



FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY RESEARCH  
USING PRINT RESOURCES

WORKSHEET

**Assume that you are assigned to do legislative history research on this Florida Statute section:**

*Florida Statutes §776.031, Use or threatened use of force in defense of property*

**Also assume that you are told that the aspect of the code section that is of particular interest is *when the duty to retreat was removed.***

1. Look at the relevant Florida statute section in the Florida Statutes Annotated.
2. Look at the history line at the end of the statutory text, to identify the laws that enacted and amended the statute section. (Don't forget to check the pocket part!)

List the full citation for each individual law, in chronological order, beginning with the law that enacted the statute section:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Look at the historical notes after the history line to identify the law which removed the duty to retreat. List the full citation for the relevant law below:

\_\_\_\_\_

This is the law for which you will gather and study related legislative history documents.

[If the historical notes do not identify the relevant law, you would need to look at the text of each law to determine which had addressed the duty to retreat.]

4. Using the chapter number of the relevant law listed in question 3, go to the Laws of Florida for that year, and look at the text of the law.

Look at the section of the law which addressed the duty to retreat. (The section number should be part of the citation listed in question 3.)

What changes were made to Florida Statutes §776.031 by that section of the law? (~~Deletions~~ are indicated with a strikethrough, additions are underlined.)

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5. The House or Senate bill number is listed immediately below the chapter number of the law.

Write the House or Senate bill number and the year enacted for the relevant law listed in question 3.

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6. Using the House or Senate bill number and year listed in question 5, go to that year's History of Legislation (1965 - 1987) or the Final Legislative Bill Information "Citator" (1988 and after), to get a chronological listing of all the actions on the bill as it worked its way through the Florida Legislature.

Look up the bill number in the Senate Bill Actions Report or the House Bill Actions Report (in the History of Legislation) or in the History of Senate Bills or the History of House Bills section (in the Final Legislative Bill Information "Citator").

Using the information in the History of Legislation or the Final Legislative Bill Information "Citator," list information below for each of the following actions:

- a. Date and House or Senate Journal page number(s) for **Senate amendments, adopted and failed:**

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- b. Date and House or Senate Journal page number for **the final vote in the House:**

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- c. Date and House or Senate Journal page number for **the governor's approval of the bill:**

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7. Using the date and House or Senate Journal page number listed above for the **Senate amendments, adopted and failed**, look at the entry in the House or Senate Journal. (Bear in mind that page numbers aren't necessarily accurate, and you might need to use the date to find the relevant information.)

The next step would be to locate the relevant legislative history documents using the law number, bill number, and year of the session when the bill was enacted. Document availability and contact information is listed on a separate handout.