

Legislation Finding Aid

This guide provides step-by-step instructions for finding legislation using LexisNexis and other online resources. If you have any questions or would like further assistance call or email:

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Legislation Types	Sources
Federal Court Cases	LexisNexis Academic Universe This database provides full-text access to News, Business, and legal publications.
State Court Cases	
Federal Bills and Laws	
State Laws	Congress.gov This official U.S. government source for federal legislative information provides full-text access.
Congressional Voting Records and Bill Sponsor Information	
Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders	Congressional Universe This database provides full-text access to U.S. Congressional publications.

Federal Court Cases - [LexisNexis Academic Universe](#)

With Party Names:

- From the Library's Homepage, select **Find Articles** and then **Databases Listed by Title**.
- Select **L** and then **LexisNexis Academic Universe**.
- Click on the arrow next to Look up a Legal Case, in the center column and a drop down search box will appear. Enter the party names, ex: **Brown vs. Board of Education**, in the by parties boxes and select Go.
- From the list on the left side, under Sources by Category and Cases, choose U.S. Supreme Court Cases, Lawyer's Edition.
- **Choose #11-** Brown v. Bd. of Educ., No. 1 , SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, 347 U.S. 483; 74 S. Ct. 686; 98 L. Ed. 873; 1954 U.S. LEXIS 2094; 53 Ohio Op. 326; 38 A.L.R.2d 1180, December 9, 1952, Argued , May 17, 1954, Decided , Reargued December 8, 1953.

Look up a Legal Case ▶
Federal and state cases.

By Citation like 347 U.S. 483

Or by Parties like *Mapp v. Ohio*

Brown v. Board of Edu

Or by Topic like *Equal Opportunity*

Go

» Citations must be exact.
[Click here](#) for citation help.
For more options, or to see

With Keywords:

- From the Library's Homepage, select **Find Articles** and then **Databases Listed by Title**.
- Select **L** and then **LexisNexis Academic Universe**.
- Click on the arrow next to Look up a Legal Case, in the center column and a drop down search box will appear. Enter your keyword(s), ex: **detainees**, in the by topic box and select Go.
- From the list on the left side, under Sources by Category and Cases, choose U.S. Supreme Court Cases, Lawyer's Edition.
- You will obtain 37 cases that the U.S. Supreme Court heard about detainees. They are sorted Newest to Oldest so that the most recent cases appear first.



Look up a Legal Case ▾
Federal and state cases.

By Citation like 347 U.S. 483

Or by Parties like Mapp v. Ohio
 v.

Or by Topic like Equal Opportunity
 detainees

» Citations must be exact.
[Click here](#) for citation help.
For more options, or to see

State Court Cases – [LexisNexis Academic Universe](#)

- From the Library's Homepage, select **Find Articles** and then **Databases Listed by Title**.
- Select **L** and then **LexisNexis Academic Universe**.
- Click on the arrow next to the Search by Content Type (on the top right-hand side of the main search screen) and select Federal and State Cases. In the Federal and State Cases Search Box enter your keyword(s), ex: **Megan's Law**. All of your results display cases that mentioned this law in some way.
- From the list on the left side, under Sources by Category and Cases, choose any State Listing, ex: **PA Superior Court from 1895** and you will obtain the 48 cases that mentioned Megan's Law in Pennsylvania.
- When you click on any case, your search terms will be highlighted in red throughout the document:

PROCEDURAL POSTURE: Defendant appealed the order of the Court of Common Pleas of Monroe County, Criminal Division (Pennsylvania), which denied his motion for a hearing regarding **Megan's Law** applicability and required him to register with **law** enforcement authorities in accordance with **Megan's Law** II, specifically **42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 9795.1**.

IMPORTANT: Notice that this description includes citation of the statute that this case discusses, by clicking on this you obtain the exact statute pertaining to Megan's Law in Pennsylvania.

