

**GUIDE TO**  
**ALASKA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIALS**

**Alaska State Legislature**  
**Legislative Reference Library**  
**April 2013**

## PREFACE (updated November 2016)

This edition of the “*Guide to Alaska Legislative History Materials*” includes a total revision of the appendices, and covers materials newly available in digital form. Following is a list of some of the materials that have been, or will be, digitized and made available on the legislature’s website.

- 1) Materials that have been added to the legislative website since the 2009 Guide:
  - **Legislative Library Catalog (LLIB Infobase)** – full text documents linked to catalog entries. All reports, 1953-present, are online.
  - *Alaska Statutes* (formerly only on the *Infobases*) are now also in *BASIS*, text searchable.
  - **Text searchable Journals, Committee Minutes, All Version of Bills in BASIS 1993+**. These materials are in *BASIS* 1993+ and *Infobases* 1982+, but until recently were only text searchable in *Infobases*. Materials 1982-92 will be added to *BASIS* soon.
- 2) Digitized materials that are almost ready to go on the legislature’s website:
  - **Floor audio**, 2010+ will eventually be on *BASIS* on the search results pages for individual bills. Digital copies available on request.
  - **Committee bill files**, 2009+ will be on *BASIS* on the search results pages for individual bills under “committee documents”. Digital copies available on request.
  - **Archived streamed video for floor and committee meetings**, 2011+ will be on *BASIS*, linked on search results pages for individual bills.
- 3) Digitization Projects that are in the works as part of building *BASIS* backwards:
  - **Committee audio** 1969-04 and **Floor audio** 1975-09 (Committee Audio 2005+ is on *BASIS* now) Digital copies available on request.
  - **1978 Criminal Code Revision materials**, including Tentative Drafts, committee audio, committee minutes. Minutes are now being written, and were never available before. Digital copies available on request.
  - **All version of bills**, 1959-80 (1981+ are on *Infobases*, and 1993+ on *BASIS*). Digital copies available on request.
  - *Session Laws of Alaska* (SLA), 1913-1980 (1981+ are now on *Infobases*, and 1993+ are on *BASIS*).
  - *House and Senate Journals*, 1913-1986 (1987+ are now on *Infobases*, and 1993+ are on *BASIS*).
  - *Alaska Statutes* (AS) Replaced Titles and Supplements, 1959-92 (AS 1993+ are now on *Infobases*).

The plan is to digitize all important records of the Alaska Legislature and add them, to the legislature’s website at <http://www.akleg.gov> AND to add all information now in *Infobases* into *BASIS*, in text searchable form (and get rid of *Infobases*).

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## Introduction/Directory

The table of contents list on the previous page can serve as a checklist for performing Alaska legislative history searches. This guide will describe the materials, where they are located, and in what form.

The Alaska Legislature and its agencies have for years been working to make legislative records easily accessible and available to the public. The legislative teleconference system, begun in 1978, has 23 Alaska Legislative Information Offices (LIOs) statewide. The *Alaska Legislative Computer System (ALECSYS)*, begun in 1981-82, includes the text of the *Alaska Statutes*, bills and resolutions, session laws, journals, and committee minutes. A microfiche program for committee records (bill files, and minutes prior to 1982), set up in 1986, placed microfiche in research libraries around the state. And, since 1997, legislative electronic information is available on the Internet, at the *Alaska State Legislature Website*.

The website now contains a wealth of Alaska legislative history information. This guide mentions what's on it, the location and form of material prior to when it starts on the website, as well as explains those materials not available on it.

Important sources of legislative history information are (area code 907):

<i>Alaska Legislature Home Page</i> .....	<a href="http://www.legis.state.ak.us">http://www.legis.state.ak.us</a>
Legislative Reference Library.....	465-3808
Alaska State Archives.....	465-2270
Anchorage Legislative Information Office .....	269-0111
Fairbanks Legislative Information Office.....	452-4448
Juneau Legislative Information Office.....	465-4648
Anchorage Law Library .....	264-0585
Fairbanks Law Library.....	452-9241
Juneau Law Library.....	463-4761
University of Alaska, Anchorage, Library .....	786-1848
University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Library .....	474-7482
House Records .....	465-2214
Senate Records .....	465-2870
House Finance Committee.....	465-6814
Senate Finance Committee.....	465-4935
Chief Clerk of the House.....	465-3725
Senate Secretary .....	465-3701
Alaska State Library.....	465-2921

This guide covers mainly those materials produced by the State of Alaska. It does not attempt to cover commercially marketed forms of these materials.

**TABLE: LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIAL LOCATIONS**

	SESSION LAWS OF ALASKA (SLA)	BILL HISTORY & JOURNAL INDEX	JOURNALS	FLOOR AUDIO
ANCH LAW LIBRARY	1913+	1975+*	1913+	1982-2009
ANCH LIO	1945-47, 1949+	1975+*	1975+	-
U OF A - ANCH	1959+	1975+*	1913+	-
FBKS LAW LIBRARY	1913+	1975+*	1913-92	-
FBKS LIO	1913+	1975+*	1975+	-
U OF A - FBKS	1913+	1975+*	1913+	1975-2009
JUNEAU LAW LIB.	1913+	1975+*	1913+	-
LEG. REF. LIBRARY	1913+	1975+*	1913+	-
AK STATE LIBRARY	1913+	1975+*	1913+	current 2-4 years
AK STATE ARCHIVES	1913+	1975+*	1913+	1975+
OTHER LIOs **	most = 1979+	most = 1979+*	most = 1979-92	-
OTHER LAW LIBs.***	most = 1975+	most = 1975+	-	-
OTHER DEPOS. LIBs****	1913+	1979+	1913+	-
INTERNET (See p. 20)	1981+	1993+	1987+	audio 2002+

