

Chapter 8 Illinois Legislative History

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What Is Legislative History?

Legislative history encompasses those documents created by the legislature during the process of a bill's passage. Legislative history can assist a researcher seeking to understand the meaning of a statute. A researcher examining these documents can gain insight into the legislature's intent in passing the law. This chapter will describe the process of compiling a legislative history for Illinois statutes using the [Illinois General Assembly website](http://ilga.gov) [ilga.gov]. (See Figure 1.)

This chapter will describe the steps for compiling a legislative history using an Illinois law passed in 2007. Legislative documents available on the ILGA website differ depending on the year. For some years, the researcher may need to consult additional resources not available on the ILGA website.

The screenshot shows the Illinois General Assembly website interface. At the top, the logo and title "Illinois General Assembly" are visible, along with a navigation bar containing "Home", "Legislation & Laws", "Senate", "House", "My Legislation", and "Site Map". A small box labeled "Figure 1" is positioned in the top right corner of the page.

On the left side, there is a "SESSION SCHEDULE" section with links for "SENATE Not In Today" and "HOUSE Not In Today". Below this is a search area for the 101st General Assembly, with options to search by number (example: HB0001) or by keyword. There are also links for "Advanced Search" and two logos: "ILLINOIS AMBER ALERT" and "NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN".

The main content area is organized into several columns of links:

- Legislation & Laws:** Bills & Resolutions, Public Acts.
- Senate:** Members, Schedules, Committees, Journals, Transcripts, Rules, Audio/Video, FOIA Information, Media Guidelines, Testimony submitted for Senate's May Session.
- House:** Members, Schedules, Committees, Journals, Transcripts, Rules, Audio/Video, FOIA Information, House Employment Opportunities, Submit testimony for House's May Session.
- Reports & Inquiry:** Legislative Reports, Special Reports, My Legislation, FTP Site, GA Dashboard.
- Additional Resources:** Legislative Support Services, Legislative Ethics Training, Discrimination & Harassment Information, Legislative Inspector General Inquiries, Joint Commission on Ethics and Lobbying Reform.

Red annotations highlight specific elements:

- A red box surrounds the "Current General Assembly" link in the center, with red arrows pointing to "Bills & Resolutions" and "Public Acts" in the "Legislation & Laws" column, and "Members" in both the "Senate" and "House" columns.
- Another red box surrounds the "Previous General Assemblies" link at the bottom, with a red arrow pointing to the "GA Dashboard" link in the "Reports & Inquiry" column.

The Documents of an Illinois Legislative History

In Illinois, the important documents for legislative history are the floor debates in the Senate and the House of Representatives (House) and the texts of bill amendments and Governor’s message as found in the House and Senate Journals. The 1970 Illinois Constitution states, “Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings and a transcript of its debates. The journal shall be published and the transcript shall be available to the public.” (Article IV, Section 7(b)) When Illinois courts interpret a statute, they will look first to the language of the statute and other relevant court decisions. If additional interpretation is necessary, the courts may look to the legislative history of the statute as an extrinsic aid to interpretation. Illinois courts are not required to consider legislative history, but if they do, the courts look to the published transcripts of the floor debates of the House and the Senate and the Journals as described in the Constitution. According to the Illinois Constitution, the General Assembly (G.A.) website provides transcripts of House and Senate floor debates starting from October 1971 in the 77th G.A. (1971-1972).

Compiling a Legislative History

Identify the Public Act

The Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) are a cumulative organization of Illinois statutes, known as Public Acts, grouped according to the subject matter. A statute, passed by the Illinois General Assembly, is a Public Act. A researcher, seeking to compile a legislative history of a statute section in the ILCS, needs to identify the Public Act that created or amended the statute. These Public Act numbers appear at the end of the ILCS statute section. The example used in this chapter is P.A. 95-580, which added a new act concerning education, the College Campus Press Act. The first two digits after the P.A. indicate the General Assembly number and the second number is the chronological order of the law’s passage. Knowing the correct General Assembly is critical for legislative history research. Every General Assembly lasts for two years.

