



PUBLIC POLICY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE 250
Politics and Public Policy
Sources for Legislative Histories

If you are going to identify concerns and affect change in public policy, being able to perform a legislative history to research the law is important. The following sources will help you do this. Some of them are subscription services that you can access from the library's **Databases list** (on the main library website); some are paper and located in the **Reference collection** or the **Government Documents collection**; others are **government** or **academic web sites**.

Federal Legislation

Congress and the Nation: Politics and Policy REF/KF/49/.C65

- Published every four years; tied to presidential terms.
 - ◆ First volume in this series covers 1945-1964.
- Summarizes the most important government developments.
 - ◆ Overviews the events of the four-year period, including important personages.
 - ◆ Details public policy by summarizing legislative and executive branch activity.

CQ Almanac 1972-2010. Annual. REF/KF/42/.C65

- Looks at all important bills considered during the year—even if they did not become law.
- Includes a list of all bills enacted into law during the year.
- Contains narrative accounts of important legislation.

CQ Researcher

- **online** under [CQ Electronic Library](#) on the [Databases](#) list.
- Weekly reports on a wide variety of public policy issues.
- May summarize some legislation in that area.

CQ's Guide to Congress, 2000. REF/JK/1021/.C565/2000

- Covers the history, powers, and procedures of Congress.
- Also covers relationships with the executive and judicial branches.
- Includes issues such as campaign financing, ethics and disciplining.
- Contains many appendices of statistical and factual information.

CRS Reports

- Online at <http://openocrs.com> and <http://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/CRSR/>
- Provides background information on issues taken up by Congress.
- May include legislative histories.
- Not widely distributed; have to rely on sites like [Open CRS](#) and the [University of North Texas Digital Library](#) or request the reports from your representative.

FDSYS

- Online at <http://www.fdsys.gov>
- GPO's Federal Digital System (FDSys) provides public access to Government information submitted by Congress and Federal agencies and preserved as technology changes.
- Can be used to find legislative history of a bill, as well as full text of Public Laws and the Congressional Record.

Statutes at Large Gov Docs AE 2.111:

- Cumulated volumes of **Public Laws** (Gov Docs AE 2.110).

- Online version for some years available (search the online catalog for “Statutes at Large”).
- For earlier Public Laws / Statutes, use the paper version in **Government Documents** collection.
- Legislative history summary is included at the end of each law since 1975.

THOMAS (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>)

- From the Library of Congress; might be helpful in tracking legislation.

United States Code, 2006 edition + supplements. REF/KF/62/.A2

- Codifies all statutes in force into broad subject areas called titles; subdivided into chapters and sections.
- Sections are followed by a reference to the text’s source.
- Can be used to find the statute or public law, and trace the legislative history from it.
- Can find **online** at **GPO** (<http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS2873>), the Legal Information Institute at Cornell University (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>), from the U.S. House of Representatives (<http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml>), or **Lexis Nexis** (click on the **U.S. Legal**, then the **Federal or State Codes** links).

Washington Information Directory, 2011/2012. Annual. REF/JK/421/.C8/

- Calls itself “the definitive source for finding and making contacts.”
- Lists directors / persons-in-charge of government and nongovernment agencies and organizations.
- Lists websites, phone numbers, email addresses, and street addresses.
- Although this information is available on the web, this title pulls it together in one volume.
- Excellent place to look for contacts at the right organization for many public policy issues.

West’s Encyclopedia of American Law, 2005 + supplements. REF/KF/154/.W47/2005

- Online in **Gale Virtual Reference Library**; accessible through the **Database** list.
- Look up your topic of interest—animal rights, health care, water quality, etc.
- May reference relevant legislation and court cases.