(see p. 2)

(see p. 3)

(see p. 5)

(see p. 11)

\* *Final Status* is the same. (see p.4)

\*\* There are 23 Alaska Legislative Information Offices (LIOs). The 21 other LIOs (besides Anchorage and Fairbanks) are: Barrow, Bethel, Cordova, Delta Jct., Dillingham, Glennallen, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Matsu, Nome, Petersburg, Seward, Sitka, Tok, Unalaska, Valdez, and Wrangell. (LIO addresses and telephone numbers are at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/home/liolist.htm>)

\*\*\* There are 16 law libraries in Alaska. The 13 other law libraries (besides Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau) are: Barrow, Dillingham, Homer, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, Palmer, Petersburg, Sitka, Valdez, and Wrangell. (Law Library addresses, telephone numbers and hours are at <http://www.state.ak.us/courts/library.htm>)

\*\*\*\* There are 5 Alaska state publications depository libraries. Alaska State Library, Alaska State Historical Library, U of A Fairbanks, U of A Anchorage, and Alaska Resources Library (ARL used to keep its legislative material in the U.S. Courts Library, but both now have collections). (Loussac Library is no longer a depository as of 2013 but still has a current collection of legislative materials)

**TABLE: LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIAL - CONTINUED**

	BILLS	COMMITTEE RECORDS	VIDEO INDEX	A.S. (PRIOR YEARS)
ANCH LAW LIBRARY	1953-04	*	1977-89	1960+
ANCH LIO	-	*	-	-
U OF A - ANCH	1913-41 broken, 1953-04	*	1977-82 / 1985-89	1977+
FBKS LAW LIBRARY	1953-04	*	-	1960+
FBKS LIO	-	*	-	-
U OF A - FBKS	1913-41 broken, 1953-04	*	1977-89	-
JUNEAU LAW LIB.	-	-	-	1960+
LEG. REF. LIBRARY	1953+	*(+ originals for last 6-8 years)	1977-89	1960+
AK STATE LIBRARY	1913-41 broken, 1953+	-	1977-89	1960+
AK STATE ARCHIVES	1913-41 broken, 1953+	*(+ originals over 6-8 years old)	1977-89 (+video tapes)	-
OTHER LIOS	-	-	-	-
OTHER LAW LIBS.	-	*Ketchikan	-	Ketchikan 1965+
OTHER DEPOS. LIBS.	-	-	-	-
INTERNET (see p. 20)	1983+	minutes 1982+** audio 2002+ video 2012" files 2009+	(archived video 2012+)	1993+

(see p. 6)

(minutes - see pp. 7-8)  
(audio - see p.10 )  
(video - p. 12)  
(files - see p. 9)

(see p. 12)

(see p. 1)

\* *Committee Tapes and Minutes 1982-2004 Index*

*Committee Records on Microfiche 1965-2008 Index*, plus microfiche

\*\* Finance Committee minutes are online 1981+

**TABLE: LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIAL - CONTINUED**

	LEGISLATIVE REPORTING SERVICE	AK REPORTING SERVICE	FISCAL NOTES *	CONF. COMMITTEE BOOKS
ANCH LAW LIBRARY	5/4/81-7/27/93	-	1977-2010	-
ANCH LIO	-	-	1977-88	1976+
U OF A - ANCH	1960-75	9/28/59-12/4/67	1977-2010	1973+
FBKS LAW LIBRARY	-	-	1977-88	-
FBKS LIO	-	-	1977-88	1984+
U OF A - FBKS	1960-93	1959-69/70	1977-2010	1972+
JUNEAU LAW LIB.	-	-	1977-2010	-
LEG. REF. LIBRARY	1959-76, 1979-93	1959-65	1977+	1973+
AK STATE LIBRARY	1/27/60-7/27/93	9/28/59-10/6/70	1977-2010	1973+
AK STATE ARCHIVES	-	-	1977+	-
OTHER LIOS	-	-	most=1979-88	recent years
OTHER LAW LIBS.	-	-	-	-
OTHER DEPOS. LIBS.	-	-	1977-2010	-
INTERNET (see p. 20)	-	-	1993+	1973+

(see p. 16)

(see p. 16)

(see pp. 5, 18-19)

(see p. 19)

\* Fiscal Notes: 1977-88 in the Journals, 1989-2010 on microfiche.

## **Alaska Statutes (AS)**

Session laws that added or amended a certain section of the *Alaska Statutes* are listed at the end of that section. You may need to read the full text of all the laws listed to find which one or ones added or amended the specific words or section you're interested in.

Also check any notes following the *AS* section. Revisor's notes, editor's notes, and notes as to "effect of amendments" and "legislative history reports" can be very helpful.

### **Additional Information**

If you want to know what the law was at a certain time or research a section which has since been repealed, check the older versions of the *AS*.

