



ENGROSSMENT[®] *

It's a New Year and for LEGISLATIVE INTENT SERVICE, INC., it is the beginning of our 33rd year in business! We are making some significant changes to the way we provide legislative history research and we are happy to now offer an opportunity for online research. This issue of our **Engrossment[®]** will focus on our new *on-line store* feature that is up and running at our website at **legintent.com**. Below, we have set out discussion on some of the questions asked by our clients using the on-line store during the last two months and we also offer a comparative review of our custom research with the new on-line research feature.

How do I access your Store online?

Go to our website at **www.legintent.com** and click on our “*Store Home*” button, which discusses the on-line purchase process, or you can click on “*Archives and Research Product*” for further discussion. To browse our uploaded archival collection of past research bills and/or to purchase our research materials for your bill, click on “***Bill Search or Purchase***.” This button will give you directions for browsing and purchasing.

How long does it take to receive the research materials purchased this way?

Once payment has been made with your credit card, it should be only a few minutes before you are instructed by email to download the bill documents you have ordered. The time can take from two to ten minutes before you receive your email instructions and link.

What format do you use for posting?

Adobe Acrobat Reader[®] – latest version.

When will you have put up ALL of your legislative history materials gathered these last 32+ years?

Because the volume of materials numbers in the millions of pages, we estimate the uploading project will take us a few years. For the time being, anyone can search our store to see if their bills are posted already. By the way, given the nature of legislation, once we have posted our collection, new and never-before-researched bills will require us to continue uploading more research materials.

In general, how is this on-line archives store different from your regular telephone order for custom research?

1) *On-line Archives* (“*isarchives*”) – At our website’s Store (which we call “*legintentstore.com*” around here), you can register and place your orders. The cost is \$300.00 per bill, and you get the bill materials immediately. Note that the materials are only on this bill, and that our research is based on our prior compilation and there will be no confirmation of completeness, nor a declaration nor our legislative history and analysis report.

2) *Custom research* – This is our normal practice over these past 32+ years. Custom research includes our report, declaration, research for materials on relevant failed bills and background documents, and confirmation of completeness of our research. The fees associated with custom research depend upon the number of enactments being ordered and the timeframe in which the client wishes to receive them.

With more specificity, how is this on-line archives store different from your regular telephone order for custom research?

In our *custom research*, LEGISLATIVE INTENT SERVICE, INC. provides the legislative history for legislative bills that affected all code sections and charges a research fee for each bill researched. In addition to the number of bills, the time within which to provide this history also affects the research fee.

On-line archives research serves the needs of clients who have a specific research focus that does not require complete legislative history. If confirmation of completeness will be necessary, the purchaser can contact us directly, and at the fees noted at legintentstore.com we will determine and obtain, if applicable, any materials that may be available since our original research and upload at our archives site.

The types of materials we collect for *custom research* include all surviving legislative committees’ analyses and their bill files, author’s or sponsor’s legislative bill files, the Governor’s post-enrollment bill file, every

amended version of the bill, final history, and any other related legislative committee file that may have been generated on the bill. If the sponsor left behind a legislative bill file or studies on this bill, we also include them, excerpted for your section focus if the materials are voluminous. In our *custom research*, we include, without additional charge, failed predecessor or competitor bills that sought to affect the section language in the same way as the successful bill. Research of these failed bills provides our clients with useful insight as to the background and development of language of interest to them.

For *on-line archives*, it is the client who determines which bill to order. There will be no predecessor or competitor bill included, nor any background materials that might have been included with the custom research. The client can order the failed bill materials at the regular on-line charges.

For *custom research*, the materials will include, without additional charge, our objective report on the history of the bill ordered (with a focus on your code section), which is intended to assure the thoroughness of our research, noting sources such as competitor and predecessor bills as well as studies and hearings or model language, and also to serve as a guide to the reader through the legislative history of the bill in question. When there is a section or issue focus, we also try to point to discussions in the materials that may be relevant. For *online archives* research, if you feel comfortable with legislative history documents, this report may not be necessary and you should simply purchase your bill.

For *custom research*, we also prepare a declaration that serves as a first step towards authenticating the legislative history materials that we have gathered on the bill. If the *online archives* researcher decides that a declaration is necessary, the purchaser can contact us directly and we will provide one at the fees noted at legintestore.com.

Do you recommend I order a confirmation of completeness?

It depends on your need for this research. If you are doing a general review and the bill pre-dates the current state governor, there is a good chance that this research is complete and sufficient for your needs. If you are introducing these materials into court as the “complete legislative history” of a particular legislative measure or statute, then you should seriously consider

ordering a confirmation of completeness. If you are looking for everything possibly existing on a bill and need to be sure the bill you are researching is complete because of the detail necessary to answer your particular research question, then you should call us to order a confirmation of completeness.

When I am researching the bills affecting my code section, how can I be sure which bill is the correct legislation to purchase at your on-line archives store?

While it is not a perfect resource, a good first starting for legislative research is an annotated statutory codebook. At the end of the statutory language, there will be historical notations of years and chapters (*i.e.*, “1979, c. 314”) that indicate there was a bill in that year, enacted as that chapter, which affected your code section. Sometimes, the annotations will include explanations as to each year to help you pinpoint your specific language being affected. This does not always occur, so the researcher must review each of the years/chapters listed to determine what changes were being made for each statute. Once the researcher has “traced” the language of interest to the bill that brought in the language in question, then you can go to legintestore.com and order that specific bill. If the history noted in the annotated codebooks is too complex or appears too time-consuming to review on your own, we provide a “**tracing**” service for set fees determined by your deadlines. Furthermore, if you are concerned that the annotated history is incorrect, which we have found in our own experience happens with some frequency, you may wish to simply call us to order *custom research* instead of ordering online.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

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