Select the General Assembly

Documents for the current General Assembly are available via links on the main page of the ILGA website. For a Public Act from the current General Assembly, select the Public Acts link under Legislation & Laws on the ILGA homepage. The Public Act will provide the bill number. (See Figure 2.)



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To find the bill numbers for earlier years, select the link for Previous General Assemblies from the lower left on the ILGA homepage. (See Figure 3.) Previous General Assemblies have floor debates back to October 1971 in the 77th G.A. (1971-1972).

Figure 3

[Previous General Assemblies](#) ←
[Legislator Lookup](#)
[Capitol Complex Phone Numbers](#)

After selecting the link for previous General Assemblies, use the pull-down menu to choose the 95th G.A. for P.A. 95-580 and hit the “Go” button. (See Figure 4.)

Figure 4

Home Legislation & Laws Senate House My Legislation Site Map

[Previous General Assemblies](#)

Previous General Assemblies

Please select a General Assembly:

100 (2017-2018)
99 (2015-2016)
98 (2013-2014)
97 (2011-2012)
96 (2009-2010)
95 (2007-2008)
94 (2005-2006)
93 (2003-2004)
92 (2001-2002)
91 (1999-2000)
90 (1997-1998)
89 (1995-1996)
88 (1993-1994)

Go!

Explanation of Content

The content available for previous General Assemblies is limited. The less information that is available in a user's browser, the less information that is available in a user's browser. If a GA is selected, a menu will be presented showing the content available for that particular GA. Types of content available include:

- Legislation - Bill Status and Full Text of Bills
- Votes (Senate) / Roll Calls (House)
- Public Acts

Identify the Bill Number for the Public Act

Every Public Act begins as either a House or Senate bill in the General Assembly. During the legislative process, the proposed law is a bill, not a Public Act. Bills originate in either the House or the Senate. A bill receives the designation of its originating chamber and retains that designation (Senate Bill – S.B. or House Bill – H.B.) throughout the legislative process.

The pages for each Previous General Assembly provide tables or links to find the Public Act's corresponding bill number. The 77th to the 93rd G.A. provides a link for the “Public Act to Bill Number Conversion Table.” (See Figure 5.)

Finding Illinois Law


Previous General Assemblies Figure 5

View a different General Assembly:

87th General Assembly (1991-1992)

Senate		
Transcripts	Listing	Search
House		
Transcripts	Listing	Search

Summary Reports for 87th General Assembly

- [Senate Sponsor's bills](#)
- [House Sponsor's bills](#)
- [Public Act to Bill Number Conversion Table](#) 

To find bill numbers corresponding to a Public Act starting with the 90th G.A., select Public Act – Listing. Groups of links to Public Acts will appear. Find the Public Act sought and click on it. The bill number will then appear.


After selecting the 95th G.A. from the Previous General Assemblies, select Public Act – Listing. (See Figure 6.)

Previous General Assemblies Figure 6

View a different General Assembly:

95th General Assembly (2007-2008)

*Note: All information from the 95th General Assembly is available through [My Legislat](#) the desired General Assembly when building a query. If you need assistance with My Legis contact LIS at 217-782-3944.

Legislation, Public Acts		
Legislation & Laws	Listing	Search
Public Acts	 Listing	Search

Next, scroll down to find P.A. 95-580. S.B. (Senate Bill) 729 is the corresponding bill number. Use the bill number when searching for the bill status and House and Senate floor debates. (See Figure 7.)


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95th General Assembly - Public Acts 0501 thru 0600

Search Public Acts

- [Public Act 095-0501](#) [SB 1350](#) [MEDICAID-MEDI CAR SRVC PAYMENT](#)
- [Public Act 095-0502](#) [SB 1358](#) [FIRE MARSHAL-SPECIAL AGENT](#)
- [Public Act 095-0503](#) [SB 1375](#) [DRUG NUISANCE-INJUNCTN NOTICE](#)
- [Public Act 095-0504](#) [SB 1380](#) [PEN CD-SURS-SERVICE CRED](#)
- [Public Act 095-0505](#) [SB 1385](#) [ST FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND](#)