Holston Associated Libraries catalog (www.hal.org)

- Holdings of four libraries.
- All types of materials are included.
- Can search by author, title, subject, keyword, or any combination.
- Most items discussing your public policy issues will have some sort of summary of legislation.
- To help you get started here are some **official subject** headings you might find useful:
 - Animal rights:** animal welfare—law and legislation
 - Childhood obesity:** obesity in children; obesity in children—U.S.—prevention; obesity in adolescence
 - Civil rights for gays:** gay rights; same-sex marriage
 - Domestic violence:** child abuse; family violence; marital violence
 - Economic development** for small communities: community development; regional planning; rural development—economic aspects; Appalachian Regional Comm.
 - Educational inequality:** educational accountability; curriculum evaluation; standards of learning—Virginia; educational equalization; school improvement programs
 - Energy and job creation:** sustainable development—economic aspects; environmental policy—economic aspects; renewable energy sources
 - Health care:** health services accessibility; medical care; medical policy
 - Homelessness:** homelessness; homeless persons; domicile in public welfare; housing
 - Living wages:** working poor—United States; minimum wage—United States
 - Mental health:** mental health; mental health—children; mental health—insurance; mental health—Older people; mental health—policy; mental health services
 - Patriot Act:** Uniting and Strengthening American by Providing Appropriate Tools to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001; national security—laws and Legislation; civil rights—United States; Terrorism—United States—prevention

Sex discrimination: sex discrimination; sex discrimination against women

Sexual harassment: sexual harassment

Water availability: water resources; water supply

Water quality: water quality; water—pollution—law and legislation

State Legislation

State-level legislative information may be harder to obtain than federal level legislation. Some of the sources below should help you find information on Virginia.

Code of Virginia. REF/JK/3925/.M6

- In addition to the print version of the Code of Virginia, you can find it online at the Virginia General Assembly's [Legislative Information System](http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm) (<http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm>).
- It gives online access to the [Code of Virginia](http://leg1.state.va.us/000/src.htm) (<http://leg1.state.va.us/000/src.htm>), the [Virginia Administrative Code](http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+men+SRR) (<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+men+SRR>), and many other documents.

Council of State Governments Directory, 2011. Annual. REF/JK/2403/.B61/2011

- Has three directories:
 - **Directory I: Elective Officials**
 - **Directory II: Legislative Leadership, Committees & Staff**
 - **Directory III: Administrative Officials**
 - Lists websites, email addresses, and mailing addresses for officials and offices.
- If you are seeking state-level legislative information on a public policy, these directories may help.
- Although these directories are not online at the [Council of State Governments](http://www.csg.org/) (<http://www.csg.org/>) website, the site might lead you to state legislative and public policy information.
- Click on the **Policy and Research** tab. Then scroll down the left side to the **Policy Areas** link.

[Legislative Reference Center](http://dls.state.va.us/lrc/leghist.htm) (<http://dls.state.va.us/lrc/leghist.htm>)

- From the Virginia Division of Legislative Services.
- Has some tips how to conduct research on Virginia law.

[Virginia Legal Research in Depth](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/states/virginia-in-depth.cfm) (<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/states/virginia-in-depth.cfm>)

- From Georgetown University Law Center.
- Excellent summary of statutory, administrative, and case law.
- **Note:** since this guide was prepared by librarians at Georgetown University, it refers to some library resources that Kelly Library does **not** own.

Periodical and newspaper databases

- General multi-subject periodical databases, such as [Academic Search Complete](#), [General OneFile](#), and [JSTOR](#) may provide information on legislation, especially if it's newsworthy. Depending on your topic, subject-specific databases such as [Environment Complete](#), [Health Source](#), and [Women's Studies International](#) may be helpful. [Lexis Nexis](#) is well-known for its **legal research component**, as well as its newspaper database. EBSCO's [Legal Collection](#) is another good source of legal information. [America's Newspapers](#), [Factiva](#), and [Newspaper Source Plus](#) are newspaper databases that may be helpful with legal coverage in the news.
- You've probably had experience with a few of these databases in English, history or Transitions classes.
- **Remote access:**
 - You should be able to remotely access any of the library's subscription databases from off campus.
 - Go to the library website (www.library.ehc.edu), then the [Database](#) list, and click on your database. A login screen will appear. Login with your username and password.
 - If you are having problems doing this, please **contact** the **Electronic Resources Librarian**, Jody Hanshew (ext. 6213; jhanshew@ehc.edu).

[America's Newspapers](#)

- Accessible from the [Database](#) list.
- Might help you by locating articles in smaller state papers that discuss legislation.
- Please look at the screen shot below.

