Introduction

The State Archives of Florida collects, preserves and makes available for research the historically significant records of the state, as well as private manuscripts, local government records, photographs and other materials that complement the official state records. One of the largest and most used sets of records within our holdings are those created by the Florida Legislature. The State Archives of Florida maintains legislative records from 1822 to the present. However, the bulk of materials are legislative committee records from 1969 to the present.

The purpose of this guide is to help you understand and use legislative records at the State Archives. The first section provides background information on legislative committee records and guidance on how to access the records. The second half is a complete list of all legislative holdings at the State Archives of Florida as well as a list of related legislative resources outside of our holdings. Taken together, this guide provides you with the tools necessary to find and use archival records produced by the Florida Legislature.

History

Florida's legislative body dates back to 1822, when President James Monroe and the United States Congress appointed the first legislative council. The council became a bicameral legislature in 1838, with a House of Representatives and a Senate, collectively known as the General Assembly. The State Legislature formed when Florida became a state on March 3, 1845, and voters elected its first State Legislature on May 26, 1845. The first legislative session of the State of Florida commenced that June. The Legislature met biennially in regular session from 1845 to 1969 and annually from 1969 to present day.

The Senate, the upper house of Florida's State Legislature, is composed of one senator from each of Florida's 40 districts. Senators must be at least 21 years of age, be electors and residents of their districts, and have resided in the state for at least two years prior to election. Senators serve four-year terms.

The House of Representatives, the lower house of Florida's State Legislature, is composed of one representative from each of Florida's 120 districts. Representatives must be at least 21 years of age, must be electors and residents of their districts and must have resided in the state for at least two years prior to their election. Representatives serve two-year terms.

In addition to the two main governing bodies, several administrative and support offices exist within the Legislature. These offices operate year-round and assist with all legislative branch activities.

Conducting Legislative History Research with the State Archives of Florida

<u>Introduction</u>

Modern legislative committee records have been preserved since 1969, following the November 1968 voter ratification of the new Florida Constitution and the creation of permanent committee staffs. From 1969 through the mid-1970s, legislative records are not as complete or as well-organized as more recent records. Researchers looking for legislative records from this time period in particular may find that there is little or no information on specific bills. Committee record keeping practices improved after the first few years as they streamlined their system of records creation, storage and transfer to the State Archives. Though this process continues to present day, the Legislature began providing access to committee records through the Senate and House websites. As a result, committee records from 1998 through the most recently completed session are available both at the State Archives of Florida and online.

To research bills at the State Archives from your home, office or other location, please refer to the Off-Site Researchers section. To research bills on site at the State Archives research facility, see the In-Person Researchers section. To research bills from 1998 to the present for which the Legislature makes information available online, see the Online Legislative Materials section. Archives staff cannot provide legal advice or legal interpretation of bill text. Archives staff cannot guarantee that existing records will answer a specific question you may have concerning a bill or law.

What Materials Will You Find When Conducting Legislative History Research

Committee records may include, but are not limited to, bill files; meeting files; staff analyses; audio recordings of meetings; voting and attendance records; sunset/sundown and interim project files; and budget requests.

Staff Analysis: Also called a bill analysis, it is prepared by the staff of each committee of reference. It summarizes the bill and explains the current law affected by the bill, the likely impact of the bill, any constitutional issues raised by the bill, and committee amendments, if any, are summarized (Florida Senate, 2020). There is no guarantee that the staff analysis will answer a specific question concerning a bill or law. This is particularly true if you are interested in only a small portion of a bill. For example, if you are concerned with only one section of a bill that contains dozens or even hundreds of sections, it is unlikely that the staff analysis will provide extensive (or even any) information on this one section. Some bills generate a large amount of paperwork, including numerous, lengthy analyses. The analyses of other bills may be quite brief. Some analyses provide details on why the bill was introduced (i.e. its intent), while others may only explain what the bill was designed to do, with little or no interpretation.

Audio Recordings: Audiotapes, some of which are annotated, containing verbatim records of proceedings of the meetings of the committees and subcommittees.

Sunset/Sundown and Interim Project Files: Materials gathered by staff in evaluating agencies and programs for required review. They may also consist of materials gathered in an interim research project on issues under legislative review.

Legislative Budget Requests: Proposed state agency budgets submitted to the Legislature.

Additional records held by the State Archives may include, but are not limited to:

Floor Debate Recordings: Audiotapes, some of which are annotated, containing verbatim records of all proceedings on the floor of the Senate or House.

Special, Select, Ad Hoc and Joint Committee Records: Minutes, subject files, correspondence, bill files, meeting files, meeting tapes and reports.

Public Service Commission Nominating Council Records: Includes, but is not limited to, minutes, applications, agendas, correspondence and meeting tapes.

Off-Site Researchers

This section of the guide is tailored to patrons researching bills from your home, office or other location. If you are interested in conducting research in person at the State Archives of Florida, please see our <u>In-Person Researchers</u> section. If you are looking for online legislative history materials for bills from 1998 through the present, please refer to the <u>Online Legislative Materials</u> section.

What Information Do You Need to Conduct Research?

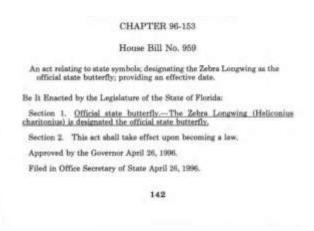
In order to conduct legislative research with the State Archives of Florida, you must first determine the chapter law number and/or the bill number you want to research. Legislative committees arrange and file their bill information sequentially by bill number, so Archives staff cannot locate bill files from a statute number. This guide will walk you through how to conduct legislative research, beginning with finding the chapter law number or bill number. If you already know your chapter law or bill number, you can skip to *How to Submit a Research Request*.

How to Find Chapter Law Numbers and Bill Numbers

When examining a statute on <u>leg.state.fl.us/statutes/</u> or in a published volume, make a note of the chapter law or laws listed in the history note section. For this example, we will look at Chapter Law 96-153, 1996 / House Bill 959. This example bill can be found in Section 15.0382, *Florida Statutes*.



Statute history notes will often include multiple chapter law numbers. If multiple numbers are present, you may need to look up the chapter laws in the *Laws of Florida* in order to determine which chapter law(s) pertain to your research. Chapter laws are formatted as "ch. session year-assigned number." For instance, our example "ch. 96-153" would have been passed in 1996. *Laws of Florida* from 1822 to the present can be found at http://laws.flrules.org or in a published volume. These chapter law entries will list the corresponding senate or house bill number. Note that if the bill number contains a letter, such as "Senate Bill 20-E," the bill was part of a special session for that year, such as 2002E.