Figure 7

- [Public Act 095-0573](#) [HB 1429](#) [ELEVATOR SAFETY-REMOVE DESIGN](#)
- [Public Act 095-0574](#) [HB 1491](#) [VEH CD-ALTER SPEED LIMIT-LOCAL](#)
- [Public Act 095-0575](#) [HB 1499](#) [VEH CD-ATV ON HIGHWAY](#)
- [Public Act 095-0576](#) [SB 0008](#) [VETERANS-TECH](#)
- [Public Act 095-0577](#) [SB 0574](#) [DHS-CILA-NURSING SERVICES](#)
- [Public Act 095-0578](#) [SB 0607](#) [VEH CD-DUI & FORFEITURE](#)
- [Public Act 095-0579](#) [SB 0697](#) [CRIMINAL LAW-TECH](#)
- [Public Act 095-0580](#) [SB 0729](#) [COLLEGE CAMPUS PRESS ACT](#) 
- [Public Act 095-0581](#) [SB 1094](#) [FIREARMS-TECH](#)
- [Public Act 095-0582](#) [SB 1261](#) [PROP TX-COLLECTOR-VACANCIES](#)

Remember, S.B. 729 retains its designation as a Senate bill when it moves to the House.

Locate the Bill Status

The bill status is a chronological listing of legislative actions on a bill in both chambers, detailing information about sponsors, amendments, floor debates, and any actions by the Governor, such as a veto. The bill status provides the dates for all actions in both chambers of the General Assembly. Researchers often find it is helpful to have the bill status available, as a point of reference, when they read the floor debates.

For the current G.A., return to the ILGA homepage. Use the Public Acts link to find the bill number, or select the Bills & Resolutions link if it is known. (See Figure 8.)

Illinois General Assembly

[Legislation & Laws](#) [Senate](#) [House](#) [My Legislation](#) [Site Map](#)

Figure 8

[Legislation & Laws](#)

[Bills & Resolutions](#)

[Public Acts](#)

The General Assembly website provides the bill statuses back to the 90th G.A. (1985-1986). Using the example, after selecting the Previous General Assemblies link, scroll to the 95th G.A., and find P.A. 95-580. Refer back to Figure 7. Click the link that shows S.B. 729. The next page on the ILGA website provides the text of P.A. 95-580 with a bill status link at the top of the page. (See Figure 9.)

Finding Illinois Law

Public Act 095-0580

Figure 9

[Bill Status](#) [Printer-Friendly Version](#) [PDF](#)

Public Act 095-0580

SB0729 Enrolled

LRB095 10231 NHT 30445 b

AN ACT concerning education.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the College Campus Press Act.

Section 5. Definitions. For purposes of this Act: "Campus media" means any matter that is prepared

Below is the bill status for S.B. 729 (P.A. 95-580). The arrows mark actions that contain debates. Debates can occur during the second and third readings, and during the concurrence or conference committee, if applicable. The researcher will confirm these dates using the Master Index or the transcript search feature. (See Figure 10.)

Bill Status of SB0729 95th General Assembly

[Full Text](#) [Votes](#) [Witness Slips](#) [View All Actions](#) [Printer-Friendly Version](#)

Short Description: COLLEGE CAMPUS PRESS ACT

Senate Sponsors
Sen. [Susan Garrett](#) - [Dale A. Righter](#) - [Dan Kotowski](#) and [Bill Brady](#)

House Sponsors
(Rep. [Naomi D. Jakobsson](#) - [Dan Brady](#) - [Kevin A. McCarthy](#) - [Robert W. Pritchard](#) - [Caren M. Gordon](#) and [Lisa M. Dugan](#))

Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
8/31/2007	Senate	Public Act 95-0580

Statutes Amended In Order of Appearance
New Act

Synopsis As Introduced
Creates the College Campus Press Act. Provides that all campus media produced primarily by students at a State-sponsored institution of higher learning is a public forum for expression by student journalists and editors at the particular institution. Provides that campus media, whether campus-sponsored or noncampus-sponsored, is not subject to prior review by public officials institutions. Provides that collegiate student editors of campus media are responsible for the news, opinions, feature content, and advertising content of campus media. Provides for an exception for teaching professional standards of grammar and journalism. Prohibits a college media adviser from being terminated, transferred, removed, otherwise disciplined, or retaliated against for refusing to suppress protected free expression rights of collegiate student journalists of collegiate student editors. Allows a collegiate student or collegiate media advisor to commence civil action to obtain appropriate injunctive and declaratory relief, provides for the awarding of attorney's fees. Distinguishes campus policy and declaratory relief. Allows for discipline for unprotected speech. Co-severability clause. Effective immediately.