To find how the *AS* read at a certain time with "annotations," (session law citations, notes, and court opinion citations) see the paper copy: (or *ALECSYS Infobases*, see p. 20)

1962-95	<i>AS</i> replaced titles and cumulative supplements	<i>AS</i> sets 1962-95 were binders of pamphlets (titles and supplement) updated each year by replacing the supplements and a few titles.
1996+	<i>AS</i> replaced sets	<i>AS</i> sets 1996+ are paper bound, reprinted every 2 years, updated in the intervening year by a 1-volume supplement.

To find how the *AS* read at a certain time without annotations see the Internet:

1993+	Internet	Alaska Legislature Home Page
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### **Available** (see table p. v)

Paper copy - Current: at LIOs, Alaska Court System Law Libraries, University of Alaska libraries, Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, Alaska State Archives, U. S. Courts Library, and most municipal libraries.

- Replaced titles, supplements and sets: at Law Libraries in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks; University of Alaska Libraries in Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library; and Legislative Reference Library.

Internet – unannotated: - 1993+ *Infobases*

- current only, *BASIS* (see p. 20 and Preface)



## ***Session Laws of Alaska (SLA)***

The first page of a session law shows the number of the bill which became that session law. This bill number is the number you need to locate legislative history materials.

Be sure to read the session law to check for (1) any amendments that relate to your particular statute under consideration, and (2) any bits of temporary or special law that may be important, such as those sections stating "purpose", "findings and intent", or "applicability". (Temporary and special law sections of a session law are those parts which do not have *AS* section numbers preceding them; they won't be codified, but rather placed in *AS* under "temporary and special acts" section.)

### **Additional Information**

(See p. 18 for budget session law information)

### **Available** (see table p. iv)

Paper copy - Complete set, 1913+: at LIO in Fairbanks; Law Libraries in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau; University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Alaska State Library; Legislative Reference Library; and Alaska State Archives.

- Sets for recent years (years vary): at rest of LIOs (Anchorage LIO has 1949+); rest of Law Libraries; University of Alaska, Anchorage (has 1959+); Loussac Library; and U. S. Courts Library.

Internet - 1981+ *Infobases*

1993+ *BASIS* (2003+ for complete budget session laws). "Session Law" link allows you to find the bill number which became that session law, and link to its Bill History/Action page. Use the "Archive" link to get to prior 2-year legislatures. (see p. 20 and Preface)

## ***Bill History and Journal Index***

The *Bill History and Journal Index* lists for each bill all House and Senate floor actions, and the pages of the *House* and *Senate Journals* on which these actions are mentioned. It shows among other things who sponsored the bill, which committees the bill was referred to, and whether there was a letter of intent. This is available for every legislature 1975+.

Prior to 1975, a section in the back of the *House* and *Senate Journals* lists those pages in the journals on which a bill is mentioned, but you must look at each of those pages to find out the bill action and the date on which it occurred.

### **Available** (see table p. iv)

Paper copy - Complete set, 1975+: at LIOs in Anchorage and Fairbanks; Law Libraries in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau; University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, and Alaska State Archives.

- Sets for recent years (years vary): at rest of LIOs (generally 1985+); rest of law libraries; Loussac Library and U. S. Courts Library.

Internet - 1993+ *BASIS*: a bill search brings you to the Bill History/Action page for that bill, with links to journal pages, committee minutes and audio, committee documents, and all versions of the bill. (see p. 20)

(1975-92 has been digitized and will be online soon.)

## ***Final Status of Bills***

The *Final Status of Bills* lists all bills in the two-year legislature by subject, by bill number, and by sponsor, and tells the final version of each bill.

The *Final Status* can help you discover if an identical or similar bill was introduced in the other house. If so, part of the committee discussion on the issue may be under the other bill number. To find a possible duplicate or related bill, check the *Final Status* under the subject of your bill: a duplicate bill will be from the other house but with the exact same title (unless one has been amended extensively). Look for a duplicate bill if the bill being researched was a controversial one and it either went through a major committee "too fast" (in only a day or two) or didn't go to a logical major committee at all. \*

Research may lead back to a previous two-year legislature. It sometimes takes several legislatures for a bill on a specific subject to get passed, and there will have been discussion and modifications during each session. Bills "die" at the end of each two-year legislature but may be reintroduced the next legislature - usually with a different bill number.

**Available** (see table p. iv)

Paper copy - Complete set, 1975+: at LIOs in Anchorage and Fairbanks; Law Libraries in Anchorage and Juneau; University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, and Alaska State Archives.

- Sets for recent years (years vary): at rest of LIOs; Fairbanks Law Library (has 1985+); Loussac Library and U. S. Courts Library.

Internet - 1993+ *BASIS*: see "Subject Summary" and "Sponsor Summary" links \* (1975-92 has been digitized and will be online soon.)

\* For 1983+, search by AS citation, or key words, in *Infobases* "Measures" (see pp. 6 and 20).

For 1976-82, see "Summary of Alaska Statutes References" a list of A.S. citations in bills -- in Legislative Library (LLIB) Infobase (see p. 6)

For 1993+ - see the *BASIS* "Statute Informational Retrieval System (SIRS)" link to find an identical bill introduced in the other house or bill that merged into your bill. If one is suspected, search for an *Alaska Statutes* (AS) citation in your bill. This will tell you all other bills that have this citation in them.

