

Maryland Legislative History Research Worksheet

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Steps 1 - 3 Identify the Legislation

Statute/Code Section _____	Review history at the end of the Code section; this will cite to Chapter laws enacted or amended the statute.
Chapter Law & Year _____	Each Chapter law will include a preamble describing bill and illustrate new, changed, and deleted text from a statute. Revisor's notes may provide legislative intent.
Senate/House Bill Number _____	The Bill number is found at the beginning of the Chapter law. Use this to find Bill files and other materials created while enacting the legislation.

Step 3 Bill Drafting Documents

Resource	Description	Notes
Maryland General Assembly Legislation Search mgaleg.maryland.gov Search →Legislation Select Session year, enter bill or chapter law number.	1996-current Bill history, fiscal notes, amendments, chapter laws, bills actions, House & Senate journal entries, some committee materials and audio	
Legislative Bill Files TMSLL: Bill files - microfilm (1976-2004); Scanned Collection (2003-2009) DLS: Bill files - Scanned (1975-2011); hard copy (2011-); Audio files	Bill files: include bill drafts, fiscal notes, amendments, veto letters, Attorney General letters, witness testimony, chapter laws Audio files: floor debate, committee hearings	
Additional Legislative Materials:	Legislative Council Reports: TMSLL (1939-1975) Legislative Policy Committee Reports: TMSLL (1977-) Commission to Revise the Annotated Code: TMSLL (1970's) House & Senate Journals: TMSLL & DLS DLS Session Reviews: TMSLL & DLS (1981- Ad Hoc pre-bill file materials: DLS (1960's-1975)	See other side for additional info →

Steps 4-5 Additional Resources

Resource	Description	Notes
Case Law Research	Analysis of Legislative intent can often be part of a Court opinion (Westlaw, Google scholar)	
Task Force Reports	Review of topic that often determines the direction of legislation (print and TMSLL scanned collection)	
Law Review Articles	50 state surveys, articles on topic (HeinOnline & Westlaw via Judiciary network, Google Scholar)	
News Stories	articles that came out when legislation introduced , passed, or during amendments (News databases via Judiciary network)	
State Agency Reports	Often include discussion of new legislation that impacts the Agency (MD Documents collection)	
Miscellaneous Reports	Annual MD State Bar Assn (MSBA) meetings, UCC reports	

See our full **Guide to Maryland Legislative History Research** for more information about which legislative materials are available and where to find them:

