

## GUIDE SERIES 2 – CALIFORNIA RESEARCH



### GUIDE 2A - LOCATING CURRENT LEGISLATION

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#### ONLINE ACCESS

Internet Sources - You can locate the full-text of current Assembly and Senate bills and selected legislative history documents by searching:

Assembly homepage

(<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/>); Senate

homepage (<http://www.sen.ca.gov/>); Legislative

Counsel webpage (<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>).

These pages include some special features to aid the researcher. For example, the “leginfo” site offers information about the operation of the California Legislature and a link to the full-text of the California Codes, which can be searched by keyword.

#### ON-SITE RESOURCES

Senate and Assembly bills for the current session are kept in paper format at rows 4 and 6 on the PLAZA level of the Law Library. If the bill number is known, the bill and all of its versions can be easily located. The bills are filed numerically with the most current version on top. If a bill number is unknown, a subject or code section search must be conducted.

1. Subject Search - If a bill number is not known for an item, use the subject index found in the Legislative Index pamphlet for the current session. The Index is located in Row 6. You can also look in the Subject index of both *Deering's Advanced Legislative Service* and *West's California Legislative Service*, shelved after the Codes.

2. Code Section Search - If you want to know what bills have been introduced which would affect a particular code section, use the *Table of Sections Affected* pamphlet for the current session. The Table pamphlet is located with the Legislative Index in Row 6. You can also use the tables in *Deering's Advanced Legislative Service* or *West's California Legislative Service*.

3. Current Status - To determine the status of a bill currently under consideration, use the *Assembly Weekly History* (supplemented by the *Assembly Daily History*) for an Assembly bill or the *Senate Weekly History* (supplemented by the *Senate Daily History*) for a Senate bill. These pamphlets are arranged in order by date and are located in Rows 4 & 6. You can also search LEXIS in the LEGIS library, CABILL file, which includes pending bills tracked from introduction to enactment or veto from Dec. 1988 and full text of all versions of pending legislation from Dec. 1990. WESTLAW CA-LEGIS covers current legislation.

4. Secondary Sources - For further information about pending legislation and its possible impact use InfoTrac, *Index to Legal Periodicals*, look through current issues of California Journal (PERIODICALS) and major California newspapers. Both Lexis and Westlaw offer on-line access to major U.S. newspapers, and information on California issues, especially if it is a topic likely to be of national interest.

**For Further Information Consult a Librarian**

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