- search in *BASIS* by citation or key words, "*Measures*" *Infobase* is being added to *BASIS*, text-searchable

## ***House and Senate Journals***

The *House* and *Senate Journals* are the daily legislative record of floor actions for each body. These include all motions made and votes taken on each bill. The floor debate is not transcribed, but tapes are available (see p. 11).

Check all *House* and *Senate Journal* entries especially floor amendments, letters of intent, the governor's transmittal letter (always printed in the journal at the first reading of a governor's bill), and the governor's return letter (for bills signed into law or bills allowed to become law without his signature). Also, for bills that became law by the legislature overriding the governor's veto, look for the governor's veto message.

### **Additional Information**

*Journal Supplements* contain material related to floor action on bills, such as sectional analyses and commentary on bills, long committee reports, and fiscal notes. *Supplements -- House, Senate, or Joint --* are numbered separately starting with "1". To locate a supplement in the journal, go to the journal page or the date listed for it in the index and then page forward until you find it.

Fiscal notes contain the estimated costs to state agencies if a proposed bill were to become law. They are in the journal supplements, 1977-1986; in separate volumes with the journals, 1987-1988; and on microfiche, 1989-2010. (See pp. 18-19 for more fiscal note information.)

### **Available** (see table p. iv)

Paper copy - Complete set, 1913+: at Law Libraries in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau; University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, and Alaska State Archives.

- Sets for recent years (years vary): at LIOs (Anchorage and Fairbanks LIOs have 1975+); Loussac Library and U. S. Courts Library.

Index - *Bill History and Journal Index* (see p. 3)

Internet - 1987+ *Infobases*

- 1993+ *BASIS* (see p. 20 and Preface)

## **All Versions of a Bill**

Check all versions of a bill to see if the section you are interested in was included in the first version or added or amended later by a committee substitute or floor amendment. This could narrow down your search and save you time and effort.

Sometimes a section added in a later version may have been taken from a different bill on the same subject that year. To easily check for this (in those bills 1983+) use the all versions of bills infobase for that legislature, and search for the key words of the section or the AS citation. This will show what other bill(s) those key words or AS section were in. You may want to then research the bill the section came from since much of the committee discussion of the topic may be on that other bill. If the number of pages in a bill changes drastically from one version to the next, look for another bill that merged into it.

### **Additional Information**

Bills on paper and microfilm have underlining "\_\_\_" to show proposed additions to current law, and brackets "[ ]" to show proposed deletions. These markings make it easy to see what the proposed changes of each bill version are.

Bills on the *Infobases* have underlining and brackets 1993+. Use of underlining started in 1993. Use of brackets started in 1983 (the one exception is 1991-92 when instead of being bracketed deleted material was CAPITALIZED following the added material).

Bills on paper and microfilm (and on the website: 1995+ *BASIS* pdf version only), include page and line numbers. This can be helpful since committee hearings and floor sessions refer to changes in bills by bill version, page and line number.

**Available** (see table p. v) (See pp. 18-19 for budget bill information.)

Paper copy – 1953+ at Legislative Reference Library

Microfilm – 1953-04 at Law Libraries in Anchorage and Fairbanks; University of Alaska, Anchorage\* and Fairbanks\*; Alaska State Library\*, Legislative Reference Library, and Alaska State Archives\*.

\*also has "Alaska Territorial Legislative Records," which include an incomplete set of bills 1913-41

Index - by subject: 1959-94 *Legislative Reporting Service* (see p. 16)

1975+ *Final Status of Bills* (see p. 4)

- by AS citation: 1976-82 *Summary of Alaska Statutes References* (see p. 4)

Internet - 1983+ *Infobases*

- 1993+ *BASIS* (see p. 20 and Preface)

## Committee Minutes

Check the committee minutes for discussion on the understood purpose of the bill or amendment.

Committee minutes are summaries of discussions and actions in a committee. They vary from extremely brief to almost word for word. If you need to know exactly what was said in a meeting, you may request a copy of the committee tape. Transcripts (verbatim description of meetings) are seldom made.

Committee minutes are available from all committees, and in a consistent form only after the start of the legislative computer system in 1982.

### Additional Information

To find minutes before 1982 (when most start on the legislative website) check the paper copy or microfiche to see if there is a minute index. If there is no index you must page through the committee's minutes between the dates the bill went into and out of committee. The committees a bill went to and the dates in and out are shown 1959+ in the indexes in the back of the Journals, and 1975+ in the *House and Senate Bill History and Journal Index*. The date a bill is "read the first time" is the date it goes into the first committee. The date that committee reports it back to the House or Senate (with recommendations such as "do pass", "do not pass" or replace with "committee substitute") is the day it goes into the next committee.

Minutes prior to 1982 often have additional materials such as meeting agendas, witness registers, and committee reports. All these additional materials, 1967-1981, are included in the minute microfiche. Because minutes 1982+ are on the web (and therefore aren't microfiched) any attachments are only with the paper minutes in the Alaska State Archives. Finance Committee minutes 1982-96 often have materials presented at the meetings stapled to them, that are not in the committee bill files. (See pp. 18-19 for Finance Committee information.)

For the most part, committee minutes from 1982+ are available on the website. However a number of minutes are not on the web, but are available in paper copy at the Legislative Reference Library (this is true mostly for the years 1983-88). Also, Senate Finance Committee has many meetings 1997-99 for which no minutes were created or only incomplete minutes. See *Alaska Legislature Committee Tapes and Minutes Index, 1982-2004* for lists of meetings held, and whether there are minutes on the web, paper copies, transcripts, tape logs, or just tapes.

