

State Statutes/Code: Holder of Copyright

(The word "official" means that the text of the statutes is the legal evidence of the law in a court of law.)

	STATE	LEGISLATURE	PUBLISHER	STATE & PUBLISHER	NO COPYRIGHT
Alabama				X (1)	
Alaska	X	(Editors' note: By statute, publisher - Legislative Affairs Agency- has exclusive publication rights)			
Arizona					X
Arkansas	X				
California	(2)				
Colorado	X				
Connecticut	X (3)				
Delaware	Yes - state holds				
Florida					X
Georgia	X (4)				
Hawaii		X (5)			
Idaho	Publisher and State jointly hold copyright		Publisher and State jointly hold copyright		
Illinois					(6)
Indiana					X (7)
Iowa					X

	STATE	LEGISLATURE	PUBLISHER	STATE & PUBLISHER	NO COPYRIGHT
Kansas	X (8)				U.S. Copyright: descriptive word headings, editorial notes, annotations. Not statutory text=public domain)
Kentucky	X			X	
Louisiana	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Maine	Yes (commercial vendor is supposed to seek permission and send copy of what they are distributing) (9)				
Maryland					X
Massachusetts					
Michigan					
Minnesota	X				
Mississippi	X				
Missouri	X				
Montana					No answer
Nebraska	X				
Nevada	X (9)				
New Hampshire	NH and West jointly hold a copyright				
New Jersey					X
New Mexico	X				
New York					

	STATE	LEGISLATURE	PUBLISHER	STATE & PUBLISHER	NO COPYRIGHT
North Carolina					No copyright claimed for text but publisher claims copyright for annotations and other editorial work products
North Dakota					No copyright for statutory text. The publisher (Lexis) has copyright for annotations, notes, etc...
Ohio					
Oklahoma					
Oregon	X				(10)
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island		X			
South Carolina	State holds copyright through the Legislative Council				
South Dakota					
Tennessee	State holds copyright to the annotations.				
Texas	X (11)				
Utah					
Vermont	State holds copyright (statutes & session law history are public domain)				
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-

	STATE	LEGISLATURE	PUBLISHER	STATE & PUBLISHER	NO COPYRIGHT
Washington	X				
West Virginia					
Wisconsin		(12)			X
Wyoming	X (13)				

Footnotes:

- (1) AL-State holds copyright for text but not for annotations or other editorial work.
- (2) CA – Possible “copyright or other proprietary interest or entitlement of the State of California” per Cal. Government Code 10248.g
- (3) CT- Current copyright coverage is unclear. As a practical matter, the Legislative Commissioners permit fairly unrestricted use of official state statutes and annotations materials upon written request.
- (4) GA – According to LexisNexis website – “The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) is copyrighted by the State of Georgia.”
- (5) HI- Legislature owns data and software, section 21D-4, HRS
- (6) IL – According to (25 ILCS 135/5.04) “...shall be entirely in the public domain for purposes of federal copyright law”
- (7) IN- The text of the statutes is not subject to copyright; however, the section headings are copyrighted by the West Group 1993-2002 and by Indiana Legislative Services Agency since 2002.
- (8) KS – See KRS 77-134.
- (9) ME - §502. Property of State ,All Maine reports, digests, statutes, codes and laws, printed or purchased by the State and previously distributed by law to the several towns and plantations within the State, shall be and remain the property of the State and shall be held in trust by such towns or plantations for the sole use of the inhabitants thereof.
- (10) NV- State holds copyright to all except cross-referenced to West publications
- (11) OR- The Legislative Assembly has elected to waive copyright for the 2009 edition (the most recent edition) of the ORS.
- (12) TX- There is no officially designated source for statutory law in Texas beyond the session laws as adopted by the legislature and signed by the governor. If a copyright to session laws exists, it resides with the state. Thomson West and the state can each claim a copyright to portions of the unofficial codifications of state statutes.
- (13) WI- Legislature holds copyright for editorial work products (eg. annotations, history notes, editor's notes, indices, etc.), but not for statutes
- (14) WY-State holds copyright for text but not for annotations or other editorial work.

Sources: NCSL survey of code revisors – 32 state responded AL, AK, AZ, AR, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, ID, IN, IA, KY, LA, MN, MS, MT, NE, NV, NJ, NC, ND, OR, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, VT, WA, WI, WY. Review of state statutes provided information for all other states

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