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Digital Collections and Index to Legislation at the LRB

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LRB Digital Collections: <http://lrbdigital.legis.wisconsin.gov/digital/>

There are 6 collections: 4 for the legislative service agencies (LRB, Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB), Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB), and Legislative Council (LC)), one for Legislatively Mandated Reports, and one for miscellaneous legislative documents which we call "Legislative Materials." Launched in January 2015, there are now over 9,500 publications and reports in these collections.

Everything in the LRB Digital Collections is also searchable in the LRB's catalog (<http://lrbcatalog.legis.wisconsin.gov/>). In fact, we encourage you to search the catalog first as most serials started in paper and, therefore, only the most current are available in the digital collection. The LRB publications collection is the most complete ... and we're working on the other legislative service agency publications.

Other notes and tips:

- LRB Digital Collections and the Wisconsin Documents Depository Digital Archive both use CONTENTdm from OCLC
- The LRB Digital Collection houses legislative documents, including legislatively mandated reports, and the Digital Archive houses executive branch agency documents. However, there is some overlap since the Digital Archive has been around longer. When legislative reports are discovered in the Digital Archive, they are transferred to the LRB Digital Collections.
- There are canned searches in every collection which can be modified by clicking on "Advanced Search" and adding keywords, date, etc.
- The LRB does the original cataloging for legislative reports and publications and enhances the catalog records by adding statutory, Wisconsin act, and biennium references when appropriate (especially useful in the Legislatively Mandated Reports collection).
- Reports submitted to the Senate and Assembly Chief Clerks Offices are forwarded to the LRB; however, even when a statute or act says a report is required, it may or may not be done.
- We use controlled vocabulary and keep metadata as clean as possible; also, all reports are OCR'd and fully keyword searchable.
- The website is mobile and tablet friendly.

Index to the Bulletin of Proceedings: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/menu>

There are 7 separate indices: subject index to proposals, subject index to acts, subject index to journals, Senate authors, Assembly authors, entire membership, and committee authors.

The *Index* is one volume in the *Bulletin of Proceedings* set. The Senate Bulletin and Assembly Bulletin are mainly bill histories, the Administrative Rules Clearinghouse is a subject index and bill history of administrative rules, and, at the end of the session, the acts index is published with the Numerical Listing of Sections Affected by Wisconsin Acts.

The *Index* is available back to 1995 online; prior to that you have to use the print version or come to the LRB and use our comprehensive subject index to legislation covering 1893 to 1994 which is card-based and contained in 4 card catalog cabinets.

Other notes and tips:

- The *Bulletin of Proceedings* began in the 1969 session. The LRB began an in-house index to legislation in 1903 and retrospectively indexed back to 1893.
- Every bill has at least one abstract and as many subjects as necessary; the biennial budget has several hundred abstracts.
- What you will not find in the *Index* is a bill's nickname, like "Laura's Bill."
- You will find lots of *see also* and *see* cross references. Examples: Business *see also* Corporation; Homeless *see* Public assistance; Health care provider *see* Dentistry; Hospitals and health care facilities; Medical service; Nurses; Physician
- By the end of session, the subject index to legislation will be close to 500 pages. Do use the "tree" to peruse subjects and cross references — "Options" → "Show Tree" — it's faster than scrolling through the index.
- The *Index* links to the bill history page which links to amendments, journal pages, authors, committee information, and LC memos.
- Open the subject index to legislation, for example, and use the search box to conduct a keyword search. Results not what you expected? In the filters box, deselect "2017 Biennium" and the search will run again but across every subject index back to 1995.
- The subject index to journals picks out key information in the Senate and Assembly journals other than bill histories – including reports submitted to the Chief Clerks. (The pdf is easier to read.)
- In the Senate and Assembly author indices, a bill abstract is added only to the first and second author and first cosponsor; the bill number is listed under additional authors and cosponsors.

Questions?

I'm happy to answer questions specific to the *Index* or library holdings. Legislative intent and legislative history questions should be directed to the reference desk — Phone: 608-266-0341 — Email: lrb.reference@legis.wisconsin.gov

The LRB is open to the public, Monday –Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at One East Main St., Madison.