



## State Childhood Obesity Policy Evaluation

### State Legislation Search Guide

The State Legislation Search Guide is intended to facilitate ease of use of all 50 free state legislative databases for persons interested in searching for state legislative information. Updated in December 2009, it lists the 50 states' legislative websites and primary contact information for assistance with questions. The guide also contains tips for bill searching and navigating each database. Our team hopes that by compiling the information in one place and providing tips for users, the guide will ease access to and use of these valuable publically available resources.

**Authors:** Jooyoung Kong, MSW; Leah Nguyen, MSW; Amy Eyler, PhD; Jillian Callanan, BSW; Beth Leinauer, BS

**Funder:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Grant #65559

**Acknowledgements:** Amy Winterfeld at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) provided the team with NCSL documents to ensure we did not duplicate their work. And many thanks to the legislative staff and librarians in all 50 states that responded to our questions as we tested their phone numbers and email contacts for accuracy.

**Contact Information:**

Leah Nguyen, MSW  
SCOPE Project Manager  
Prevention Research Center in St. Louis  
George Warren Brown School of Social Work  
Washington University in St. Louis  
660 S. Euclid, Campus Box 8109, St. Louis, MO 63110  
T: 314-747-5594, F: 314-326-9665  
l Nguyen@gwbmail.wustl.edu

AL		Alabama Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legislature.state.al.us/">http://www.legislature.state.al.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(334) 242-7482
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLogin.asp">http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLogin.asp</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	2000 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alabama’s legislative database is named ALISON</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by number on left menu bar</li> <li>▪ Sophisticated searching options available                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ see "Tips for Searching" under “Execute Query” button</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Provides separate database for legislative search: ALISON (Alabama Legislative Information System Online)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ search bills by status, sponsor, selected status, committee, or selected matter transaction</li> <li>✓ can change sessions by click in top left hand corner where it lists the current session being searched</li> <li>✓ Boolean Operators (and, or, not) to refine queries</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ web format</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Comprehensive FAQ's section on ALISON</li> <li>(+) Great searching options and tips for getting started</li> <li>(-) ALISON is somewhat difficult to navigate</li> </ul>	
AK		Alaska State Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/">http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(800) 478-4648; lio_juneau@legis.state.ak.us
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp">http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1993 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alaska’s legislative database is named BASIS</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by number or phrase in same tab</li> <li>▪ Under "Searches" tab, can search by predetermined, but limited, topics</li> <li>▪ " " or * do not change search</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions by choosing "Bills and Laws" from top menu and "Archive" from left hand menu bar</li> <li>▪ Full bill text and amendments available</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ web format</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - [bracketed]</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Has some useful information with "Get Started" tab including training on BASIS</li> <li>(+) Can search multiple words as a phrase</li> <li>(-) Limited searching capacity</li> </ul>	

AZ			
Arizona State Legislature			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.azleg.gov/">http://www.azleg.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	Senate: (602) 926-3559; (800) 352-8404
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp">http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1997 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by number on top right of page; search full bill text by phrase under "Bills" tab on left menu</li> <li>▪ Unable to do sophisticated searching</li> <li>▪ " " or * do not change search</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by clicking "Change Sessions" under top menu bar</li>   <li>▪ Displays bills by "Hit Highlighted" which bolds the search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: web format</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - "CAPITALIZED ITALIC" or "CAPITALIZED ITALIC IN BLUE FONT"; deleted text – writing out to strike (old text)</li> </ul>		(-) Hard to find bills you are searching for	
AR			
Arkansas State Legislature			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Pages/Home.aspx">http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Pages/Home.aspx</a>	<b>Contact</b>	House: (501) 682-6211 (in session) ; (501) 682-7771 (out of session) Senate: (501) 682-2902 (in session)
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/SearchCenter/Pages/historicalbil.aspx">http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/SearchCenter/Pages/historicalbil.aspx</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1987 - Present
Website		Contact	
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available by number on right hand menu; search full bill text on left hand menu</li> <li>▪ "Historical Bills" tab for full bill text search by bill number or sponsor, or of all words, exact phrases, at least one word, or without word</li> <li>▪ * did change search</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by clicking box next to desired session in search menu</li>   <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strike through</del></li> </ul>		(+) Simple search format, easy to use  (-) No "Help" function	

CA California State Legislature			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legislature.ca.gov/">http://www.legislature.ca.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	webmaster@sen.ca.gov
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html">http://leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1994 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill Searching by number, author or keyword on right menu bar</li> <li>▪ " " and * change search</li> <li>▪ Detailed tips about searching provided at <a href="http://leginfo.ca.gov">http://leginfo.ca.gov</a></li> <li>▪ Can access different versions of bills, including introduced and amended</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <i>italic</i>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Simple, easy, and relevant searches</li> <li>(-) No highlights on search terms</li> <li>(-) Unpleasing site design</li> </ul>	
CO Colorado General Assembly			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.leg.state.co.us/">http://www.leg.state.co.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	comments.GA@state.co.us
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.leg.state.co.us/Clitics/CLICS2009A/csl.nsf/MainBills?openFrameset">http://www.leg.state.co.us/Clitics/CLICS2009A/csl.nsf/MainBills?openFrameset</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1997 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by number, click "Current Year" tab on top menu bar; search by terms by clicking "Search for a bill" under box</li> <li>▪ " " or * do not change search</li> <li>▪ To access prior sessions, return to home page and click "Prior Session" link - no easy way to navigate through</li> <li>▪ Can access different versions of bills by clicking "All Versions" in search results</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - CAPITALIZE; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(-) Confusing and not user-friendly site layout</li> <li>(-) Does not report number of results in search</li> </ul>	

