Guidance for High School Senior Projects:
Researching Idaho Legislative History Online
And Suggested Research Topics From 2003-2014

Idaho Legislative Reference Library
State Capitol, 1st Floor
700 West Jefferson
Boise, ID 83720

www.legislature.idaho.gov

(208) 334-4822

Open 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.
(Closed for lunch 12 – 1)

Kristin Ford, Librarian
kford@lso.idaho.gov

Cyd Gaudet, Research Assistant
cgaudet@lso.idaho.gov
This document is a brief introduction to researching Idaho legislative history on the legislature’s website. Although the majority of legislative history materials from 2003 to the present are available on the website, there are instances in which records are only available in hard copy at the Legislative Research Library. If you want to be exhaustive in your research there is no substitute for coming to the Library.

If you are interested in researching the legislative history of legislation prior to 2003 – legislation not in the attached list - you will also need to come to the Library in person. We have materials from the early 1960s through 2002 that are not available online. Note that prior to 1961 there is extremely little legislative history information other than the text of the law itself. Below you will find materials you will need and possible topics to research.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

1) Code section or sections.
2) Bill that added the section or sections.

**1) CODE SECTION**

Identify which section of Idaho Code you are interested in researching. The Idaho Code is available online at: [http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/TOC/IDStatutesTOC.htm](http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/TOC/IDStatutesTOC.htm) Click on a Title number to see the chapters within that Title. Click on a Chapter number in order to see the sections within a chapter.

How to read Idaho Code citations: 18-8004 Title, to the left of the dash. 18-8004 Chapter, to the right of the dash. 18-8004 Section, last two numbers.

This is Title 18, Chapter 80, Section 4.

**2) BILL**

If you choose a section from the attached list of suggested laws, you will already have the bill number that added the sections, which is necessary for you to access related information on the website. If you choose a law not on the list, you will need to come into the Library to do the rest of your research.

**3) USING THE WEBSITE**

You can find the Idaho Legislature online at [www.legislature.idaho.gov](http://www.legislature.idaho.gov). From 2003 forward most legislative history materials, such as Statements of Purpose and committee minutes, are posted on the website.

- All of the legislative history information is organized by the year and bill number.
To access this, select “Prior Sessions” from the home page. Screen shots follow on the next page.

Select the year you need.

Then select the “Committee Minutes” option.

Then select the “Committee Minutes Index” option. Once you’ve done that, your screen should look similar to the one below:
- Scroll down until you find the bill that you are interested in.

- By clicking on the link to the bill itself you’ll find:
  
  - BILL STATUS, a procedural history of the bill. This will include the dates that the bill was signed and became effective and the official sponsors of the bill.
  - BILL TEXT, the actual changes to the law.
  - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, an easier to read wording of what the bill will actually add or change. The contact information at the bottom of the Statement of Purpose may list sponsors and affiliated groups or lobbyists.

- To the right, in the same row as the bill number, are listed the days in which that particular bill was heard in committee. The link for each day will take you to the beginning of that day: you may have to scroll through the day’s minutes to find discussion on your particular bill. Typically, the first time a bill is heard in committee it is referred to by its “RS” number, which is a draft number assigned before it becomes a bill. The RS number for each bill is in the middle column of every row in the index.

- The committee minutes will offer the best information as to who sponsored the bill, what arguments were made for or against the bill and what groups may have testified in favor or opposition to it.

- Occasionally there are additional sources of historical information for a bill, such as additional testimony that did not get published with the committee minutes, relevant interim committees or statements from the Governor. These materials are rare, and they are not always posted on the website. You may want to come in to the Legislative Reference Library, on the first floor of the Capitol, if you want to be sure you have everything related to your bill.
Citing to Idaho Legislative History Documents

By Kristin M. Ford, Legislative Librarian

- A bill: cite the year, body and bill number.  Examples:  2001 Senate Bill 1023 or 2012 House Bill 377

- A session law: cite the year, chapter number and starting page number.  Example:  2001 Idaho Session Laws, Chapter 303, p. 79.


- Committee minutes: cite the year, body, committee name, and date of the committee hearing.  Examples:  2001 House State Affairs Committee minutes (February 21, 2001), OR 1975 Senate Resources and Environment Committee minutes (January 6, 1975).  If you need to cite to an attachment to the minutes, like a letter or background information from a government agency or a special interest group, just add the words “Attachment to” in front of the rest of it.  Example:  ACLU letter dated March 6, 2014, Attachment to the 2014 Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee minutes (March 15, 2014).

