



FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY RESEARCH
USING INTERNET RESOURCES
EXAMPLE: Florida Statutes § 776.031

- Since 1998, all legislative history documents generated by the Florida legislature are available online.
- Floor debates beginning with the 1999 regular session, and committee hearings beginning with the 2007 regular session are available at the Florida Channel.
<http://thefloridachannel.org/>

Older recordings must be obtained from the House or Senate Document Center or the State Archives of Florida. Contact information is listed at the end.

- Look at the relevant Florida statute section.

Florida Statutes § 776.031, Use or Threatened use of Force in Defense of Property

Florida Statutes (Florida Legislature website, 1997 – current)

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?Mode=View%20Statutes&Submenu=1&Tab=statutes>

- Look at the history line at the end of the statutory text, to identify the chapter numbers of the laws that enacted or amended the statute section. If you're interested in a particular part of the statute section, you need to look at all listed bills, to see which bill enacted or amended that part of the statute section.

§ 13, ch. 74-383; § 1189, ch. 97-102; § 3, ch. 2005-27; § 5, ch. 2014-195

- Using the chapter number of the relevant law, go to the Laws of Florida for that year, and look at the text of the law that enacted or amended your statute section.

Laws 2005, c. 2005-27 = Senate Bill No. 436

Laws of Florida (Florida Department of State website, 1822 – current)

<http://laws.flrules.org/>

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

2005, Senate Bill No. 436

- Using the bill number, look at the bill and all related information, including names of sponsors, dates of each action on the bill, including introduction, and an indication of any related bills. References are to page numbers in the House or Senate Journal.

House and Senate Bills (Senate website, 1998 - current)

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bills>

- Under the amendments tab, pay special attention to the date when floor amendments were adopted or failed. The Journal will provide the text of floor amendments.

March 22, 2005, Senate Journal, p. 244

Journals of the Senate (Senate website, 1839 - current)

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Journals>

Journals of the House (House website, 1822 – current)

[http://sb.flleg.gov/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm\\$vid=House:all](http://sb.flleg.gov/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm$vid=House:all)

- Floor debates beginning with the 1999 regular session, and committee hearings beginning with the 2007 regular session are available at the Florida Channel.
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Older recordings must be obtained from one of the sources below.

- If bill was enacted before 1998, call the appropriate source listed below for related legislative history documents, depending on when the bill was enacted.
- Senate sessions from the last 2 – 3 years: Senate Document Center
Rm. 304
The Capitol
487-5915

House sessions from the last 2 – 3 years: House Document Center
Rm. 334
The Capitol
488-7475

Earlier Senate and House sessions: State Archives of Florida
R.A. Gray Building
245-6719

- When calling, you must provide the law number, bill number, and year of the session when the bill was enacted. Specify whether you need only print documents, recordings of committee hearings and floor debates, or all available materials.
- As a state agency, the Supreme Court is not charged for documents or recordings. We are asked to provide blank DVD's in the same number of copies they provide to us, however. We are required to go to the appropriate office to pick up the documents or DVD's. The limit is 100 pages and/or two bill files per day, and requests can often be filled on the same day of the request.
- Please contact us if you need to order legislative history documents, and we will handle that for you.