. Provides more detail than the *Connecticut State Register and Manual* (the Blue Book).

Internet: 1998-2004 <http://cga.ct.gov/olm/guides/guide/index.htm>

*Lawmaking in Connecticut: General Assembly*

**Ref. JK 3371 S92 1984**

A handy guide to how laws are enacted in Connecticut.

*Connecticut Citizen's Handbook* 3rd. ed.

**Ref. JK 3316 C66 1987**

A guide to Connecticut state government sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Connecticut.

*Sources of Connecticut Law* by Shirley Bysiewicz, 1987

**Ref. KFC 3675 B97 1987**

See Chapter IV: "Legislation, Legislative History, and Statutory Interpretation Legislation Determining Legislative History and Intent," pp. 101-120.

### Internet Sites

*Connecticut General Assembly's Legislative Information*

Internet: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/>

Includes detailed legislative histories from 1993+.

Click on **Search** to research Connecticut laws since 1993.

*Connecticut State Library*

Internet: <http://www.cslib.org/leghis.asp>

Provides a useful *Guide to Connecticut Legislative History*.

*How a Bill Becomes a Law in Connecticut*

Internet: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/html/bill-law.htm>