To search Finance Committee minutes for 1980s, if the bill had a version with letters adjacent to the root bill number like CSHB 1, you will need to search for the root

bill (“HB 1”) and the other version (“CSHB 1”) to get all the minutes.

Committee minutes can sometimes be found in the following unexpected places:

- journals for 1960's and 1970's include a few committee minutes (see *House and Senate Journals*, p. 5);
- tape logs on the outside of tapes can be the only written record of a meeting (see microfiched photocopies of tape labels and tape jackets, 1970-82, p. 10, and Appendix A);
- LLIB collection 1953+ contains a few minutes and transcripts, sometimes as part of a legislative report (see LLIB collection, p. 13);
- Special Committee files sometime contain committee or conference committee minutes or transcripts (see special committee files 1973+ on microfiche, p. 9, and Appendix B).

Transcripts when available are either in the LLIB collection, in committee files (special committees mostly) or with the paper copy of the minutes. Any Finance Committee transcripts are with the Finance Committee minute binders.

**Available (see table p. v) (see lists in Appendix A)**

Paper copy – 1965+ Standing and Special Committees: current 2-year legislature are with House Records or Senate Records; all earlier, are at Legislative Reference Library

-- 1967+ Finance Committees: current 2-year legislature are with Committee; prior 6-8 years are at Legislative Reference Library; all earlier, are at Alaska State Archives

Microfiche -- 1965-82: LIOs in Anchorage and Fairbanks; Law Libraries in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Ketchikan; University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Legislative Library; and State Archives

Index - 1965-82 *Alaska Legislature Committee Records on Microfiche Index:*

Volume 1 - Minutes 1965-82

Volume 2 - Committee Tapes 1970-82 (photocopies of tape labels and tape jackets) (except Finance)

1982-04 *Alaska Legislature Committee Tapes & Minutes Index:*

Volume 1 - Committees (except Finance) 1982-2004

Volume 2 - Finance Committee 1995-2004; (Prior to 1995, indexes are only to page numbers in minute binders.)

Internet - 1982+ *Infobases* (Finance Committee minutes are 1981+)

1993+ *BASIS* (see p. 20 and Preface)

## Committee Files

Committee files contain material created by or collected by a committee during its deliberations. Most are on bills or resolutions referred to the committee, and contain bill drafts, amendments, fiscal notes, correspondence, sectional analyses, research material, and testimony. A few files on issues discussed by the committee (executive orders, confirmation hearings, overviews of departments, and briefings) may be found at the beginning of the bill files. Be sure to check the entire list of a committee's files to make sure you've found all the files on your bill or subject.

Special committees are legislative committees, commissions, or task forces set up for a limited time to accomplish a specific task: to study an issue and report on it by a certain time, or to be an additional committee of referral for bills on a specific topic, such as oil and gas or fisheries. Files are similar to those of standing committees (permanent committees) but may include research and meeting files.

Included with the special committee (SCOMM) files are a few collections of subject files, created by legislative committees, on topics of ongoing interest, such as workers' compensation and oil and gas.

### Additional Information

(See p. 18 for more Finance Committee file information.)

### Available (see table p. v) (see lists in Appendix B)

Paper copy - All committees (including Finance): current 2-year legislature are with the committees; prior 6-8 years at the Legislative Reference Library; all older (1965+) are at the Alaska State Archives.

Microfiche - Standing committees 1965-08, Finance Committees 1971-08, Special Committee (SCOMM) 1973-08; at same locations as the minutes microfiche (see p.8)

Index - *Alaska Legislature Committee Records on Microfiche Index:*

Volume 3 - Standing Committees 1965-08;

Volume 4 - Finance Committees 1971-08;

Volume 5 - Special Committees 1973-08

Internet - 2009+ *BASIS*: “documents” includes many of the documents kept in a committee file, but not necessarily all (2009+ complete committee bill files will be added to *BASIS*, and be with the “documents”) (see p. 20 and Preface.)



## Committee Audio

Audio of committee meetings is worth listening to if the minutes are not in enough detail or if you need to know exactly what was said during a meeting. It is usually best to review committee minutes before requesting tapes so that you can request just those tapes that discuss the section or aspect of the bill you're interested in.

There may be audio available for committee meetings for which there are no committee minutes or bill files. This is true for 1969-82 when there was often a tape but no minutes (and the tape log written on the outside of a tape or tape jacket was the only written record of a meeting), but also for 1982-2004 (see pp. 7-8).

### Additional Information

Digital audio recording by the legislature of all committee meetings started in 2005, and is available on the legislative website 2005+. 1969-2004 audiotapes are being digitized to put online.

Live audio on the internet of all committee meetings started in 2002, as part of public television legislative coverage, *Gavel to Gavel*, and is archived online for 2002+. This is not the official recording of meetings (that is done by the legislature) and may be incomplete or contain material added by the commentators.

### Available (see p. v) (see lists in Appendix A)

Audiotapes - 1969-2004: at Alaska State Archives. Finance tapes are 1976-04.

### Index

- 1969-82 *Alaska Legislature Committee Records on Microfiche Index:*
  - Volume 2 Photocopies of Tape Labels and Tape Jackets – (except Finance Committee.) 1970-1982 (see Appendix A)
- 1982-04 *Alaska Legislature Committee Tapes & Minutes Index:*
  - Volume 1 - All committees (except Finance) 1982-2004
  - Volume 2 - Finance Committees 1995-2004

- Internet - 2005+: *BASIS*: digital audio recorded by the legislature. See "Committee Minutes and Audio" link, or do a bill search, the audio is with the minutes. (1969-2004 will be online soon)
- 2002+: *Gavel to Gavel*, produced by KTOO. See *Alaska Legislature Home Page* or *Gavel to Gavel* <http://gavelalaska.org>

## House and Senate Floor Session Audio

Audio recordings of floor sessions are important when changes or debate have taken place on the floor of the House or Senate. The journals will indicate sessions where amendments were made or attempted and where debate was likely to have occurred.

### Additional Information

The House and Senate started taping their floor sessions in 1975; no tapes are available prior to that year. 2010+ the legislature started digitally recording floor sessions – this will soon be added to BASIS. 1975-2009 is being digitized to put online.

Live audio on the internet of all floor sessions, *Gavel to Gavel*, started in 2002, and is archived online for 2002+. This is not the official recording of floor sessions (that is done by the legislature) and may be incomplete or contain material added by the commentators.

### Available (see table p. iv)

Tapes - 1975-2009; CDs - 2010+ : originals sent each day to the Alaska State Library, kept until June or July, then originals sent to the Alaska State Archives and copies sent to the Anchorage Law Library.

- Holdings: 1975+, at the Alaska State Archives; 1975-2004, at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; 1982+, at the Anchorage Law Library; last 2-3 years, at Alaska State Library.

(Legislative Reference Library has no floor tapes.)

Index – 1975-2003, at the same locations as the tapes and at the Legislative Reference Library.

Internet – 2010+ Legislature recorded floor sessions digitally -- will soon be online.  
(1975-2009 will also be online soon)

2002+ *Gavel to Gavel* produced by KTOO. See *Alaska Legislature Home Page* or *Gavel to Gavel*: <http://gavelalaska.org>

## Video Coverage of Legislature

The legislature funded television coverage of its sessions from 1977 to 1989. Coverage included important floor debate, committee meetings (including some conference committee meetings), and interviews with legislators.

Public television coverage of the legislature, *Gavel to Gavel* started in 1996: audio is archived online 2002+; video is archived online 2012+. The series is produced by KTOO Television and funded by a private corporation and the city of Juneau. Coverage includes floor sessions, committee hearings, press conferences and other legislative events.

In 2011 the legislature started streaming live video called *AlaskaLegislature.tv*. Archived video will soon be online in *BASIS* with links to search page for each bill. Coverage includes floor sessions, committee hearings, and subcommittee hearings.

### Additional Information

*Capital '77-'81* has an index written by the Alaska State Library by subject, personal name, bill number and date. The *Capital '82 -'89* index is by subject, personal name and date.

*Gavel to Gavel* 1996+ has no index.

### Available (see table p. v)

#### Videotapes

- 1977-89: *Capital '77-'89* at the Alaska State Archives.
- 1996-11: *Gavel to Gavel* any existing tapes are at KTOO in various formats.

#### Index

- 1977-89: at University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library, Legislative Reference Library, and Alaska State Archives.
- 1996+ : (no index)

#### Internet

- 2011+ *AlaskaLegislature.tv* live, archive will soon be added to BASIS
- 2012+ *Gavel to Gavel* live and archived video at legislative website and at <http://gavelalaska.org/>

## **Legislative Reference Library LLIB Collection**

The LLIB collection is a catalog of all the library's Alaska legislative history materials. The collection includes reports written or contracted by the legislature, reports requested by the legislature from other state agencies (not annual reports), and transcripts of legislative meetings.

### **Additional Information**

(see p. 21)

### **Available**

Paper copy - 1953+: Legislative Reference Library (some of the legislative reports are also held at other Alaska libraries).

Internet - 1953+: *LLIB Infobase*, catalog entries with links to full text, word searchable documents. Project to digitize all documents is in progress. Please tell us if you would like a document digitized that is not yet online. (see p. 20 and Preface)

## **Department of Law Bill Review Files**

Bill review files are created for virtually all bills that have passed and are to be signed or vetoed by the governor. If a bill proposed by the Governor is passed, its bill drafting file (which is normally confidential) and bill review file are combined.

Important bill reviews 1988+ have become *Department of Law Memoranda of Advice/Attorney General Informal Opinions*.

### **Available**

Paper copy - 1969+ Legislative Bill Review Files

Contact the Department of Law (465-3600) for bill review files for the last 7 years. Contact the Alaska State Archives (465-2270) for earlier files.

## **Office of Governor Files**

The Governor's Office has always requested introduction of certain bills, tracked them and lobbied for their passage. The governor's legislative or subject files can be helpful for bills from earlier years for which little other information is to be found. Files available include those of Territorial Governors (1909-1958).

### **Available**

Contact the Alaska State Archives (465-2270).

## **Other Executive Branch Files**

State agencies, which are affected by a bill and consulted during the deliberations on the bill, sometimes keep legislative files or subject files. These files might include the agency's testimony or position papers and letters by citizens, groups, and federal agencies. These are most helpful for earlier years when little else is available. Some executive branch files date from the early 1900's.

### **Available**

Contact the Alaska State Archives (465-2270).

## **Legislators' Legislative Files**

Several legislators have donated their legislative files to the Alaska State Archives. Other former legislators have donated their papers to the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Archives or to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Archives. The Alaska State Archives accepts only those files related to a legislator's public office, while the University of Alaska Archives accept all categories of a legislator's "papers".

### **Available**

Contact: The Alaska State Archives (465-2270); the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Archives (786-1849); and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Archives (474-6773).

## **Newspapers**

Newspaper accounts of interviews with legislators about a bill before the bill is passed may discuss the understood intent of the bill or the problem the bill was addressing and why.

### **Available**

Microfilm - all Alaska newspapers: at University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; and Alaska State Library.

## ***Legislative Reporting Service and Alaska Reporting Service***

*Legislative Reporting Service:* This commercial service, 1959-1993, provides the only index/subject access to bills from 1959-1974. It also occasionally contained some additional information not provided in the journals.

*Alaska Reporting Service:* This weekly report, 1959-1970, put out by the publisher of the *Legislative Reporting Service*, covers activities in all branches of state government. It sometimes contained detailed coverage of committee meetings when no other is available. There is no index. You need to page through the issues between the date the bill was introduced and the date it was passed into law.

### **Available** (see table p. vi)

Paper copy - at University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library and Legislative Reference Library.

## Conference Committees

Prior to 1999, conference committees (CC) were seldom recorded in any form. The Conference Committee on the Budget is the exception: it was recorded and had minutes starting in the early '70s. (See pp.18-19 for Conference Committee on the Budget)

Check for conference committee materials:

- 1) minutes 1965+ (see pp. 7-8 and Appendix A)
- 2) files 1965+ (see p. 9 and Appendix B)

If a bill was referred to a special committee, check the list of that special committee's (SCOMM) files. Special committee files or reports may include conference committee materials.

- 3) tapes 1969+ (see p. 10 and Appendix A)

1970's-80's tapes: some conference committee tapes were not listed as a separate group of tapes, but are part of another committee's tapes -- often the committee in whose room the CC was held. Check which legislators are on the CC (in journal or bill history/journal index). Check their committee assignments (in first volume of journal for that year). If any chaired a committee (preferably one which had discussed the bill) then the CC may have been held in that committee's room. Check that committee's tapes between the dates the bill went into and out of CC and at the end of the committee's tapes for that year.

- 4) 1977-89 videotapes (see p. 12)
- 5) transcripts 1953+ (see pp. 8 and 13)

Check the Internet:

- minutes - 1993+ *BASIS*; 1982+ *Infobases* (1965+ will be digitized and added)
- files - 2009+ *BASIS* (these files will be online soon)
- audio - 2005+ *BASIS* (1969+ is being digitized and will be added)
- *LLIB Infobase* – for transcripts and lists of committee minutes, files, and tapes



## Finance

Finance Committee records differ from those of other standing committees mostly because of the nature of budget documents and the appropriations process.

See *Alaska Legislative Budget Handbook: The Swiss Army Knife Guide to Budgets* by Legislative Finance Division, for an explanation of the appropriations process, and historical resource documents on *Legislative Finance Division Home Page* at <http://www.legfin.state.ak.us>

### A few things to note

Through 1997, parts of the budget bills and budget session laws are on the Internet, but not all. The pages of departmental allocations, appropriation items, and appropriation funding sources are, until 1998, available only on paper and microfilm. Complete budget bills are on the website 1998+ *BASIS* pdf version only; and 2002+ *Basis* text version and *Infobases*. Complete budget session laws, including the Governor's line item vetoes are on 2003+ *BASIS* pdf version only.

Fiscal notes are on the Internet in an abbreviated form 1993-98, showing only the next fiscal year and no analyses. Complete fiscal notes are on the website 1999+ *BASIS* pdf form. (See paper or microfiche for complete fiscal notes, 1993-98.)

Additional materials that are kept with the paper copy of the minutes, and are only available by contacting State Archives:

- Materials presented at Finance committee meetings, 1982-96, are included with the minutes as attachments. (Such materials 1997+ are put in the bill files and microfiched.)
- Conference Committee on Budget materials and index, 1982-2006 are in a binder with the minute binders. Materials include minutes, log notes, motion sheets on budget areas, and fiscal notes. (Such materials 2007+, except minutes, are put in bill files and microfiched or digitized.)

*(Pre-computer minutes, 1967-82, and any materials with them, including Conference Committee on Budget materials are on microfiche; but minutes and any materials 1982+ with them are not microfiched since the minutes are on computer)*

To search Finance Committees' minutes for 1980s ... if the bill had a version with letters adjacent to the root bill number like CSHB 1 ... you will need to search for the root bill ("HB 1") and the other version ("CSHB 1") to get all the minutes.

### Available (see lists in Appendixes A and B)

Minutes (see pp. 7-8, and p. 19 - Conference Committee on the Budget)

Files (see p. 9, and p. 19 - Conference Committee on the Budget)

Audio (see p. 10, and p. 19 - Conference Committee on the Budget)

Conference Committee on Budget (operating budget)

- Minutes 1971-82 - microfiche and paper copy (in with Finance Committee minutes)  
1982+ - internet and paper copy (paper copy is in separate binder with Finance Committee minute binders: through 2006, binder includes CC log notes, motion sheets, etc.; 2007+ binder only contains minutes)
- Audio 1976-04 - (in with Finance Committee tapes)  
2005+ - internet
- Files 1982-06 - any paper materials are with minutes in CC binder (kept with Finance Committee minute binders). Prior to 1982, check the microfiche or paper Finance minutes for possible materials.  
2007-08 - microfiche and paper copy (in with Finance Committee files)  
2009+ - internet and paper copy (in with Finance Committee files)
- Index 1971-82 - see Finance Committee minutes index: in *Committee Records on Microfiche Index*, Vol. 1, Minutes 1965-82  
1982-94 - no index  
1995-04 - see Finance Committee minutes index in *Committee Tapes and Minutes Index*, Vol. 2 Finance; and Finance Committee files index in *Committee Records on Microfiche Index*, Vol. 4 Finance (see p.8)

Conference Committee Books/Budget Reports: a series of reports on the budget passed during a session: operating budget reports, a summary of appropriations, and a capital projects election district report. (see table p. vi)

- Paper copy - FY67+ - Legislative Finance Division  
FY73+ - University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks;  
Alaska State Library and Legislative Reference Library
- Internet - FY 67+ - *Legislative Finance Division Home Page*  
<http://www.legfin.state.ak.us> (for FY67-72 see Archive)

Fiscal Notes: Fiscal notes are included in the journals, 1977-88, (see p. 5 for fiscal note information.) (see table p. vi)

- Paper copy - 1989+ - Legislative Reference Library
- Microfiche - 1989-10 - Law Libraries in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau;  
University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks; Alaska State Library; and Legislative Reference Library
- Internet - 1993-98 - abbreviated version -- on BASIS (see pp. 18 & 20)  
1999+ - complete (pdf version) -- on BASIS (see pp. 18 & 20)

Starting in 1995-96, Finance Committee records have the same type of indexes, tape-minute lists, and microfiche as other committees. This is because, in November 1995, responsibility for maintenance of Finance Committee records was transferred from Legislative Finance Division to the Legislative Reference Library which was responsible for all other committees' records.

## Alaska Legislature Electronic Information

Alaska Legislature electronic information is on the legislature's website in *BASIS* and *Infobases*. In the listings below, an underline indicates that the information is available in one system, but not in the other.

***BASIS (Bill Action and Status Inquiry System)*** - contains information on each bill 1993+: a list of all floor actions on each bill with links to journal entries and committee minutes, audio of committee meetings 2005+, all versions of each bill in pdf form 1995+, journals in pdf form 2001+, session laws in pdf form 2003+, committee documents 2009+, and fiscal notes. This information is found using the "bill & laws" link on the top of the legislature's home page.

*BASIS* has until recently not been text searchable (except for words in long or short titles of bills and by using the "find" feature on your web browser), but text searchable features are being added such as ***Alaska Statutes (unannotated) current***; and committee minutes, journals, and all versions of bills 1993+.

***Infobases*** is text searchable, and consists of information 1981+: the ***Alaska Statutes (unannotated) 1993+***, session laws, journals, all versions of bills and resolutions, committee minutes, and Legislative Reference Library catalog (LLIB). This is found using the "Infobases" link on the bottom of the legislature's home page.

### Additional Information

***ALECSYS (Alaska Legislative Computer System) Infobases***, which is not on the Internet, contains the same infobases as the *Infobases*, but with an easier to use interface. It is on the legislature's local area network (lan) to which all legislative offices have access and the public may access at public terminals in the Legislative Information Offices. (Use the Start menu and select "Programs", "*ALECSYS Infobases*".) It has several additional Infobases including the ***Alaska Statutes (annotated version) 1993+***.

**Available** (see table pp. iv - vi)

Internet - *Infobases* 1981+: session laws 1981+, journals 1987+, bills and resolutions 1983+, committee minutes 1982+ (finance committee minutes 1981+), *Alaska Statutes* 1993+ (unannotated)  
- *BASIS* 1993+: session laws, journals, bills and resolutions, committee minutes, Alaska Statutes current (unannotated), fiscal notes (for planned additions to BASIS, see Preface)

## Legislative Reference Library

Legislative Reference Library staff can:

- (1) ask what you've searched and suggest other sources
- (2) guide you through online searches of the legislative website
- (3) help you obtain materials that aren't available online: scan and email materials in our library such as committee bill files or documents in LLIB collection that are not online.

The library has written manuals to help you perform legislative history searches::

- "Tips for Researching Alaska Legislative History Using *Alaska State Legislature Website*" – tips for using *BASIS* and *Infobases*.
- "Steps to Using *Infobases on Alaska State Legislature Website*" -- (appendix to "Tips...") is the "quick start Manual" on the *Infobases* page of the legislative website.

These manuals are on the legislative website "Publications" and "Get Started" pages, and on the library's webpage <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/laa/library/index.php> found under "Legislative Affairs Agency" at the bottom of the legislative website.

### **Addition Information**

"Steps for Using *ALECSYS Infobases on the Desktop*" is a manual for using *ALECSYS (Alaska Legislative Computer System) Infobases* on the legislature's local area network (lan) which is available in all legislative offices and at the Legislative Information Offices (see p. 20). This manual is on the library's intranet site.

### **Available**

Contact the Legislative Reference Library (465-3808)  
[legislative.library@akleg.gov](mailto:legislative.library@akleg.gov)