House Floor Amendment No. 1
Makes a technical change in the Section concerning a public forum. Provides that expression by a collegiate student journalist, collegiate student editor, or other contributor in campus media speech attributable to a State-sponsored institution of higher learning. Provides that nothing in this Act prohibits the imposition of discipline for speech that is not constitutionally protected, is obscene or inciteful. Provides that a State-sponsored institution of higher learning shall be immune from any lawsuit arising from expression actually made in campus media, with the exception of the institution's own expression. Removes the immediate effective date.

Actions

Date	Chamber	Action
2/8/2007	Senate	Filed with Secretary by Sen. Susan Garrett
2/8/2007	Senate	First Reading
2/8/2007	Senate	Referred to Rules
2/21/2007	Senate	Assigned to Higher Education
3/2/2007	Senate	Postponed - Higher Education
3/2/2007	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Dale A. Righter

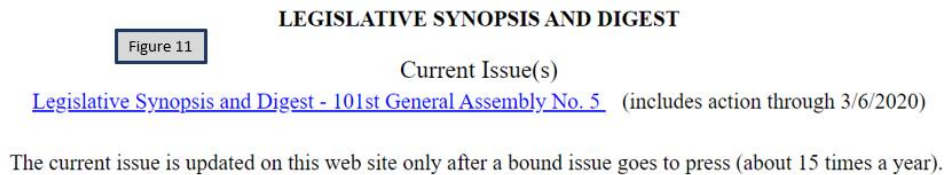
Figure 10

3/2/2007	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Bill Brady
3/8/2007	Senate	Do Pass Higher Education : 008-000-000
3/8/2007	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading March 13, 2007
3/14/2007	Senate	Second Reading ←
3/14/2007	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading March 15, 2007
3/15/2007	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Dan Kotowski
3/15/2007	Senate	Third Reading - Passed: 057-000-000 ←
3/15/2007	House	Arrived in House
3/15/2007	House	Placed on Calendar Order of First Reading
3/15/2007	House	Chief House Sponsor Rep. Naomi D. Jakobsson
3/15/2007	House	First Reading
3/15/2007	House	Referred to Rules Committee
3/21/2007	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Dan Brady
4/30/2007	House	Assigned to Higher Education Committee
5/8/2007	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Kevin A. McCarthy
5/9/2007	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Robert W. Pritchard
5/16/2007	House	Do Pass / Short Debate Higher Education Committee : 010-002-000
5/17/2007	House	Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading - Short Debate
5/17/2007	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Caren M. Gordon
5/17/2007	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor Rep. Lisa M. Dugan
5/24/2007	House	Second Reading - Short Debate ←
5/24/2007	House	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Short Debate
5/30/2007	House	House Floor Amendment No. 1 Filed with Clerk by Rep. Naomi D. Jakobsson
5/30/2007	House	House Floor Amendment No. 1 Referred to Rules Committee
5/31/2007	House	House Floor Amendment No. 1 Recommends Be Adopted Rules Committee : 003-000-000
5/31/2007	House	Recalled to Second Reading - Short Debate
5/31/2007	House	House Floor Amendment No. 1 Adopted by Voice Vote
5/31/2007	House	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Short Debate
5/31/2007	House	Third Reading - Short Debate - Passed 112-002-000 ←
5/31/2007	Senate	Secretary's Desk - Concurrence House Amendment(s) 01
5/31/2007	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence House Amendment(s) 01 - June 1, 2007
5/31/2007	Senate	House Floor Amendment No. 1 Motion to Concur Filed with Secretary Sen. Susan Garrett
5/31/2007	Senate	House Floor Amendment No. 1 Motion to Concur Referred to Rules
6/5/2007	Senate	House Floor Amendment No. 1 Motion to Concur Rules Referred to Higher Education
6/6/2007	Senate	House Floor Amendment No. 1 Motion To Concur Recommended Do Adopt Higher Education : 007-000-000
6/6/2007	Senate	House Floor Amendment No. 1 Senate Concurs 053-000-000 ←
6/6/2007	Senate	Passed Both Houses
7/5/2007	Senate	Sent to the Governor
8/31/2007	Senate	Governor Approved
8/31/2007	Senate	Effective Date June 1, 2008
8/31/2007	Senate	Public Act 95-0580