SUGGESTED LEGISLATION to research, 2004 – 2014
(choose one)

Warning: Drunk driving and animal cruelty laws are very old (over 100 years old) and therefore there is very little you can find about their original enactments. If you want to research one of these two subjects, we recommend researching a recent change to the drunk driving or animal cruelty laws, not the original versions.

- Banned tattoos, branding and piercings (except piercings in earlobes) for all children under age 14, and required parental consent for all youth age 14 to 18. (2004 S 1281)
- Made bullying in schools and on the Internet a legal infraction, and required school district trustees to prescribe rules on student harassment, intimidation and bullying. (2006 H 750)
- Toughened laws on gang membership by lengthening prison sentences for any convicted felon shown to be in a gang, and made it illegal to recruit gang members and supply guns to gangs. (2006 S 1336)
- Provides for the electronic monitoring of violent sexual predators who are placed on probation or parole. (2008 H 381)
- Prohibits certain persons from possessing energy conducting weapons, often called tasers or stun guns. (2008 S 1438)
- Allows students to carry and self administer their prescription medications to treat anaphylactic allergic reactions. (2008 S 1443)
- Eliminates the one-year time limit for a prisoner to petition for fingerprint or DNA testing at the prisoner’s own expense, in an attempt to prove his innocence. (2010 H 498)
- This bill amends the definition of statutory rape to include defined sexual relations where the perpetrator is 18 years or older and the female is under the age of 16, and where the female is 16 or 17 and the perpetrator is 3 or more years older than the female. Such revisions were also made to the male rape statute. (2010 S 1385)
- Requires each elector to show photo identification before receiving a ballot at the polls or sign an affidavit in lieu of personal identification. (2010 H 496)
- Removes certain archaic language, including “mentally retarded,” “mentally deficient,” "handicapped," "lunatic," and "idiot," from the Idaho Code, and replaces that language with more modern terminology. (2010 S 1330)
- Changes statute 39-3701 to allow Idahoans age 16, with parental permission, to donate blood. (2011 S 1074)
- Provides that public libraries shall develop and post for public notification an internet use policy which, among other provisions, provides for a technology protection measure that protects against access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors. (2011 H 205)
- Amends existing law relating to classify synthetic drugs (such as SPICE) that mimic the effects of cannabis and additional substances in Schedule I. (2011 H 86)
- Amends existing law to provide that texting while driving a motor vehicle shall constitute an infraction. (2012 SB 1274)
- Relates to Idaho’s Students Come First legislation, returning decision-making powers back to locally elected school boards and raising the bar for professional standards in education staff (2011 S 1108)
- Creates a “pay for performance” system to reward Idaho teachers and administrators on a school wide basis for high student achievement and academic growth (2011 S 1110)
- Adds monetary support for school technologies and online-courses (2011 S 1184)
• Adds to existing law to put a moratorium on (postpone) certain industrial wind farms and wind turbines for a time certain. (2012 H 561)
• Amends and adds to existing law relating to electronic cigarettes to establish provisions relating to the possession, distribution or use of electronic cigarettes by minors. (2012 H 405)
• Adds to existing law to prohibit camping on the Capitol Mall property and other state property and facilities. (2012 H 380)
• Repeals and adds to existing law relating to youth athletes and concussions and head injury guidelines and requirements (2012 H 632)
• Makes committing over three violations of the animal cruelty section of the Idaho Code a felony crime (2012 S 1303a)
• Created the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit in the Office of the Attorney General (2013 S 1079)
• Revised the definition of a concealed weapon (2013 H 223)
• Authorized historical horse race wagering (2013 H 220)
• Requires that purchases from lottery ticket machines be by currency/coin only (2013 H 120)
• “Ag Gag” bill: criminalizes secret videotaping of farm operations (2014 S 1337)
• Allows farmers to hire prisoners to work for them (2014 S 1374)
• Prohibits grossly negligent operation of boats (2014 S1274)
• Places some restrictions on payday loans (2014 S 1314)
• Allows concealed weapons on college campuses (2014 S 1254)
• Prohibits revenge sexting (2014 H 563)
• Prohibits gay couples from filing their taxes as a married couple (2014 H 375)
• Allows schools to stock epinephrine to treat students with severe allergic reactions (2014 S1327)

For Additional Topic Suggestions Please Feel Free to Contact Us!