Federal Legislation – congress.gov

(Search for Bills, Laws, Committee Reports or Congressional Record Articles)

Finding Older Legislation with Public Law Number:

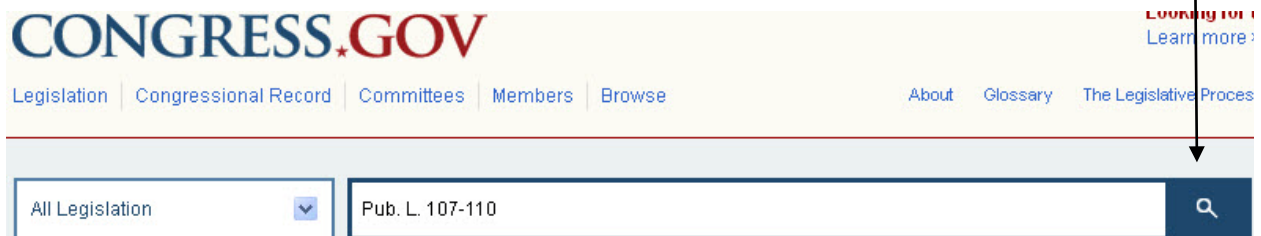
- **Ex: Pub. L. 107-110**

Pub. L. = Public Law, when a bill becomes a law it is designated as a Public Law.

107 (2001- 2002) = The Congress that passed the Law.

110 = The Law number in that Congress.

- In the drop down box on the left change from Current Legislation to **All Legislation**.
- Enter the Public Law Number, Pub. L. 107-110, in the main search box and click search.



Indicates the version of the legislation that is featured

LAW

[H.R.1](#) — 107th Congress (2001-2002)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Sponsor: [Rep. Boehner, John A. \[R-OH-8\]](#) (Introduced 03/22/2001)

Cosponsors: [84](#)

Latest Action: 01/08/2002 Became Public Law No: 107-110.

Tracker: [Introduced](#) [Passed House](#) [Passed Senate](#) [Resolving Differences](#) [To President](#) [Became Law](#)

Click here to obtain the full text of the public law. Note: Even though H.R.1 is the original bill number, this is the correct text for the law as indicated by the tracker information.

The tracker information indicates the complete process that this legislation followed until it became law.

Finding Current Legislation with Keywords:

- In the drop down box on the left retain the limit to **Current Legislation**.
- Enter your keyword(s) in the search box, ex: violence.
- On the left side, click on the plus sign next to Status of Legislation and choose Became Law and you will only get bills that became laws.
- Select **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013**.

Current Legislation Search Within [Advanced Search](#)

[Search Tips](#)

Limit Your Search

Legislation [7]

Congress

[Check all](#)

113 (2013-2014) [7]

112 (2011-2012) [15]

[Show more >](#)

Bill Type

Status of Legislation

Subject

You searched for: violence

Refined by: 113 (2013-2014) Legislation Became Law

This list reflects all the limits you selected for your search.

1-7 of 7

Results per page 25

Sort By Relevancy

LAW

[S.47](#) — 113th Congress (2013-2014)

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013

Sponsor: [Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. \[D-VT\]](#) (Introduced 01/22/2013)

Cosponsors: [61](#)

Latest Action: 03/07/2013 Became Public Law No: 113-4.

Tracker:

Click here to obtain the full text of the public law. Note: S. 47 is the Senate bill number.

Click here and select Became Law from the drop down menu.

You can search for this legislation using the Public Law number as well.

To find older legislation, click show more under Congress. You can search back to the 93rd Congress (1973-1974).



State Laws – [LexisNexis Academic Universe](#)

- From the Library’s Homepage, select **Find Articles** and then **Databases Listed by Title**.
- Select **L** and then **LexisNexis Academic Universe**.
- Click on the arrow next to the Search by Content Type (on the top right-hand side of the main search screen) and select **State Statutes and Regulations**.
- Select Advanced Options and follow the steps below to fill out the box that appears:
 1. Select Statutory Codes to obtain the full text for a state law.
 2. Chose one or more states that you want to search.
 3. Enter your keywords in the box at the top of the search screen.
 4. Select **Apply** and then **Search** and you will obtain a list of the state laws (statutes) that contain your keywords.

Ex: PA State Statute for Murder 1

Enter your keywords here.