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Legislative Synopsis and Digest

The Legislative Reference Bureau, the General Assembly's bill drafting agency, publishes the Legislative Synopsis and Digest. The Legislative Synopsis and Digest contains summaries of the bills and all actions taken concerning them. The Legislative Synopsis and Digest is the resource to use to find a bill status from before the 90th G.A. Digitized versions of the Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest are available at the [Legislative Reference Bureau website from 2001 to 2018](#) and the [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1985 to 2005](#). Earlier editions are available in print at many law libraries and some public libraries. (See Figure 11.)



Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest

[Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest - 100th General Assembly](#)
[Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest - 99th General Assembly](#)
[Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest - 98th General Assembly](#)
[Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest - 97th General Assembly](#)
[Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest - 96th General Assembly](#)
[Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest - 95th General Assembly](#)
[Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest - 94th General Assembly](#)
[Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest - 93rd General Assembly](#)
[Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest - 92nd General Assembly](#)

[Final Legislative Synopsis and Digest 1985-2005 \(from University of Illinois\)](#)

Identify Dates of Floor Debates

As previously mentioned, the primary component of legislative history that courts consider are floor debates. According to the 1970 Illinois Constitution, “[A] bill shall be read by title on three different days in each house.” (Art. IV, Sec. 8(d)) Every bill has three readings in each chamber. The first reading introduces the bill to the chamber but does not include floor debate. After being introduced to the House or Senate during the first reading, a bill is assigned to a committee. The committee holds hearings on the bill. Committee hearings do not have the same stature as floor debates for purposes of legislative history. Since 1975, the House recorded committee hearings. Recordings are available from the Office of the Clerk of the House. Contact the office at (217) 782-8100. The Senate does not record their committee hearings.

When the bill leaves the originating chamber, it is known as an engrossed bill. An engrossed bill incorporates amendments adopted in its originating chamber as it moves to the second (other) chamber. If the second chamber makes amendments to the bill and passes a version with different language, the bill returns to the originating chamber for the legislators in that chamber to concur in these amendments. If the originating chamber does not concur in the changes, a conference committee is appointed to discuss and resolve the differences, so a singular bill that both chambers

agree to can be sent to the Governor. Both the House and Senate must agree to the same language before the bill goes to the Governor for signature. The version of the bill that goes to the Governor is known as the enrolled bill, incorporating amendments adopted by both chambers.

Legislators' decisions to add or remove language from a bill through amendments can indicate legislative intent. In addition to the House and Senate Journals discussed later, starting with the 93rd G.A., the bill status provides links to the texts of bill amendments and amendatory veto messages of the Governor.

Locate Floor Debates in the Transcripts

Several methods are available to locate floor debates – the Master Index, selecting dates from the bill status (see Figure 10), and searching transcripts. Depending on the legislative resources available on the ILGA website, not every method will work for all General Assemblies. For P.A. 95-508, the researcher will need to use the Master Index to find Senate floor debates and the transcript search method to find House floor debates. (See Figure 12.)

Previous General Assemblies Figure 12

View a different General Assembly:

95th General Assembly (2007-2008)

*Note: All information from the 95th General Assembly is available through [My Legislat](#) the desired General Assembly when building a query. If you need assistance with My Legislat contact LIS at 217-782-3944.

