Researching Legislative History or Intent
Legislative History

► Fifty States, Fifty Ways...
Legislative History

- Introduced bill
- Bill notes
- Bill memos
- Written statements
- Fiscal Notes
- Amendments (Introduced & Adopted)
- Written Testimony
Legislative History

- Committee records
- Written opinions
- Verbal testimony
- Signing statements
- Floor debate
- Committee debate
- AND JUST ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE
“Legislative history includes any of various materials generated in the course of creating legislation, such as committee reports, analysis by legislative counsel, committee hearings, floor debates, and histories of actions taken. Legislative history is used for discovering sources of information about a legislature's intent in enacting a law, although jurists disagree widely about the extent (if any) to which a statute's legislative history has bearing on the meaning of its text.”

--Wikipedia, "Legislative History". Retrieved July 16 at 2:12pm CDT.
"Legislative History: The background and events leading to the enactment of a statute, including hearings, committee reports, and floor debates."

--Black's Law Dictionary, Ninth Edition
"Legislative history consists of all the legislative events which occurred in the process of enacting (or defeating) proposed legislation, including all available documentation created during this process".

New England School of Law
The Legislature

Pursuant to SJR 930 the 107th General Assembly of the State of Tennessee adjourned sine die on May 1, 2012.
The Capitol is now closed for renovation and will reopen in December 2012.
AN OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE RECORDING PROGRAM IN
THE TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

I. History

In 1955 the Tennessee State Library and Archives began making audio recordings of the proceedings of the House and Senate debate in the Tennessee General Assembly. Prior to that time, the State had experimented with recording, hiring a private firm to perform the task in 1951 and again in 1953. However, poor acoustics and the lack of a proper sound system led to generally poor results, and the future of legislative recording in the state looked unpromising.

In 1954, however, a new public address system was installed in the House and Senate chambers under the direction of the Tennessee Legislative Assembly, and the following year the legislature adopted SJR6 directing the State Archivist to implement procedures to record the legislative proceedings. To
For Archivists and Government Officials

For Archivists and Government Officials

Tennessee State Library and Archives

TSLA Home >

Legislative History & Recording

Legislative Audio Recording Program

In 1955 the Tennessee State Library and Archives began audio recording the floor sessions of the Tennessee General Assembly. Over a period of years the program gradually expanded and by the late 1980’s all standing committees of the legislature were recorded. In 2006, legislative mandate ordered the expansion of the recording program to fully record the proceedings of the General Assembly, including all committees and subcommittees. This recording has now become a year-round process as many legislative committees currently meet 12 months of the year. In addition, recordings of various special committees have been added to the audio archive, creating a unique resource of primary materials.
State Gets Into Recording Business

Recording for posterity are, from left, Bill Alderson and Miss Barbara Minter working in the house.

Tennessee Spotlight

Modern Communication Systems Leave Silver-Tongued Legislator Only Memory

By NELLIE KENYON

Apparantly gone are the days listed Bob Taylor, later governor, together with Malcolm Palt-
plan is to make them available for inspection by writers, his-
WHY?
STUDENTS of State history are continually confronted with the paucity of documentary material on State legislation. The acts and journals of most States are woefully inadequate. Certainly the acts will show what was passed by the legislature; and the journals will demonstrate (in as little detail as possible) that bills were disposed of by the requisite number of ayes and noes in the manner required by law. Further digging into the State’s archives often will reveal the content of bills that failed of passage. But all of this information comprises a skeleton without flesh and blood.

The scholar is not content merely to know what happened. He wants to know why. And his sources for this information are expected to be found in the State’s archives.
“It is the duty of this Court, in the interpretation of statutes, to ascertain and give effect to the legislative intent.”

State v. Lusky
Supreme Court of Tennessee, at Nashville
267 S.W.2d 106; 1954 Tenn. LEXIS 383
March 3, 1954, Opinion Filed
“Finally, in an effort to ascertain the legislative intent we have examined the official records of the legislative proceedings on file in the State Library and Archives. Based upon that examination there can be no reasonable dissent…”

FARRIS v. BLANTON
Supreme Court of Tennessee
528 S.W.2d 549; 1975 Tenn. LEXIS 628
October 10, 1975
“When interpreting a statute, we "must first ascertain and then give full effect to the General Assembly's intent and purpose" in drafting those sections.”

“When the language of the statute is clear and unambiguous, then this Court usually applies the plain language of the statute to resolve the issue.”

LIPSCOMB v. DOE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE,
WESTERN SECTION, AT JACKSON
32 SW3d 840; 2000 Tenn LEXIS 663
November 30, 2000, Filed
“usually”
“Where the plain language of the statute does not directly address the issue or leads to an absurd result, however, this Court will look beyond the language of the statute...”

LIPSCOMB v. DOE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE,
WESTERN SECTION, AT JACKSON
32 SW3d 840; 2000 Tenn LEXIS 663
November 30, 2000, Filed
Do.. not... look... behind... you.

Seriously.
Plain Language

v.

Intent
Does the language of the statute mean what the legislature meant for it to mean?
Is the enactment the same as the intent?
Limits to Legislative History
TCA 3-12-107. Legislative reference and law library.