Advanced Options ▶

Date
 From 
 to 

Build Your Own Segment Search 

Select a Segment

Murder 1 

Source

All State Statutes and Legislation All State Regulations and Registers

To Search individual states, select one of the following source options and then check one or more states below.

To browse individual states, select one of the following source options and then click on the name of the state you wish to browse.

States

Statutory Code Administrative Code Constitution

<input type="checkbox"/> Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee
<input type="checkbox"/> Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/> Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/> Texas
<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/> Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Utah
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/> Vermont
<input type="checkbox"/> California	<input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/> New York	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/> Maine	<input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia
<input type="checkbox"/> Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming
<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania	
<input type="checkbox"/> Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/> Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina	
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/> Montana	<input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota	
<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska		

- Choose: [18 Pa.C.S. § 2502 \(2014\)](#), PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES , TITLE 18. CRIMES AND OFFENSES , PART II. DEFINITION OF SPECIFIC OFFENSES , ARTICLE B. OFFENSES INVOLVING DANGER TO THE PERSON , CHAPTER 25. CRIMINAL HOMICIDE , § 2502. Murder. , PENNSYLVANIA STATUTES
- When you click on the link, you obtain the following definitions, note that your keywords will be highlighted in red:

§ 2502. **Murder.**

(a) **Murder** of the first degree. --A criminal homicide constitutes murder of the first degree when it is committed by an intentional killing.

(b) **Murder** of the second degree. --A criminal homicide constitutes murder of the second degree when it is committed while defendant was engaged as a principal or an accomplice in the perpetration of a felony.

(c) **Murder** of the third degree. --All other kinds of murder shall be **murder** of the third degree. **Murder** of the third degree is a felony of the first degree.
- Within the text of the law, LexisNexis provides many related statutes that are hyperlinked. Click on these for more detail.

Congressional Voting Records and Bill Sponsor Information – [Congressional Universe](#)

- From the Library's Homepage, select **Find Articles** and then **Databases Listed by Title**.
- Select **C** and then **Congressional Universe**.
- In the Search Types Box, select Member Record, under Members and Committees and enter the name of a representative or senator, ex: Rep. Gwen Moore.

ProQuest | **Members & Committees**
Member Records Search

Search Types

- ▼ Congressional Publications
 - Basic Search
 - Advanced Search
 - Search By Number
- ▼ Members & Committees
 - Member Records**
 - Demographics
 - Committees
 - Regulations
 - Political News
- Congressional LibGuide

Member First Name:

Member Last Name:

Lookup a [Member](#)

Keyword:

Limit to:

Year: 1985 to present

Congress: 99 (1985-86) to 113 (2013-2014)

Include Contributions

[Search tips](#) [Clear Form](#)

- For each congressional session that this person has served, you will obtain the following information:
 - Personal Information
 - Committee Assignments
 - Personal Staff
 - Bills Sponsored
 - Floor Statements
 - Floor Votes
 - Legislative Profile
 - Financial Disclosures
 - News articles that mentioned this person
- To obtain the full text of the sponsored legislation, go to [congress.gov](#).
 - Scroll down to the Current Members of Congress Section.
 - Select the person under House or Senate and click Go.
 - You will obtain a list of all the legislation that this person has sponsored.
 - When you click on an item, you will obtain the full text for that legislation.

Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders – You can find the full text of executive orders on several sites. These options are listed below:

With Keywords:

- Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders from **1945-1989** - [Codification of Presidential Proclamations and Executive orders](#) – Here you can search the full text of these documents from the *Federal Register* using keywords.
 - Enter your keyword and select Submit Search.
 - To improve results, use a plus sign (+) before the keyword.

By Year:

- Presidential Proclamations from 1789- Present
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/proclamations.php>
 - Select the year that you want and then click display.
- Executive Orders from 1826 – Present
http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/executive_orders.php
 - Select the year that you want and then click display

Additional Resources

[Citing Online Government Documents and Information in APA Style](#)

[How to Search census.gov](#)

[U.S. Government Information Subject Guide](#)

For More information Contact:

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