Legislation, Public Acts		
Legislation & Laws	Listing	Search
Public Acts	Listing	Search
Senate		
Members	Listing	-
Committees	Listing	-
Journals	Listing	Search
Transcripts	Listing ←	Search
House		
Members	Listing	-
Committees	Listing	-
Journals	Listing	Search
Transcripts	Listing	Search ←

The Master Index

The Master Index provides the dates, legislative action, and page numbers for transcripts of both Senate and House bills. The 77th - 90th General Assemblies have Master Indexes available for both the House and Senate. For the 91st - 97th General Assemblies, only the Senate has a Master Index. For example, the Master Index for the Senate will contain dates of debates for both the Senate and House bills that arrive in the Senate. Remember that a bill keeps the designation of the originating chamber.

As noted earlier, S.B. 729 is the corresponding bill number for P.A. 95-580. To find the Master Index for the Senate, select Transcripts – Listing in the 95th G.A. (See Figure 13.)

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Senate			
Members		Listing	-
Committees	Figure 13	Listing	-
Journals		Listing	Search
Transcripts		Listing	Search

The next page is the Senate's Transcript page. Select Transcript Master Index link near the bottom of the page. (See Figure 14.)

Available Senate Transcripts Figure 14
95th General Assembly

Choose a transcript from the list below:
 Regular Session:

Special Session:

[Transcript Master index](#) ←

Scroll through the Master Index to find the bill number. The Index provides the action date, the page number in the transcript where the debate about the bill begins, and the specific action. Remember that the first reading does not contain any discussion.

Floor debates can occur during the following actions: second and third readings, recalls to readings, concurrence (or non-concurrence), conference committees, any date that debate is mentioned (except for committee debates), and response(s) to Governor's veto. Bills that became Public Acts will have second and third readings at a minimum. S.B. 729 has a concurrence in the Senate, meaning that the House amended S.B. 729, and it needed to return to the Senate so the Senators could agree to the House's changes. (See Figure 15.)

Figure 15

STATE OF ILLINOIS
 95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 MASTER INDEX - SENATE

SB-727	2/8/2007	25	First Reading
SB-728	2/8/2007	25	First Reading
SB-729	2/8/2007	25	First Reading
SB-729	3/14/2007	4	Second Reading
SB-729	3/15/2007	82	Third Reading
SB-729	6/6/2007	36	Concurrence

Read the transcripts for these dates. Page number listed is first page of debate.

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Note the dates and pages from the Master Index. Return to the Available Senate Transcripts page from Figure 14 and use the pull-down menu to find the dates for all actions except the first reading. (See Figure 16.)

Available Senate Transcripts 95th General Assembly

Figure 16

Choose a transcript from the list below:

Regular Session:

Available Transcripts

- 24th Legislative Day, 03/28/2007, Regular Session
- 23rd Legislative Day, 03/27/2007, Regular Session
- 22nd Legislative Day, 03/22/2007, Regular Session
- 21st Legislative Day, 03/21/2007, Regular Session
- 20th Legislative Day, 03/20/2007, Regular Session
- 19th Legislative Day, 03/15/2007, Regular Session
- 18th Legislative Day, 03/14/2007, Regular Session
- 17th Legislative Day, 03/13/2007, Regular Session
- 16th Legislative Day, 03/08/2007, Regular Session
- 15th Legislative Day, 03/07/2007, Regular Session
- 14th Legislative Day, 03/06/2007, Regular Session

3/15/2007 is date of
3rd Reading in Senate.

The Master Index shows that the Senate held the third reading of S.B. 729 on 3/15/2007. To find the debates for the 3rd reading, select 3/15/2007 from the pull-down menu. Scroll to page 82 in the transcript. Continue reading until the legislators take a vote on the bill or begin a discussion on another bill. Do the same process for other dates, excluding first reading, listed in the Master Index. (See Figure 17.)

Senator Garrett, on 729. Madam Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:
Senate Bill 729.

Using Master Index, debate for 3rd Reading
of S.B. 729 in Senate starts on p. 82.