How to Submit a Research Request

Once you have the chapter law and/or bill number(s) you need to research, you can contact Archives staff by emailing archives@dos.myflorida.com or by calling our reference desk at

850.245.6719. The State Archives of Florida can conduct research and provide copies of legislative history materials in accordance with our <u>fee schedule</u>. We can provide copies of staff analyses and other bill documents and audio recordings, including committee, house floor and senate floor discussions.

Our standard fee for researching and copying legislative bill files is \$20.00 per bill for the first 100 pages of copies, with an additional \$0.25 per page over 100 pages. This fee is only charged if you would like to obtain copies of the materials. Copies of committee hearings and floor debate recordings can be provided for a fee of \$10.00 per cassette or disc.

Archives staff can research up to two bills per patron per day; this allows us to serve all patrons as quickly as possible. We strive for a two business day turnaround on legislative research requests; actual turnaround time will depend on the number of requests and the extent of each request. Due to limited staff, Archives staff cannot listen to audio recordings to provide information on their content.

In-Person Researchers

This section of the guide is designed for patrons conducting legislative research on-site at the State Archives of Florida. To research bills at the State Archives from your home, office or other location, please refer to the <u>Off-Site Researchers</u> section. To research bills from 1998 to the present for which the Legislature makes information available online, see the <u>Online Legislative Materials</u> section.

Conducting research in person waives the \$20.00 per bill research fee. The only required fees are \$0.25 cents per page for any copies you may want. Taking pictures of materials is allowed in our reference room as long as your flash is disabled.

The State Archives maintains reference files of frequently-researched bills that can be quickly pulled for patrons. If there is no existing reference file for your bill, or if you would prefer to see the original files, this section of the guide can assist you in conducting your research. We recommend that you contact Archives staff prior to your visit by emailing archives@dos.myflorida.com or by calling our reference desk at 850.245.6719. Archives staff can have materials pulled for you in advance and assist you with any questions or concerns.

For information on location, hours, parking and more, please see our webpage on how to <u>plan</u> <u>your visit</u> (https://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/archives/visit/), or call our reference desk at 850.245.6719.

What Information Do You Need to Conduct Research?

In order to conduct legislative research with the State Archives of Florida, you must first determine the chapter law number and/or the bill number you want to research. It is beneficial to have this information prior to visiting the Archives. Legislative committees arrange and file their

bill information sequentially by bill number, so Archives staff cannot locate bill files from a statute number. If you wish to search for chapter law or bill numbers while at the Archives, there are public computers available in our research room as well as wireless internet if you prefer to bring a personal computer.

This guide will walk you through how to conduct legislative research, beginning with finding the chapter law number or bill number. If you already know your chapter law or bill number, you can skip to <u>Researching Staff Analysis</u> or <u>Researching Legislative Audio</u>. Archives staff are available on-site to assist with any questions you may have and to provide copy services.

How to Find Chapter Law Numbers and Bill Numbers

When examining a statute on <u>leg.state.fl.us/statutes/</u>or in a published volume, make a note of the chapter law or laws listed in the history note section. For this example, we will look at Chapter Law 96-153, 1996 / House Bill 959. This example bill can be found in Section 15.0382, *Florida Statutes*. Chapter laws are formatted as "ch. session year-assigned number." For instance, our example "ch. 96-153" would have been passed in 1996.



CHAPTER 15

SECRETARY OF STATE

15.0382 Official state butterfly. 15.09 Fees.

15.0382 Official state butterfly.—The Zebra Longwing (Heliconius charitonius) is designated the official state butterfly.

History.—8. 1, ch. 96–153.

Statute history notes will often include multiple chapter law numbers. If multiple numbers are present, you may need to look up the chapter laws in the *Laws of Florida* in order to determine which chapter law(s) pertain to your research. *Laws of Florida* from 1822 to the present can be found at http://laws.flrules.org or in a published volume. These chapter law entries will list the corresponding senate or house bill number. Note that if the bill number contains a letter, such as "Senate Bill 20-E," the bill was part of a special session for that year, such as 2002E.

CHAPTER 96-153

House Bill No. 959

An act relating to state symbols; designating the Zebra Longwing as the official state butterfly; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Official state butterfly.—The Zebra Longwing (Heliconius charitonius) is designated the official state butterfly.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 26, 1996.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 26, 1996.

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Researching Staff Analyses

Published bill histories or "Citators," available in our research room, provide important information for conducting legislative research. If you plan to visit the Archives, our staff can do this research for you before you visit to have the appropriate materials ready for your arrival. If you prefer to do this research yourself, there are several things you should make note of when reviewing a bill history:

- Note if the bill has a substituted, similar, companion or identical bill. In our example bill, 1996 HB 959, we do have an identical bill, SB 1002. We will need to look at that bill history as well.
- Look at who the bill was "by." If the bill was "by" a committee, make sure to note this committee as one the bill went to. If the bill is "by" an individual, you do not need to make note of them.
- Note which committees the bill(s) went to, written as "on committee agenda/on subcommittee agenda," as highlighted in the examples below. If the history note says "died in committee," "withdrawn," "meeting cancelled" or similar, there will not be information in those committee's records.

Once you have your list of committees the bill went to, provide this to Archives staff, who can then identify which records need to be pulled for you. Our example bill's list:

- HB 959 On Committee: Tourism and Cultural Affairs
- SB 1002 On Committee: Governmental Reform and Oversight

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H 959 GENERAL BILL by Tobin (Identical S 1002)
     State Butterfly/Zebra Longwing: designates Zebra Longwing as official state but-
     terfly. Effective Date: 04/26/96.
     02/06/96 HOUSE
                        Prefiled
     02/20/96 HOUSE
                        Referred to Tourism & Cultural Affairs
     03/05/96 HOUSE
                        Introduced, referred to Tourism & Cultural Affairs -HJ
                        00073; Subreferred to Arts & Cultural & Historic Resources
                        Subcommittee
     03/11/96 HOUSE On Subcommittee agenda-Arts & Cultural & Historic Re-
                        sources, 03/13/96, 10:00 am, 314-HOB
     03/13/96 HOUSE Subcommittee Recommendation: Favorable; On Commit-
                        tee agenda-Tourism & Cultural Affairs, 03/14/96, 1:30
                        pm, 317C
     03/14/96 HOUSE Comm. Action:-Favorable by Tourism & Cultural Affairs
                        -HJ 00307
     03/18/96 HOUSE
                        Placed on Calendar -HJ 00307
     03/19/96 HOUSE
                        Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read second time -HJ
                        00297
     03/21/96 HOUSE
                        Read third time -HJ 00323; Passed; YEAS 118 NAYS 0
                        -HJ 00323
     03/26/96 SENATE In Messages
    04/03/96 SENATE Received, referred to Governmental Reform and Oversight
                        -SJ 00350
     04/17/96 SENATE Withdrawn from Governmental Reform and Oversight -SJ
                        00378; Substituted for SB 1002 -SJ 00378; Passed; YEAS
                        39 NAYS 0 -SJ 00378, -SJ 00395; Immediately certified
                        -SJ 00378
                       Ordered enrolled -HJ 00740
     04/17/96 HOUSE
                        Signed by Officers and presented to Governor -HJ 00840
     04/19/96
                       Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 96-153 -HJ 01161
    04/26/96
S 1002 GENERAL BILL by Forman (Identical H 0959)
   State Butterfly/Zebra Longwing, designates Zebra Longwing as official state but-
   terfly. Effective Date: Upon becoming law.
   02/14/96 SENATE Prefiled
   02/22/96 SENATE Referred to Governmental Reform and Oversight
   03/05/96 SENATE Introduced, referred to Governmental Reform and Over-
                      sight -SJ 00068; On Committee sgenda-Governmental
                      Reform and Oversight, 03/06/96, 2:00 pm, Room-1C(309)
  03/06/96 SENATE Comm. Action:-Favorable by Governmental Reform and
                      Oversight -SJ 00139
   03/07/96 SENATE Placed on Calendar -SJ 00139
   04/03/96 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar -SJ 00339
   04/10/96 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar -SJ 00361
   04/17/96 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar -SJ 00382; House Bill
                      substituted -SJ 00378; Laid on Table, Iden./Sim./Compare
                      Bill(s) passed, refer to HB 959 (Ch. 96-153)
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Researching Legislative Audio Recordings

Bill histories can also provide information on committee and floor audio recordings. As with staff analyses, Archives staff can conduct this research for you and have your recordings pulled prior to your visit. Audio playback equipment is available in the research room. If you prefer to conduct this research yourself, make note of the following from the bill history:

- For committee hearings, look for the dates the bill was on certain committees' agendas.
 Note if the committee was a House or Senate committee.
- For House and Senate floor debates, you do not need to make note of the date of "first reading/ read first time." These first readings are generally just the bill being read, and will not provide further information outside of bill text.
- House and Senate floor debate dates will be listed to the left of lines where the bill was "read second time" and "read third time." Note if the floor session was in the House or Senate and the date.
- Once you have your list of committees the bill went to, provide the list to Archives staff, who can then identify which records need to be pulled for you.

Our example bill's list:

- HB 959 Subcommittee Arts & Cultural & Historic Resources 3/13/96
- HB 959 Committee Tourism & Cultural Affairs 3/14/96
- HB 959 House Floor 3/19/96
- HB 959 House Floor 3/21/96
- SB 1002 Committee Governmental Reform and Oversight 3/6/96

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H 959 GENERAL BILL by Tobin (Identical S 1002)
   State Butterfly/Zebra Longwing: designates Zebra Longwing as official state but-
   terfly. Effective Date: 04/26/96.
   02/06/96 HOUSE Prefiled
02/20/96 HOUSE Referred to Tourism & Cultural Affairs
   03/05/96 HOUSE Introduced, referred to Tourism & Cultural Affairs -HJ
                      00073; Subreferred to Arts & Cultural & Historic Resources
                      Subcommittee
   03/11/96 HOUSE On Subcommittee agenda-Arts & Cultural & Historic Re-
                       sources, 03/13/96, 10:00 am, 314-HOB
   03/13/96 HOUSE Subcommittee Recommendation: Favorable; On Commit-
                      tee agenda-Tourism & Cultural Affairs, 03/14/96, 1:30
                      pm, 317C
   03/14/96 HOUSE Comm. Action:-Favorable by Tourism & Cultural Affairs
                      -HJ 00307
   03/18/96 HOUSE Placed on Calendar -HJ 00307
   03/19/96 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read second time -HJ
                      00297
   03/21/96 HOUSE Read third time -HJ 00323; Passed; YEAS 118 NAYS 0
                       -HJ 00323
   03/26/96 SENATE In Messages
   04/03/96 SENATE Received, referred to Governmental Reform and Oversight
                       -SJ 00350
   04/17/96 SENATE Withdrawn from Governmental Reform and Oversight -SJ
                      00378; Substituted for SB 1002 -SJ 00378; Passed; YEAS
                      39 NAYS 0 -SJ 00378, -SJ 00395; Immediately certified
                      -SJ 00378
   04/17/96 HOUSE Ordered enrolled -HJ 00740
                      Signed by Officers and presented to Governor -HJ 00840
   04/19/96
                      Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 96-153 -HJ 01161
   04/26/96
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S 1002 GENERAL BILL by Forman (Identical H 0959)

State Butterfly/Zebra Longwing; designates Zebra Longwing as official state butterfly. Effective Date: Upon becoming law.
02/14/96 SENATE Prefiled
02/22/96 SENATE Prefiled
02/22/96 SENATE Referred to Governmental Reform and Oversight
03/05/96 SENATE Introduced, referred to Governmental Reform and Oversight -SJ 00066; On Committee agenda—Governmental Reform and Oversight -SJ 0006/96, 2:00 pm, Boom-1C(309)
03/06/96 SENATE Comm. Action:-Favorable by Governmental Reform and Oversight -SJ 00139
03/07/96 SENATE Placed on Calendar -SJ 00339
04/10/96 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar -SJ 00361
04/17/96 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar -SJ 00382; House Bill substituted -SJ 00378; Laid on Table, Iden./Sim./Compare Bill(s) passed, refer to HB 959 (Ch. 96-155)
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Online Legislative Materials: Bills 1998 - Present

What Information Do You Need to Conduct Research?

In order to conduct legislative research online, you must first determine the chapter law number and/or the bill number you want to research. This guide will walk you through how to conduct legislative research with resources available online, beginning with finding the chapter law number or bill number relevant to your research. If you already know your chapter law or bill number, you can skip to <u>Staff Analysis and Other Bill Materials</u> or <u>Legislative Audio: The Florida Channel</u>.

How to Find Chapter Law Numbers and Bill Numbers

When examining a statute on leg.state.fl.us/statutes/, make a note of the chapter law or laws listed in the history note section. Statute history notes will often include multiple chapter law numbers. Chapter laws are formatted as "ch. session year-assigned number." For instance, our example "ch. 96-153" would have been passed in 1996. If multiple numbers are present, you may need to look up the chapter laws in the Laws of Florida in order to determine which chapter law(s) pertain to your research. Laws of Florida from 1822 to the present can be found at http://laws.flrules.org. These chapter law entries will list the corresponding senate or house bill number. Note that if the bill number contains a letter, such as "Senate Bill 20-E," the bill was part of a special session for that year, such as 2002E.

Staff Analysis and Other Bill Materials

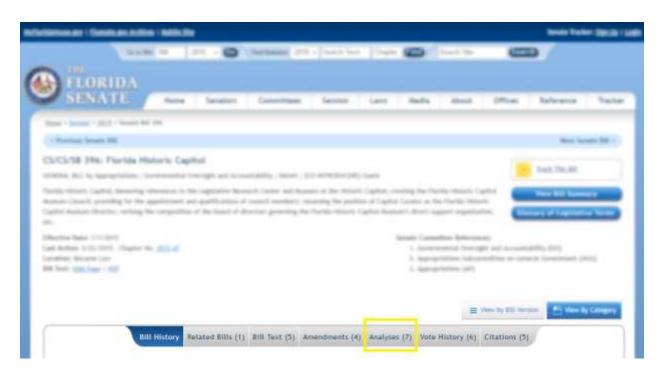
The <u>Senate</u> and <u>House</u> websites maintain bill materials from 1998 to the present. Using 2015 SB 396, Ch. 2015-47 as an example:

- Navigate to flsenate.gov.
- Use the bar at the top of the screen to "Go to bill." Select which session year your bill is from. In our case, we will need 2015. Then enter your bill number. For our example, we will enter 396. Then select "Go."

3. Look at the bill history to see if there were any substituted, similar, companion or identical bills. If there are, your research can benefit from examining the other bill(s) as well.



4. After navigating to the bill you are researching, you can use the bar toward the middle of the screen to jump to the staff analysis and any other information about the bill you may want to look at.



If you have questions or concerns regarding online legislative history research, please feel free to contact the State Archives of Florida reference desk for assistance.

Legislative Audio: The Florida Channel

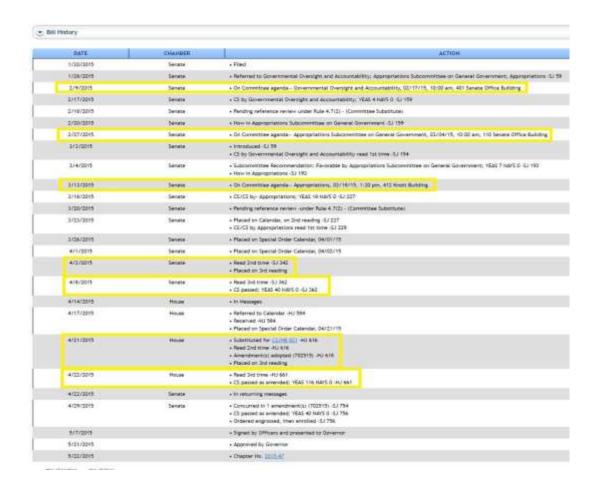
Legislative audio recordings from the mid-2000s forward can be found at thefloridachannel.org. If you are unable to find your materials on The Florida Channel, Archives staff can help you conduct research. Please refer to the In-Person Researchers or Off-Site Researchers sections of this guide regarding legislative audio, depending on your research preferences.

In order to search for the recordings, you first need to determine which dates the bill was discussed. For this example, we will walk through bill 2015 SB 396, Ch. 2015-47.

- 1) Navigate to <u>flsenate.gov</u>.
- 2) Use the bar at the top of the screen to "Go to bill." Select which session year your bill is from. In our case, we will need 2015. Then enter your bill number. For our example, we will enter 396. Then select "Go."



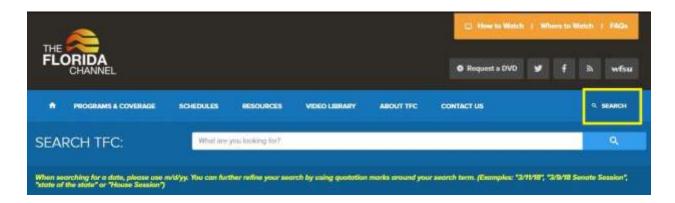
- 3) Examine the bill history for the dates and times the bill was heard. For committee hearings, look for the dates the bill was "on committee agenda." For House and Senate floor debates, look for the dates the bill was "read second time" and "read third time." Note if the floor session was in the House or Senate.
- 4) Look at the bill history to see if there were any substituted, similar, companion or identical bills. If there are, your research can benefit from examining the other bill as well.



5) Once you have your list of committees the bill went to, you are ready to search for the videos on thefloridachannel.org.

Our list of dates to search for:

- 2/17/15 Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee
- 3/4/15 Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
- 3/18/15 Senate Appropriations Committee
- 4/2/15 Senate Floor
- 4/8/15 Senate Floor
- 4/21/15 House Floor
- 4/22/15 House Floor
- 6) Search for each date you need on thefloridachannel.org, in the "m/d/yy" format, including the quotation marks. Search through the search results for the appropriate committee or floor.



7) Resources on thefloridachannel.org are not managed or maintained by the State Archives of Florida. If you have questions regarding the site, contact 850.645.9030 or florida@wfsu.org. For technical support for the site, contact TFC-Support@fsu.edu.

Legislative Records at the State Archives of Florida

Below is a list of all legislative record series at the State Archives of Florida. The series are grouped by their specific creator within the Legislature, groupings that archivists refer to as record groups (identified by RG numbers below), and are then listed sequentially by series number (identified by the "S" prefix). The specific creator varies, from the Senate or House of Representatives to individual offices within each governing body.

RG 900: Legislature. Senate.

The Senate, the upper house of Florida's State Legislature, is composed of one senator from each of Florida's 40 districts. Senators must be at least 21 years of age, be electors and residents of their districts, and have resided in the state for at least two years prior to election. Senators serve four-year terms.

S18

Senate Committee Records, 1964-2017 3,119.25 cubic feet, 33 DVDs

This series contains the records of the committees of the Senate of the State of Florida. The records consist of bill files, meetings files, correspondence files and subject files. Files may contain materials such as committee staff analyses of bills, memoranda, vote sheets, attendance sheets, appearance cards, reports, newspaper clippings and correspondence.

Although the earliest committee materials date from 1964, many committees did not begin maintaining records in an organized manner until the mid-1970s. The quantity and quality of material may vary from committee to committee and by year. By the late 1980s, most committees standardized their recordkeeping. For committee materials up through 2011, see the specific Senate committee. In 2012, the Senate began storing all committee records from

one session on one disc. The arrangement of the records at the Archives reflects this shift in arrangement by the creating agency. For committee materials from 2012 to the present, see the records within this series.

S625

Senate

Committee Audio Recordings, 1969-2018 21,825 audio tapes, 4,335 CDs, 7 DVDs, 2 VHS video cassettes

Recordings include full committee, subcommittee and conference committee meetings. The recordings contain discussion of legislation pertaining to each committee's area of specialization. There are no transcripts, but some committee recordings include lists of bills heard. For details, see descriptions under individual Senate committees.

RG 905: Legislature. Senate. Office of the Secretary

The Secretary of the Senate serves as the recording officer of the Senate. Duties associated with the office include enrolling bills, registering lobbyists, signing bills and keeping journals of the proceedings. The Senate designates a secretary to serve at its pleasure.

S50

Senate Bill Files, 1845-1927 15.5 cubic feet

This series contains legislative bills filed with the Secretary of the Senate. There are several gaps in the series especially between 1899 and 1927.

S217

Senate
Office of the Secretary Committee Files, 1959-1978
23 cubic feet

This series contains committee files maintained by the Office of the Secretary including roll call and voting records, committee reports, bill journals, bill action reports and committee information sheets.

S220

Senate

Executive Session Files, 1877-1967 20.25 cubic feet, 7 volumes

This series contains files generated by the Executive Session of the Florida Senate. The records include correspondence, reports, meeting transcripts, executive orders, suspensions and legal evidence.

S415

Senate Journals, 1839-1911 40 volumes, .25 cubic foot

This series contains the original handwritten journals of the Territorial and State Senate. Most of the information is in the published journals of the Senate. This series also includes loose journal pages, stored separately.

S1151

Senate

Committee Attendance and Voting Records, 1979-2008 31.5 cubic feet

This series contains attendance records from 1976 to 2008 and voting records from 1984 to 2008. In some instances, the records also include committee recommendations. The Secretary of the Senate maintained these records for the various committees and subcommittees. The attendance records document the legislator and whether they were present or absent from a committee meeting. The voting records document the bill number, meeting date, name of the legislator and how they voted.

S1152

Office of the Secretary Subject Files, 1925, 1931, 1935, 1945, 1948-1949, 1953 1 cubic foot

This series includes correspondence, reports, budget records, bills and a 1925 specification drawing for the Meridian Marker.

S1238

Senate

Senate Floor Debate Audio Recordings, 1974-2016 12 DVDs, 4470 audio tapes, 231 CDs

This series contains audio recordings of Senate floor debates maintained by the Office of the Secretary. The recordings are the official record of Senate proceedings in regular, special and organizational sessions. The recordings are not transcribed.

S1807

Office of the Secretary
Constitution Revision Commission Records, 1977-1978, 1996-1998
8.75 cubic feet

This series documents the activities of the Constitution Revision commissions of 1977-1978 and 1997-1998. The records contain manuals, journals, summaries, rules, support staff records and minutes. Records also include proposed balloting language and drafting records. Official records of the Commission are contained in several series comprising Record Group 1005.

S1808

Office of the Secretary Impeachment Records, 1957-1963 3 cubic feet

This series contains records of the proceedings and transcripts of testimony in the impeachment cases of Circuit Judges George E. Holt and Richard Kelly. Judge Holt was impeached by the House for bringing his court into disrepute but was not convicted by a two-thirds vote in the Senate. Judge Kelly was impeached by the House for intimidating and embarrassing people in his court. The Senate trial terminated without a verdict.

RG 906: Legislature. Senate. Office of the President

The President of the Senate is that body's presiding officer. Members of the Senate elect their president after nomination by the members of their party in caucus. The president has exclusive rights to appoint and remove committee members, to choose committee chairpersons, to influence the placing of bills on the calendar, and in presiding, may influence legislation by accepting or refusing motions.

S157

Office of the President Committee Files, 1964-1991 79.5 cubic feet

Committee files compiled by the Office of the President include reports from interim, standing and select committees, staff committees, pre-session reports and post-session reports. The series also contains correspondence, memoranda and staff working papers.

S1189

Office of the President
Executive Director Administrative Files, 1970-1972
.5 cubic foot

Administrative files maintained by the executive director in the Office of the President of the Senate include correspondence, reports and memoranda pertaining to the construction and furnishing of the new Senate Office Building.

S1443

Office of the President Bill Files, 1975-1979, 1981-1988

76 cubic feet

This series contains bill files, including Senate bills, House bills and Special Session bills, maintained by the President of the Senate. Each bill file may contain a copy of the bill, committee staff analysis, economic impact statements and other related material.

S2263

Office of the President
Government Efficiency Task Force Records, 2011-2012
1 DVD

Records documenting the activities and conclusions of the 2011 Government Efficiency Task Force include operating rules of the task force, meeting minutes, agendas, audio recordings, member suggestions for increased efficiency and reports detailing their recommendations.

RG 907: Legislature. Senate. Office of General Counsel

The Senate Office of General Counsel provides legal advice and representation to the Florida Senate.

S1934

Office of General Counsel Claim Bill Files, 1991-1997, 1999, 2000-2007 35 cubic feet, 83 audio tapes, 6 CDs, 24 VHS

This series contains the records of various claims as presented to the Senate General Counsel sitting as Special Master. The Special Master reviewed all the evidence generated and presented to support the claim and made recommendations to the Legislature.

RG 910: Territorial Legislative Council

The first Legislative Council was a unicameral body organized by President James Monroe and the United States Congress on March 30, 1822. Following the practices of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, the first Council was appointed by the President and Congress and consisted of 13 members from Florida's two counties, St. Johns and Escambia. Congress continued to appoint the Council until 1826, when the Council was made elective. Congress provided for a bicameral Legislative Council in 1838, consisting of a House of Representatives and a Senate. The Legislative Council met annually, with the last Council meeting in January 1845.

S876

Territorial Legislative Council Unicameral Period Records, 1822-1838 3.75 cubic feet Territorial Legislative Council unicameral period records include bills, records of the proceedings, depositions, special reports, petitions, memorials and vouchers. Undated materials are at the end of the series. The records are spotty and incomplete in their documentation of the activities of the Council. A complete account of the session activities is in the official published journals.

S877

Territorial Legislative Council
Bicameral Period Records, 1839-1845
4 cubic feet

Territorial Legislative Council bicameral period records include bills, records of the proceedings, petitions, depositions, special reports, memorials and vouchers. The records are spotty and incomplete in their documentation of the activities of the Council. A complete account of session activities is in published journals.

S1240

Territorial Legislative Council Journal, 1831-1836 1 volume

This series consists of a journal containing the proceedings of the Territorial Legislative Council from 1831 to 1836. The journal includes transcriptions of floor debates, motions, petitions, resolutions, proposed bills and other business conducted by the unicameral body. This is the only known existing original journal of the Council.

RG 915: Legislature

Florida's legislative body dates to 1822, when President James Monroe and the United States Congress appointed the first Legislative Council. Since 1838, the legislative body has been bicameral, with a House of Representatives and a Senate, collectively known as the General Assembly. The State Legislature was formed when Florida became a state on March 3, 1945 and elected its first State Legislature on May 26. Voters from 20 counties elected 17 state Senators and 41 Representatives. The Legislature met in its first session in June 1845. The Legislature met biennially in regular session from 1845 to 1969 and annually since 1969. The districts from which the legislators are elected are reapportioned in the second year after each census, during the regular session. If agreement is not reached, a special apportionment session is called by the governor.

S74

Legislature
Gubernatorial Appointment Nominations for County Office, 1824-1873
.5 cubic foot

These records document nominations made by the governor to the Legislature for county office. Also included are the Legislature's confirmation of nominations proposed by Governors Richard Keith Call and John Branch.

S634

Legislature Index to Senate and House Bills, 1872, 1885, 1889-1971 131 volumes

This series contains indices to bills introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The indices typically include the following information for a bill: a printed copy of the text, the date of introduction, the committees referred to, and the final disposition. Some of the early records index joint resolutions and Assembly bills.

S887

Legislature Records, 1845-1911 10 cubic feet

This is an incomplete series documenting the activities of the House of Representatives, the Senate and the General Assembly. The topics covered in these records include the Florida and Georgia boundary dispute, the Secession Convention, Governor Harrison Reed's impeachment investigation, and the governors' messages to the Legislature. The files consist of correspondence, bills, resolutions, committee reports and petitions.

S987

Legislature Payroll Sheets, 1883 2 items

Payroll sheets of the State Legislature from 1883 include the name of the legislator, number of miles traveled, number of days, rate per day, amount per diem and mileage, post office and signature of each member.

S2353

Legislature
Bobby Watt Sound Recording, 1978
273.02 megabytes

This series contains a digitized sound recording of Bobby Watt's "Toby's Shoeshine Stand" and "Save That Grand Old Lady." Recorded by Sweetbay Records in Tallahassee, Watt wrote and recorded the latter song for the Save the Capitol event.

RG 920: Legislature. House of Representatives

The House of Representatives, the lower house of Florida's State Legislature, is composed of one representative from each of Florida's 120 districts. Representatives must be at least 21 years of age, must be electors and residents of their districts and must have resided in the state for at least two years prior to their election. Representatives serve two-year terms.

S153

Informal Ways and Means Committee County Tax Study, 1939 1 volume

This series contains a 1939 county tax study maintained by the Subcommittee on Counties and Cities of the Informal Ways and Means Committee. The volume, entitled, "A Tax Dollar Study of Florida, County by County," was prepared by Outmans, a tax analysis firm. The study traces the expenditure of local taxes for each county in Florida.

S 739

Select Committee on Reapportionment Maps, 1981-1982 1200 items

This series contains maps used by the Select Committee on Reapportionment to determine legislative and congressional district outlines. Most of the maps have the district numbers marked on them.

RG 921: Legislature. House of Representatives. Office of the House Speaker

The Speaker of the House is the presiding officer of the House of Representatives.

S1837

Office of House Speaker
Election 2000 Correspondence, 2000
2.25 cubic feet

This series contains letters, faxes and printed email transmissions related to the controversial 2000 Presidential election. The correspondence is directed to Florida's Speaker of the House, Tom Feeney. Most of the correspondence voices general support for Feeney during the state's vote re-counts. There are also letters questioning the methods used by the state to establish an accurate vote count and criticizing the actions taken by Florida officials and the Florida Supreme Court.

RG 925: Legislature. House of Representatives. Office of the Clerk

The Clerk of the House of Representatives serves as the recording officer of the House. The duties associated with the office include enrolling bills, registering lobbyists, signing bills and

keeping journals of the proceedings. The House of Representatives designates a clerk to serve at its pleasure.

S14

Office of the Clerk Bill Files, 1845-1927 16 cubic feet

This series contains legislative bills filed with the Clerk of the House. The bills were created by the House of Representatives to be presented to the Legislature for enactment.

S33

Office of the Clerk Lobbyist Registration and Registration Withdrawal Forms, 1949-1990 60 cubic feet

This series consists of registrations and withdrawal of registrations of lobbyists filed in accordance with Chapters 11.045 and 11.061, *Florida Statutes*, and enacting legislation of previous years, requiring lobbyists to file a registration form with the Legislature for each principal represented by the lobbyists. The series also includes several sets of alphabetical indexes to lobbyists covering various date spans and a few computer printouts of lobbyists, principals and expenditures.

S38

Office of the Clerk House Floor Debate Audio Recordings, 1961-2018 4,448 audio tapes, 20 CDs, 16 DVDs

Floor debate audio recordings of the Florida House of Representatives document House proceedings in regular, special and organizational sessions, as well as party caucuses and special events such as Boys State.

S416

Committee on Rules and Calendar Journals, 1837-1905 34 volumes

This series contains the original handwritten journals of the Territorial and State House of Representative. Most of the information is also found in the published journals of the House.

S517

Office of the Clerk Subject Files, 1955-2014 14.5 cubic feet This series consists of hearing and committee records reflecting the activities of the House Select Impeachment Investigating Committee, the House Impeachment Committee, the House Committee on Standards and Conduct, Interim Committees, Standing Committees and the Florida Legislative Investigation Committee. The series also contains correspondence, reports and minutes filed with the clerk.

The Florida Legislative Investigation Committee was commonly referred to as the Johns Committee after its first chairman, Charley Johns. The records include administrative files, transcripts of testimony, court cases and newspaper clippings.

S655

Office of the Clerk House Committee Attendance, Voting and Report Records, 1975-1995, 1997-2018 38.25 cubic feet, 60 DVDs

This series contains records created by committees and subsequently filed with the Clerk of the House following each legislative session. Attendance records (1976-1990, 1992-1995, 1997, 1999-2018) document the attendance of legislative committee members at committee meetings. Voting records (1975-1995, 1997-2012, 2014-2018) contain the bill number, meeting date, name of the legislator and how they voted. Committee reports (1991-1993, 1998-2002) document actions taken by the committee on a bill.

S1822

Office of the Clerk Lobbyists History Files, 1967-1991 .25 cubic feet

This series contains information maintained in the Office of the Clerk concerning lobbyists, complaints about lobbyists and former legislators working as lobbyists. The information contained in the series illustrates the workings of the lobbyist system and how the Legislature would control it. There are explanations of how the lobbyists were registered and how their actions could be held to standards. The complaints against lobbyists were registered by citizens and legislators alike.

S1842

Office of the Clerk Photographs of Florida Political Figures, 1821-2002 4,053 photographs

This series includes portraits and photographs of governors, members of the cabinet, justices, and legislators; print, radio and television journalists; and state agencies, buildings and workers. The series includes images of all Florida Territorial and Statehood Governors and most of

Florida's United States Senators and Congressional representatives, cabinet members and state legislators.

RG 940: Legislature. Joint Legislative Committees.

The records of various joint legislative bodies make up this record group. Joint committees are appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House when deemed necessary. Prior to 1968, joint committees were appointed when directed by concurrent resolution. Interim committees were authorized either by bill or concurrent resolution to study specific areas or problems. They dissolved at the next legislative session after giving a final report. Interim committees existed when the Legislature met biennially.

S7

Special Commission for the Study of Abolition of Death Penalty in Capital Cases Records, 1963-1965 1 cubic foot

The series documents the commission's investigation in determining public opinion on the abolition of the death penalty. The documents include minutes of public hearings, correspondence and the commission's final report.

S20

Legislature Special Legislative Committee Files, 1959-2010, 2012-2018 144.75 cubic feet, 6 CDs, 24 DVDs

This series documents the work of joint, conference, select and interim committees and commissions. The records include minutes, correspondence, memoranda, reports and newspaper clippings.

S 215

Interim Committee on Financial Institutions Records, 1967-1969 .5 cubic foot

This series documents the work of the Interim Committee on Financial Institutions in examining and revising regulations concerning financial institutions. The records include brochures, reports, correspondence and agendas.

S654

Commission for the Investigation of the Acts and Doings of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund

Testimony of Witnesses Appearing Before the Commission, 1907 .25 cubic foot

This series contains a transcript of the testimony of 42 witnesses given before the commission on June 27, 1907, regarding the possible mismanagement and wrongdoings of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund. It includes the testimony of the active trustees, inactive trustees, former governors and former attorneys' general.

S1034

Joint Legislative Management Committee Lobbyist Expenditure Statements, 1980-1990 28 cubic feet

This series consists of biennial statements of expenditures of registered lobbyists throughout Florida. The statements were filed in accordance with Chapter 78-268, *Laws of Florida*, requiring all registered lobbyists to file semi-annual expenditure statements with the Legislature. In 1993, the reporting requirement changed from semi-annual to quarterly by Chapter 93-121, *Laws of Florida*. Each statement provides the name of the lobbyist; name of the principal (individual, firm or organization employing or retaining the lobbyist); purpose of expenditures; source of funds; and amount of expenditures. Many statements indicate "none" in the expenditure portion.

S1358

Legislature Special Legislative Committee Meeting Tapes, 1965-2018 2,610 audio tapes, 94 CDs, 2 DVDs

This series contains special legislative committee meeting audio recordings documenting the work of joint, select and interim committees as well as legislative commissions.

S1444

Interim Committee on Governmental Reorganization and Efficiency Records, 1963-1968
2 cubic feet

The series contains records reflecting the committee's preparations for the restructuring of the executive branch of state government and for reorganizing existing agencies into named departments. The records include correspondence, reports, surveys, minutes, memoranda and proposed legislation.

S1445

Interim Committee on the Operation of the Florida Insurance Rating Law Records, 1967-1969
.5 cubic foot

This series reflects the committee's investigation into changing Florida's insurance laws which followed the California plan for setting insurance rates. The records include statements from

insurance companies, minutes from hearings and a draft of recommended changes for insurance rates.

S1446

Interim Committee on Public Health and Welfare Records, 1968-1970

1 cubic foot

This series documents the hearings held by the House of Representatives pertaining to the use of Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, commonly known as DDT, in Florida. Records include correspondence, reports, minutes and newspaper articles.

S1447

Interim Committee on Public Roads and Highways Records, 1959-1961 8 cubic feet

This series contains records reflecting the committee's efforts to study the administration and cost of public roads in Florida. The files include transcripts, minutes, correspondence, reports and materials concerning the State Road Department.

S1448

Interim Committee on Finance and Taxation Minutes, 1960-1961
.5 cubic foot

The series contains the minutes pertaining to the committee's formulation of tentative recommendations for needed legislation in the areas of excise, property and miscellaneous taxes for the 1961 Legislature. Related correspondence is also included.

S1449

Interim Committee on Urban Affairs Records, 1967-1969 2 cubic feet

This series documents the committee's review of urban affairs issues in areas such as welfare, housing, government organization, transportation, recreation and law enforcement. The records include reports, newspaper clippings, minutes, proposed legislation, press releases and correspondence.

S1450

Interim Committee on Local Government Efficiency and Organization Records, 1967-1968
.75 cubic foot

This series documents the committee's investigation into the efficiency of local government. In assessing local government, the committee often interacted with the Florida League of Municipalities and the Subcommittee of Government Organization of the Interim Committee on Urban Affairs. The records include minutes, agenda, memoranda, correspondence, proposed legislation and reports.

S1486

Florida Legislative Investigation Committee Records, 1954-1965 19 cubic feet

The series contains the records of the Florida Legislative Investigation Committee, commonly referred to as the Johns Committee after its first chairman, Charley Johns. The internal workings of the committee are reflected mainly in the correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports to the legislature, staff reports and statements of fact. The transcripts document the investigatory process at a more personal level and include transcripts of testimony heard before the entire committee and transcripts of individuals who were interviewed by committee investigators or local law enforcement officers. The records reflect the committee's early intent to investigate the extent of communist and subversive organization activity especially within the state university system in Florida. By 1961, it is apparent from the records that the focus of the investigations shifted to homosexuality. In addition, the series contains information regarding race relations, the civil rights movement, student peace movements and anti-Castro organizations.

S2120

Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement Minutes, 1980-2005 1.5 cubic feet

This series primarily contains the meeting agendas and minutes from the Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement from September 2001 to August 2005 and its predecessor agency, Council for Post-Secondary Education Planning Commission, from 1980 to 1994. In addition, the series contains small amounts of other records documenting such issues as unintended consequences of class sizes, in-service education costs and accountability, and Initiative 3, a policy proposal issued by the council, which was designed to ensure the Florida's educational system had the highest quality leadership.

S2170

Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement Education Reports and Studies, 1983-2004 2 cubic feet

This series consists of reports and studies of the Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement and its predecessor agency the Post-Secondary Education Planning Commission.

The reports primarily relate to postsecondary education and cover a variety of areas such as facilities, financing and costs, access by minorities and the disadvantaged, progress toward implementing recommendation of master plans and the role of community colleges. Most of the reports are in unbound camera-ready form, but final printed versions and a few drafts are also included.

RG 944: Legislature. Joint Legislative Management Committee.

The Joint Legislative Management Committee was created in 1968 to supervise the Legislature's service divisions. Its purpose was to provide the House and Senate with administrative services such as payroll, personnel records, purchasing, computers, printing, broadcasting, statutory revision, clinic, library, legislative information and research services.

S 1456

Joint Legislative Management Committee Building Plans, 1974-1984 17 items

This series contains building plans maintained by the Joint Legislative Management Committee. The plans include outlines, specifications, blueprints and maps of legislative office buildings located near the Capitol Center. This series is exempt from public disclosure, per Section 119.071, *Florida Statute* (Ch. 2002-67, *Laws of Florida*).

S 1483

Joint Legislative Management Committee Records, 1967-1997 9 cubic feet

This series contains minutes, agenda, reports and supporting materials of the Joint Legislative Management Committee. The records document discussion topics, decisions made and actions taken by the committee.

RG 945: Division of Legislative Library Services

The Legislative Library, now known as the Capitol Branch of the State Library of Florida, assists the members of the Legislature by providing research and reference services on legislative issues. The Joint Legislative Management Committee assumed these functions in 1972 (Ch. 72-178, Laws of Florida), replacing the Legislative Services Bureau. The Legislative Services Bureau, created in 1969 (Ch. 69-52, Laws), superseded the Legislative Reference Bureau, which was created in 1949 (Ch. 25369, Laws) and administered by the Legislative Council. The Division of Legislative Library Services remained part of the Joint Legislative Management Committee until the JLMC was eliminated in 1998 and the Legislative Library was placed under the State Library of Florida.

S9

Division of Legislative Library Services

Legislative Budget Requests, 1967-2008 386 cubic feet

The series contains proposed legislative budget requests that were submitted by state agencies. These records were maintained by the Legislative Library as a reference service.

S200

Legislative Services Bureau Committee Files, 1955-1970 35 cubic feet

This series contains committee files from 1955 to 1970 maintained by the Legislative Services Bureau and its predecessor agency, the Legislative Reference Bureau. The records include minutes, correspondence, reports and newspaper clippings, documenting a variety of topics, including traffic safety, insurance, commerce, education, health, welfare, agriculture, judiciary, finance and law enforcement.

S201

Division of Legislative Library Services Administrative Files, 1955-1986 111.75 cubic feet

This series include legislative records of the House of Representatives and the Senate, committee reports, commission reports, correspondence, memoranda, audiotapes, videotapes, maps, minutes and studies. The files cover a wide range of topics of interest to members of the Senate and House of Representatives including personnel, retirement, appropriations, auditing, health and welfare, transportation, taxation, law, reform, conservation, natural resources, reapportionment and education.

S725

Division of Legislative Library Services
Florida Constitution Revision Commission Files, 1959-1976
2 cubic feet

This series documents the contribution of the Legislative Council and Reference Bureau to the Constitution revision process of the 1960s. The Legislative Reference Bureau provided analysis and commentary on sections of the Constitution and provided supplementary material to legislative members.

S 1059

Division of Legislative Library Services Reference Files, 1945-1981 79 cubic feet This series contains reference files covering a variety of topics of interest of members of the Legislature. The records include correspondence, copies of bills, reports, studies, brochures, minutes, maps and newspaper clippings.

S1454

Legislative Council Minutes, 1945-1968 .50 cubic foot

This series contains minutes of the Legislative Council from 1949 to 1968. The minutes document the decisions and actions of the Council, its committees and the Legislative Reference Bureau.

<u>Legislative Resources at the State Library of Florida</u>

Related Resources

- Florida Senate (https://www.flsenate.gov/)
- Florida House (https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/)
- Laws of Florida (http://laws.flrules.org/)
- Index to Special and Local Laws
 (http://edocs.dlis.state.fl.us/fldocs/leg/divstatrev/indexlaws/index.htm)
- Florida Statutes: 1949-1996 (http://flstats.fsulawrc.com/FlStatutes/php/index.php)
- Florida Statutes: 1997-Present (http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/)
- <u>Florida House Journals</u> (http://sb.flleg.gov/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm\$vid=House:all)
- <u>Florida Senate Journals</u>
 (https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Journals/BoundJournals/2018)
- Archives Duplication Procedures and Fees (https://dos.myflorida.com/libraryarchives/archives/visit/duplication/)
- Archives Reference Procedures (https://dos.myflorida.com/libraryarchives/archives/visit/procedures/)
- Plan Your Visit (https://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/archives/visit/)

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