

Finding the Text of a Bill Using Texas Legislature Online

www.legis.state.tx.us

(Covering bills from 1995 – Present)

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Step 1: The Homepage

Go to: www.legis.state.tx.us

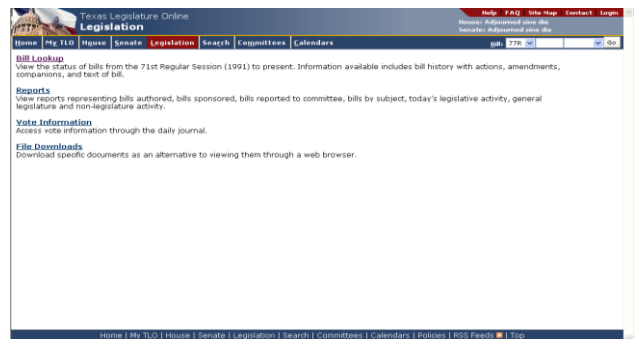
This is the central navigation point from which you can access the wealth of legislative information available on *Texas Legislature Online*. From here, you can link to the text and legislative history of bills from 1995 to present.



Step 2: Getting Started

Click on the “Legislation” tab located on the dark blue toolbar at the top of the homepage.

This will take you to a new screen that allows you to search for bills and review their status in a number of different ways.



Step 3: Finding a Bill **If You Know the Bill Number:**

Click on “Bill Lookup.”

First select the appropriate Legislature from the Legislative Session box. Then enter the bill number. Sample formats for entering the bill number are provided. Now choose which information about the bill you would like to view first by making a selection from the drop down menu. Finally, click on the “Submit” button to send your request.

The screenshot shows the 'Texas Legislature Online Bill Lookup' page. It features a navigation bar with links like Home, My TLO, House, Senate, Legislation, Search, Committees, and Calendars. The main content area has a 'Bill Lookup' section with a form to enter a bill number (examples: HB 4, SR 56, HR 143) and a dropdown for the Legislature (set to 80(R) - 2009). There are 'Submit' and 'Reset' buttons. To the right, there are sections for 'Tips on Finding a Bill', 'Document Formats', and 'FTP Downloads'. A 'Bill Status Hotline' section provides contact information and session hours.

Searching for Bills by Topic:

Click on “Text Search.”

(The Text Search link is located on the right side of the legislation page.) Select the appropriate Legislature. Place check marks next to the Chamber, Bill Type, and Version you are interested in. Remember: the more boxes you check, the more specific your search results will be. Next, choose the types of documents (i.e.: Bill Text, Fiscal Note, Bill Analysis, Amendment) you would like to search by placing a check mark next to all that apply. Then enter the topic keywords you would like to search for. Finally, click on the “Search” button to send your request.

The screenshot shows the 'Texas Legislature Online Text Search' page. It has a navigation bar similar to the previous page. The 'Text Search' section includes a 'Simple Search' form with fields for 'With all of the words:', 'With any of the words:', 'With the exact phrase:', and 'Excluding the words:'. There are also checkboxes for 'Legislature' (80(R) - 2009), 'Chamber' (House, Senate), 'Bill Type' (Bill, JR, CR, R, All), and 'Version' (Introduced, Engrossed, Enrolled, House Committee Report, Senate Committee Report). A 'Document' section allows selecting document types like Bill, Fiscal Note, Bill Analysis, and Amendment. A 'Search' button is at the bottom right.

Step 4: Viewing a Bill

Once you have retrieved a bill, there are several different versions of the bill that you may view. The *Introduced Version* is the text of the bill as it was first introduced to the legislature. The *Engrossed Version* is the text of the bill after it has passed its originating house of the legislature. This version is then presented to the other house for approval. The *Enrolled Version* is the text of the bill as it is finally passed by BOTH houses of the legislature. This version is the final version of the bill as signed by the Governor; this version is known as “the law.”

The screenshot shows the 'Texas Legislature Online Bill Stages' page for Bill 77(R). It features a navigation bar and a table showing the bill's progress through various stages. The table has columns for 'Version', 'Bill', 'Fiscal Note', 'Analysis', 'Witness List', and 'Summary of Committee Action'. The rows show the bill's history: Introduced, House Committee Report, Engrossed, Senate Committee Report, and Enrolled. Below the table, there are links for 'Additional Documents' including 'HHS Bill Analysis' and 'Enrolled Bill Summary'.

Version	Bill	Fiscal Note	Analysis	Witness List	Summary of Committee Action
Introduced					
House Committee Report					
Engrossed					
Senate Committee Report					
Enrolled					

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