Figure 17

82

STATE OF ILLINOIS
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

19th Legislative Day

3/15/2007

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Can you just wait a second? I was thinking we were going to do something else instead. Okay. Senate Bill 729 creates the Chicago {sic} (College) Campus Press Act, which provides that all

Search Transcripts

Without a Master Index for the House floor debates for the 95th G.A., the researcher can use the search function on the Transcripts page to find dates of House floor debates. Return to the main page for the 95th G.A. and select House – Transcripts – Search. (See Figure 18.)



In the search box, enter the chamber and bill number contained in quotes. In the example below: "Senate Bill 729." Click Go. (See Figure 19.)

Search 95th General Assembly - House Transcripts

Read the [Search Tips](#) for important information about searching this database. Doing so may help you get more meaningful results.

Search By Keyword(s):

[Advanced Search](#)

[Search](#)

Figure 19

The search results provide legislative dates that include the bill number, Senate Bill 729. The results list the legislative day for each debate. A legislative day refers to a day in which the House or the Senate is in session. Click on the links in the results list for the floor debates for that day. The results are not in chronological order, so a bill status can serve as a point of reference and assist with understanding the bill's progress as it moves through the General Assembly. (See Figure 20.)

Results for ""Senate Bill 729"" within 95th GA House Transcripts. [New Search](#)
Results 1 - 5 of about 5. [Advanced Search](#) [Search Tips](#)

Figure 20

1. [65th Legislative Day, 95th General Assembly](#)

Terms found: senate bill 729 (5)

... Senate Bill 697, Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 715, Amendment #1 to **Senate Bill 729**, Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 1487, Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 1568. ...

2. [63rd Legislative Day, 95th General Assembly](#)

Terms found: senate bill 729 (3) senate bill 729 (1)

... Representative Jakobsson has **Senate Bill 729**. Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk." Clerk Bolin: "**Senate Bill 729**, a Bill for an Act concerning education. ...

3. [60th Legislative Day, 95th General Assembly](#)

Terms found: senate bill 729 (2)

... Representative Jakobsson on **Senate Bill 729**. Shall we read the Bill? Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk." Clerk Mahoney: "**Senate Bill 729**, a Bill for an Act concerning education. ...

4. [27th Legislative Day, 95th General Assembly](#)

Terms found: senate bill 729 (1)

... by Representative Tracy, a Bill for an Act concerning education. **Senate Bill 729**, offered by STATE OF ILLINOIS 95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ...

5. [55th Legislative Day, 95th General Assembly](#)

Terms found: senate bill 729 (1)

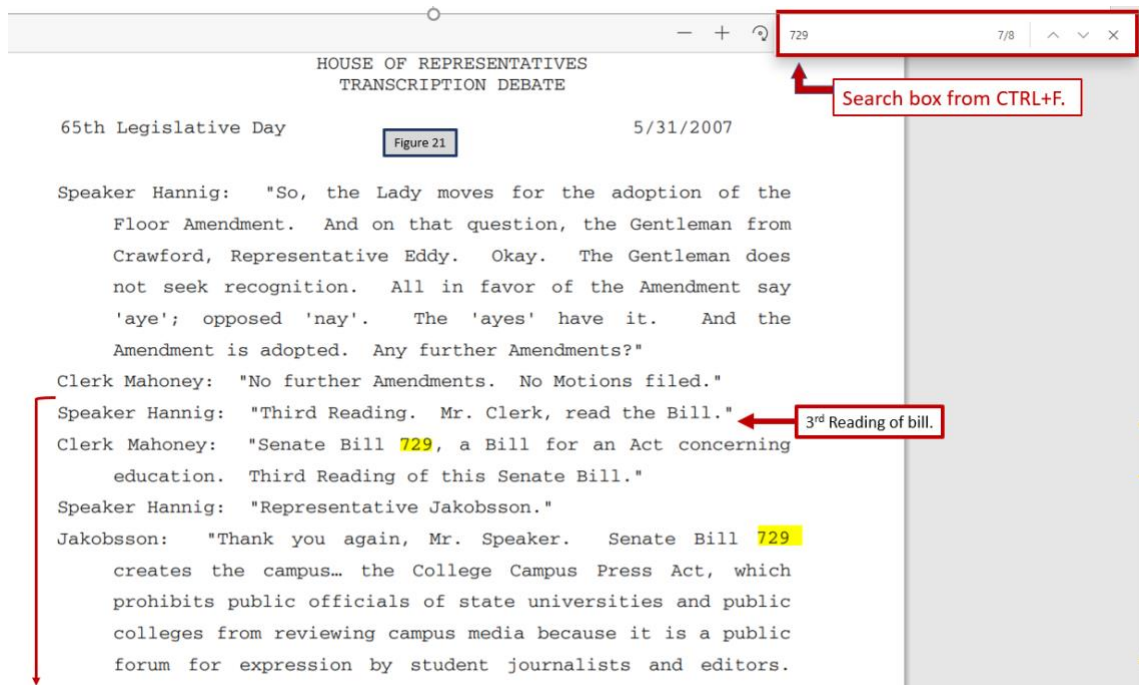
... Bill 313, Senate Bill 387, Senate Bill 401, Senate Bill 402 and **Senate Bill 729**. Representative Will Davis, Chairperson from the Committee on Health ...