NewsBank
America's Newspapers

English Other NewsBank Products

Search History Saved Articles

Virginia (67 sources)

All Text dogfighting Search

and Date past 5 years

and All Text law OR legislation

and All Text

Sort by: Newest First

Remove Row Add Row

New Search

To find an exact match or phrase, use quotes. Custom date example: Jan 1, 2000 - Feb 3, 2000.

Shortcuts

World

Richmond Times-Dispatch

America's News Magazines

Locations Source Types Source List Show Help

Source List: Virginia - Selected Source Types Clear All

Excluding magazines

The World > North America > United States > VA

Click the column headers to sort your matching titles jump to: A B C D E F G H J L M N O P R S V W

Title	Date Range	Location	Source Type
<input type="checkbox"/> ABC-3 TV3 Video	04/16/2008-Current	Winchester	Video
<input type="checkbox"/> ABC-3 WHSV Video	12/19/2008-Current	Harrisonburg	Video
<input type="checkbox"/> Alexandria Gazette Packet, The	01/24/2002-Current	Alexandria	Newspapers
<input type="checkbox"/> Amherst New Era Progress	03/07/2008-Current	Amherst	Newspapers
<input type="checkbox"/> Arlington Catholic Herald	01/01/1997-Current	Arlington	Newspapers

I limited my search on dog fighting to newspapers in Virginia in the past five years. My results list will have some articles detailing legislative action on animal cruelty.

[EBSCO's Legal Collection](#)

Accessible from the [Database](#) list.

User interface is similar to other EBSCO databases ([Academic Search Complete](#), etc.).

EBSCO
HOSS

Searching: Legal Collection Choose Databases >

animal welfare in SU Subject Terms Search Clear ?

AND United States in Select a Field (optional)

AND in Select a Field (optional) Add Row

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 Next Relevance Sort Page Options Alert / Save / Share

47 Results for...

Refine your results

Full Text

Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

Image Quick View

1906 Publication Date 2010

Update Show More >

1. Standing in the Way of **Animal Welfare**: A Reconsideration of the Zone-of-Interest "Gloss" on the Administrative Procedures Act. 📄
By: Ritter, Michael J.. Review of Litigation, Summer2010, Vol. 29 Issue 4, p951-986, 36p
Subjects: UNITED States; ANIMAL welfare -- Law & legislation -- United States; ADMINISTRATIVE procedure -- United States; LOCUS standi; FEDERAL laws; ENDANGERED species -- Law & legislation -- United States
Database: Legal Collection
Add to folder | Relevancy: ██████████
PDF Full Text (2MB)

2. **ANIMAL HOARDING: A LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION.** 📄

[Lexis Nexis Academic](#)

- Accessible from the [Database](#) list.
- Click the **Legal** tab on the left; then choose **federal and state cases, federal statutes, state statutes**, etc.
- Enter your search terms.
- Note that you can search all 50 state codes here, as well as federal legal documents.

General Searching

State Statutes, Codes & Regulations Help Clear

Use of this service is subject to Terms and Conditions

Search For: animal welfare in Everywhere Search

And in Everywhere ?

And in Everywhere ?

Add Row

State: Virginia 

Select Source(s):

Constitution (Browse) ?

Statutory Code (Browse)

Administrative Code (Browse)





Tip: For more options select a state then [Edit in Power Search](#). You can also [Search all State Codes in Power Search](#).

Above is a search in LexisNexis for laws on animal welfare in the state of Virginia. My results are listed on the next page.

Results List | Edit Search | New Search | Home

Show List ?

Search within results Go

Sort Newest to Oldest ?

1-7 of 7 ?

