

Arizona Bills and Proposed Legislation

Scope

The legislative branch of the Arizona government is responsible for making the laws that govern the state of Arizona. The goal of this pathfinder is to identify the types of legislation proposed by the Arizona Legislature, list sources that contain the full text of these documents, and to identify sources to consult when tracking proposed legislation's progress through the Legislature.

Types of Proposed Legislation¹

Bills are proposed legislation introduced by either house of the legislature. It creates new laws or amends or repeals existing law.

Abbreviations

Senate bill: S.B.

House bill: H.B.

Memorials are a legislative measure containing a request or proposal to a named recipient (President of the United States, Congress, or federal agencies). They petition a recipient act on an issue that the Arizona Legislature does not have jurisdiction to act upon itself. Memorials are merely requests and have no official standing or effect. Memorials may be presented for consideration in either one house (simple) or both houses (concurrent).

Abbreviations

Senate Memorial: S.M.

House Memorial: H.M.

Senate Concurrent Memorial: S.C.M.

House Concurrent Memorial: H.C.M.

Resolutions are a declaration of legislative opinion, will, intent, or resolve in matters within the legislature's legal purview. There are three types of resolutions.

Simple Resolutions are considered only by one house and may express an opinion, appoint a committee, commemorate the death of a prominent public figure, or request the return of a bill from the other house in the legislature. Simple resolutions are not signed by the Governor.

Concurrent Resolutions are processed through both houses of the legislature, but are not signed by the governor. They may provide for the submittal of a referendum to voters, initiate legislative action to amend either the U.S. or Arizona Constitution, or express regret for the death of a prominent public figure.

¹ *Arizona Legislative Manual 1998 Edition* (Phoenix, AZ: Arizona Legislative Council, 1998) and *Arizona Legislative Bill Drafting Manual 2001* (Phoenix, AZ: Arizona Legislative Council, 2001).

Joint Resolutions are used for temporary measures having the effect of law. They cannot be used to amend the U.S. or Arizona Constitutions. They are passed through both houses and signed by the Governor.

Abbreviations

Senate Resolution: S.R.

House Resolution: H.R.

Senate Concurrent Resolution: S.C.R.

House Concurrent Resolution: H.C.R.

Senate Joint Resolution: S.J.R.

House Joint Resolution: H.J.R.

Proposed Legislation Numbering

Each type of proposed legislation (Senate bill, House bill, Senate joint resolution, House joint resolution, etc.) receives its own numbering and is numbered consecutively in the order they are introduced. Proposed legislation originating in the Senate begins numbering at 1001, while legislation originating in the House of Representatives begins numbering at 2001. At the start of each Legislature (which is two years in length), the numbering begins again at 1001 (Senate) and 2001 (House of Representatives). Proposed legislation not passed by the time the legislative session ends must be reintroduced in the new Legislature to be considered. It will receive a new number. Therefore, it is useful to know either the year or the Legislature in which the proposed legislation was introduced.

Bill Versions

There may be several versions of proposed legislation. Either the House or Senate (or both) may pass amendments that change the text of the bill, resolution or memorial. When amended, it is either reprinted with the amending language incorporated into it or the amendment(s) may be printed separately.

Bill Tracking

Bill tracking is the process used to follow the path that proposed legislation has followed once introduced in the Legislature. It can be used to track current legislation to see if it is near passage or rejection. It can also be used retrospectively on older proposed legislation.

Locating Text of Proposed Legislation and Bill Tracking Sources

The following online sources contain bills, memorials, and resolutions and their variations.

Arizona Legislative Information System (ALIS) <http://www.azleg.state.az.us/>

This website contains the full-text of Arizona bill from the 42nd Legislature (1995) to the present.

- **Bill Text** Keyword searching can be used to locate proposed legislation. A search can also be done by bill, memorial, or resolution number. Users also have the option of browsing all introduced legislation in a Legislature. This database does not allow users to search more than one Legislature at a time.
- **Bill Summary and Status (Bill Tracking)** Once the proposed legislation is located, click on “Bill Status Overview”. It will provide information about the progress that the legislation made.

Created by Connie Strittmatter 4/01 (06/06).

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Westlaw Patron Access (Law Library Access Only)

*For links to work, you must open Westlaw Patron Access first.

- Arizona Bill Tracking Full Text (Current Legislative Session Only) – [AZ-BILLTXT](#)
- Arizona Bills Archives (1996-last legislative session) – [AZ-BILLS-OLD](#)
- Arizona Bill Tracking (Current Legislative Session only) – [AZ-BILLTRK](#)
- Arizona Bill Track Summaries Archive (1991-last legislative session) – [AZ-BILLTRK-OLD](#)

Lexis (Available to Law Faculty and Law Students only)

- Arizona Full-text Bills (Current Legislative Session only) - [Library: LEGIS File: AZTEXT](#)
- Arizona Bill Tracking for the Current Legislative Session (Current Legislative Session only) - [Library:LEGIS File: AZTRCK](#)
- Arizona Bill Text and Bill Tracking Combined (Current Legislative Session only) - [Library:LEGIS File:AZBILL](#)

Westlaw (Available to Law Faculty and Law Students only)

- Arizona Bill Tracking-Summaries and Full Text Combined (Current Legislative Session only) - [AZ-BILLS](#)
- Arizona Bills Archives (1996-last legislative session) – [AZ-BILLS-OLD](#)
- Arizona Bill Tracking (Current Legislative Session only). - [AZ-BILLTRK](#)
- Arizona Bill Track Summaries Archive (1991-last legislative session) – [AZ-BILLTRK-OLD](#)

Print Sources for Bills and Resolutions at the Law Library

The law library has copies of bills, memorials, and resolutions as they were introduced.

Senate Bills and Slip Laws 35th Legislature (1982)-present

Location: KFA2406 .L5
Current legislative session in Reserve. Prior years in Law State Law (3rd Floor)

House Bills and Slip Laws 35th Legislature (1982)-present

Location: KFA2406 .L4
Current legislative session in Reserve. Prior years in Law State Law (3rd Floor)

Print Sources for Locating Bills and Resolutions at Hayden Library

The following sources provide the introduced version of a bill, memorial or resolution.

Senate bills, memorials, and resolutions as introduced 19th Legislature (1949)-present

Location: LG 1.5: L18 A27S35
Hayden AZ documents

House bills, memorials, and resolutions as introduced 11th Legislature (1933)-present

Location: LG 1.5: L18 A27H58
Hayden AZ Documents

Locating Proposed Legislation as Introduced and Subsequent Versions

This microfilm set contains the legislative histories of proposed legislation including several versions of proposed legislation. This set includes memorials and resolutions.

Senate Bills [microform]
29th Legislature (1969)-34th Legislature
(1979)

House Bills [microform]
30th Legislature (1971)-32nd Legislature
(1975)

Location: KFA2406 .L55 Law Microform
Cabinet 48

Location: KFA2406 .L45 Law Microform
Cabinet 48

The Senate Resource Center 1700 W. Washington Street. 1st floor, Senate Building. Telephone: 602-542-3559

The Senate Resource Center maintains bill, resolution, and memorial files from 1967. These bill files contain the introduced version of proposed legislation and all of its subsequent versions.

Clerk of the House 1700 W. Washington Street. 2nd Floor, House of Representatives Building
Telephone: 602-542-4221

The Clerk of the House maintains a collection of bill, resolution and memorial files from 1971. Like the Senate Resource Center, these files contain the introduced version of proposed legislation and all of its subsequent versions.