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Transcripts of debates are in PDF format. As the results do not indicate the page number where the debate begins, the researcher will need to search the PDFs of the transcripts for the bill number. A recommendation is to use the function, Ctrl+F. (Press the Ctrl button and the F key on the keyboard at the same time.) A search box will appear.

Enter the numeric portion of the bill in the search box that appears. (For example, for S.B. 729, enter 729.) Although this search is broad and may result in some unneeded bill numbers such as "1729", it will capture all instances of "729."

Read each page that mentions the bill. Continue reading until the legislators take a vote on the bill or begin a discussion on another bill. (See Figure 21.)



On occasion, there may be little to no floor debate for the readings and other actions in the House and the Senate. Members of the House and Senate may vote on a bill without floor debate. Also, the available discussion may not be relevant to the researcher's issues.

Governor's Actions

The Governor can sign an enrolled bill, take no action, or use the amendatory veto to seek changes to the enrolled bill. House and Senate Journals contain veto documents. These actions, along with the relevant dates, are found in the bill status. Starting with the 93rd G.A., the ILGA website also provides links to amendatory veto texts in the bill status.

Journals

The House and Senate Journals contain the voting records, texts of amendments, motions, roll calls, the text of conference committee reports, and messages from the Governor. For clarification,

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a conference committee report does not contain the analysis of the bill. Instead, it includes the text agreed upon by both chambers resolving the differences in language. The conference committee report becomes the engrossed version of the bill sent to the Governor.

Digital copies of the Journals are available via the ILGA website from the 91st G.A. to present. To find information about a bill in a Journal, select the appropriate General Assembly and select Journals – Search. (See Figure 22.)

95th General Assembly (2007-2008) Figure 22

*Note: All information from the 95th General Assembly is available through [My Legislation](#). Choose the desired General Assembly when building a query. If you need assistance with My Legislation, please contact LIS at 217-782-3944.

Legislation, Public Acts		
Legislation & Laws	Listing	Search
Public Acts	Listing	Search
Senate		
Members	Listing	-
Committees	Listing	-
Journals	Listing	Search
Transcripts	Listing	Search
House		
Members	Listing	-
Committees	Listing	-
Journals	Listing	Search
Transcripts	Listing	Search

Search Journals for bill number.

In the search box, enter the chamber and bill number with quotes. In the example below: “Senate Bill 729.” Click Go. Search the Journals for the House and the Senate. (See Figure 23.)

Search 95th General Assembly - Senate Journals Figure 23

Read the [Search Tips](#) for important information about searching this database. Doing so may help you get more meaningful results.

Search By Keyword(s):

[Advanced](#)

[Search](#)

Find Print Legislative Materials

The [Chicago Public Library](#) and public law libraries, such as the [Cook County Law Library](#) in the Daley Center, maintain print copies of Illinois laws, Legislative Synopsis and Digests, and House and Senate Journals. Consult a law librarian or government documents librarian with questions about locating and using print or online legislative resources.

Additional Guide for Illinois Legislative History

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