View Tagged

Results
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6500 (2010), TITLE 3.2. AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL CARE, AND FOOD, SUBTITLE V. DOMESTIC ANIMALS, CHAPTER 65. COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL CARE, ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS., § 3.2-6500. Definitions , CODE OF VIRGINIA Copyright (c) 2010 by Matthew Bender & Company, Inc. a member of the LexisNexis Group. All rights reserved
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6503 (2010), TITLE 3.2. AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL CARE, AND FOOD, SUBTITLE V. DOMESTIC ANIMALS, CHAPTER 65. COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL CARE, ARTICLE 2. ANIMAL WELFARE., § 3.2-6503. Care of companion animals by owner; penalty , VIRGINIA RULES ANNOTATED Copyright (c) 2010 by Matthew Bender & Company, Inc. a member of the LexisNexis Group. All rights reserved
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6504 (2010), TITLE 3.2. AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL CARE, AND FOOD, SUBTITLE V. DOMESTIC ANIMALS, CHAPTER 65. COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL CARE, ARTICLE 2. ANIMAL WELFARE., § 3.2-6504. Abandonment of animal; penalty , CODE OF VIRGINIA Copyright (c) 2010 by Matthew Bender & Company, Inc. a member of the LexisNexis Group. All rights reserved
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6505 (2010), TITLE 3.2. AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL CARE, AND FOOD, SUBTITLE V. DOMESTIC ANIMALS, CHAPTER 65. COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL CARE, ARTICLE 2. ANIMAL WELFARE., § 3.2-6505. Disposal of animals by means of decompression chamber and use of gas chamber for companion animals prohibited , CODE OF VIRGINIA Copyright (c) 2010 by Matthew Bender & Company, Inc. a member of the LexisNexis Group. All rights reserved
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6506 (2010), TITLE 3.2. AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL CARE, AND FOOD, SUBTITLE V. DOMESTIC ANIMALS, CHAPTER 65. COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL CARE, ARTICLE 2. ANIMAL WELFARE., § 3.2-6506. Exceptions regarding veterinarians , CODE OF VIRGINIA Copyright (c) 2010 by Matthew Bender & Company, Inc. a member of the LexisNexis Group. All rights reserved



County and Local Codes and Ordinances

Code of the County of Washington, Virginia, 2002 plus updates. REF/KFV/2999/.W3/A35/2002

- Can also locate the Code online at the [Washington County Attorney's](http://www.washcova.com/government/administration/county-attorney) website, <http://www.washcova.com/government/administration/county-attorney>.
- Codes for other counties and municipalities in Virginia (as well as the 49 other states) can be found at the [MuniCode](http://www.municode.com/library/ClientListing.aspx?stateID=46) site (<http://www.municode.com/library/ClientListing.aspx?stateID=46>).
- **Note:** not all localities are available here, or have county codes posted online. You might have to contact those offices directly.

Code of Ordinances, Smyth County, Virginia

Online, http://www.smythcounty.org/administration/admin_forms/smyth_code_2009.pdf

Interlibrary Loan

- [Service](#) offered by Kelly Library to obtain article copies or borrow books for you from other libraries.
- Online ordering system called **ILLiad**; [register here](#) to create an account.
- There is no charge for this service for the first 50 requests per academic year.
- Please **double check your requests in the [catalog](#)** and the **[Full-Text E-Journals list](#)** before you fill in the order form to be sure that the library does not own the material.
- Allow **at least 5-7** working days to receive your order.

Documenting Your Sources

When you quote an author's words, or paraphrase an author's unique ideas, you must give credit to the source. If you do not, you have committed **plagiarism**, which is a violation of the E&H Honor Code. The different documentation styles for the various academic fields will help you avoid this.

- Style guides for **MLA**, **APA**, and **University of Chicago** documentation are available at the Circulation Desk on permanent reserve.
- You might want to check out some of the documentation sites the librarians have listed under the [Research Tips](#) link, under Research on the library main page.
- Also, don't forget the resources at E&H's [Writing Center](#) (<http://www.ehc.edu/academics/resources/academic-support/writing-center>)

Remember: If you need help locating or using any of the sources listed above, please speak with a library staff member. We're here to help you with your information needs. **Librarians** providing reference service are: **Jane Caldwell, Patty Greany, Jody Hanshew, and Janet Kirby**. **Circulation staff** members are **David Lyons, Pat Maiden, Shelby Smith, Stephen Woodward, and Tonya White**.

Library web page: www.library.ehc.edu

Phone: **276.944.6208**

Email: askalibrarian@ehc.edu