(a) The office of legal services shall maintain a legislative reference and law library for the use and information of the general assembly.

(b) The library shall be staffed by a librarian who is a graduate of an accredited school of library science.

10-1-201. Appointment — Duties and powers. —
A state librarian and archivist shall be appointed by
the secretary of state. The person appointed as
librarian and archivist shall be appointed without
regard to political affiliation or place of previous
residence. The state librarian and archivist shall
serve as chief administrative officer of the state
library system and shall be responsible to the
secretary of state.

[Acts 1951, ch. 197, § 2 (Williams, § 2278.6); impl.
1984, ch. 728, § 5; 2008, ch. 631, § 14.]
Legislative History & Recording

Legislative Audio Recording Program

In 1955 the Tennessee State Library and Archives began audio recording the floor sessions of the Tennessee General Assembly. Over a period of years the program gradually expanded and by the late 1980’s all standing committees of the legislature were recorded. In 2006, legislative mandate ordered the expansion of the recording program to fully record the proceedings of the General Assembly, including all committees and subcommittees. This recording has now become a year-round process as many legislative committees currently meet 12 months of the year. In addition, recordings of various special committees have been added to the audio archive, creating a unique resource of primary materials.
HALF SPEED RECORDER

HOUSE x SENATE JOINT NON-LEG.
SUBJECT: FINANCE - BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
DATE: 3-19-2008
TIME: 11:08 A.M.

TINDELL - CALL TO ORDER - (6) SHAW, INTRO OF GUESTS - (21) ARMSTRONG, INTRO OF GUESTS - (44) TINDELL, COMMENTS ON TAKING MEMBERS OUT OF ORDER IF NEEDED - (53) ROLL CALL - QUORUM PRESENT - (68)

HB 1283 TODD - EXPLAINS BILL - THERE IS AN AMENDMENT THAT REWRITES THE BILL - MOTION ON BILL - SECOND - (84) AMENDMENT 1 - EXPLAINED - REWRITES BILL - (130) ODOM, HOW DID YOU ARRIVE AT THE $15000 LEVEL FOR CRASH RELATED INJURIES? RESPONSE - (154) TINDELL, WE DO NOT HAVE TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT AT THIS TIME - COMMENTS ON REVISED FISCAL NOTE AND COST OF STUDY - WE CAN ONLY CONSIDER THIS IF WE ARE WILLING TO FUND THIS - WE NEED TO MOVE THIS BEHIND THE BUDGET - (179) TODD, WE HAVE TRIED TO LESSEN THE IMPACT ON THE STATE - (187) MOTION ON AMENDMENT 1 - SECOND - IF WE ARE NOT UNANIMOUS, THERE IS NO NEED TO RUSH - COMMENT SON THIS BEING A MOVING TARGET AT THIS POINT - (224) TODD, COMMENTS ON THIS GOING BEHIND THE BUDGET, IT DOES NOT MEAN THE BILL IS DEAD - (233) TINDELL, COMMENTS ON COST - (236) MOVE BEHIND THE BUDGET - (239)

HB 3862 TINDELL - ROLL TO LAST CALENDAR - (249)

HB 3861 TINDELL - EXPLAINS BILL - MOTION - SECOND - (274) VOTE - PASS TO FULL COMMITTEE - (277)

HB 3863 TINDELL - EXPLAINS BILL - MOTION - SECOND - (302) VOTE - PASS TO FULL COMMITTEE - (309)
The Legislature

Pursuant to SJR 930 the 107th General Assembly of the State of Tennessee adjourned sine die on May 1, 2012.

The Capitol is now closed for renovation and will reopen in December 2012.
Bill Information for SB1107

*SB 1107 by *Stewart ( HB 1972 by *Harmon)

Water Resources - As enacted, establishes a special joint committee to study and develop ways to implement comprehensive water planning in Tennessee, both at the state and local levels of public water systems. - Amends TCA Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 5; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 65; Title 67; Title 68 and Title 69.

Fiscal Note: FiscalNote for SB1107 / HB1972 filed under SB1107

Bill Summary
Summary for *SB 1107/HB 1972

Votes
Senate Votes on SB1107
House Votes on HB1972

BILL HISTORY

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<tr>
<td>Comp. became Pub. Ch. 588</td>
<td>07/16/2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Am. withdrawn.(Amendment 1 - SA0294)</td>
<td>06/18/2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comp. HB Subst (sends SB to dead bill file)</td>
<td>06/18/2009</td>
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<td>Pub. Ch. 588</td>
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<td>Effective date(s) 07/06/09</td>
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<td>Transmitted to Governor for his action.</td>
<td>06/30/2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signed by S. Speaker</td>
<td>06/30/2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signed by H. Speaker</td>
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Videos containing keyword: SB1107

Microsoft Silverlight is required to view the videos. This can be downloaded for free from the Microsoft website here.

The minimum system requirements for watching the Archived video are available here.

Streaming video support

Search Again: SB1107

Search Results for "SB1107"

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Legislative Bills and Amendments dating back to 1796

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<th>Bills and Resolutions</th>
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<td>100th General Assembly</td>
<td>100th 1997-1998</td>
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“the complete record of the legislature, not as interpreted, digested or reported, but as it actually happened and sounded.”
Thank you.