CT Connecticut General Assembly			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/">http://www.cga.ct.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(860) 240-8888
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://search.cga.state.ct.us/dtSearch_lpa.html">http://search.cga.state.ct.us/dtSearch_lpa.html</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1988 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by number on top menu bar; Basic/Advanced Search options available on left menu bar                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Basic search has many options to search</li> <li>✓ Advanced search has a "stemming" feature that acts like an * in searching</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Separate search for amendments or bill status</li> <li>▪ Uses " " to search phrases; recognizes *</li>   <li>▪ Can search sessions by typing years                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ no checking boxes or clicking on sessions</li> <li>✓ in case of searching all years, leave the year field blank</li> </ul> </li>   <li>▪ Highlights search terms in yellow</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: web format</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text: <u>underline</u> or items in blue; deleted: [items in red font]</li> </ul>		(+) Has "Help" tab in the search window (+) Overall easy; "Basic Search" takes a second to look at, but has good features (+) "Good Citizens Guide" tab with FAQs that answers a variety of questions (+) Has clear bill title and information in search results  (-) No clear way from bill to find actions, dates, status, etc. (-) Confusing about actions as some information is presented on top and committee votes on bottom of bill	
DE State of Delaware: the Official Website for the First State			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://legis.delaware.gov/">http://legis.delaware.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(302) 744-4308; ruthann.melson@state.de.us
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS145.nsf/home?openform">http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS145.nsf/home?openform</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1995 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by number or full text on left menu bar; search full bill text by clicking "Bill Tracking" tab on left menu                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ When searching bill, can select sessions by GA number, not years</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Can't change sessions unless using the search on left menu; can't select multiple sessions</li> <li>▪ Puts multiple words in " "; recognizes *</li>   <li>▪ Can access different versions and related right from search result</li>   <li>▪ Gives bill status in search results</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML/MS word</li> <li>▪ Does not use symbols to change text, actually writes out to amend "(old text)" with "(new text)"</li> </ul>		(+) Nice search format  (+) Gives much detailed information and history of bills  (-) Not a great site layout	

FL The Official Internet Site of the Florida Legislature			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm">http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(850) 488-4371; (800) 342-1827; leg.info@leg.state.fl.us
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?Mode=Search%20Statutes&amp;Submenu=2&amp;Tab=statutes&amp;CFID=125680541&amp;CFTOKEN=17257595">http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?Mode=Search%20Statutes&amp;Submenu=2&amp;Tab=statutes&amp;CFID=125680541&amp;CFTOKEN=17257595</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1997 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by using top menu bar; just as useful as clicking on "Search Statutes" bar on left side</li> <li>▪ Stemming: search results including suffixes of word used (work, worked, working)</li> <li>▪ Uses * as a wildcard at the end or beginning of a word to expand the search results (For example, govern* for govern, governs, governing, government, governmental, governor.)</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions year easily during search</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML</li> <li>▪ Does not show changes in bill text</li> </ul>		(-) Unclear what changes have been made to text of bill	
GA Georgia General Assembly			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.state.ga.us/">http://www.legis.state.ga.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	Senate Secretary: (404) 656-5015 ; House Clerk: (404) 656-5015
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.state.ga.us/search.php">http://www.legis.state.ga.us/search.php</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1995 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by number on top menu bar</li> <li>▪ To search bill text, hit "Advanced Search" on top menu bar or "Legislative Search" on bottom menu</li> <li>▪ Option for "all, any" or Boolean search terms ('all' means as a phrase, 'any' means either of the words separately); in "All" search, do not use *</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions when searching only current session or past session searches</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML/ PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		(+) Gives good information on individual bill  (-) In searching previous sessions, you cannot choose years or sessions you are searching	

HI Hawaii State Legislature Website			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/">http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(808) 587-0478; par@Capitol.hawaii.gov
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/search/search.asp">http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/search/search.asp</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1999 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search for bill status by bill number</li> <li>▪ To search text, click "Search" on right menu; to search by bill number, click "Bill Status &amp; Documents" (only 2009)</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " and * for phrases in search</li> <li>▪ Only available to search current session in "Search"; to search past legislative sessions, go to "Archives"</li>   <li>▪ Gives an actual bill and a status document in search results</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search phrases</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strike through</del></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(-) Confusing search page</li> <li>(-) Not clear to search previous bills - have to click "Archives," and not possible to choose years while searching</li> </ul>	
ID State of Idaho Legislature			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/">http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(208) 334-2475 (ex.2); idleginfor@lso.idaho.gov
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2009/legIndex.htm">http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2009/legIndex.htm</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1998 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by number, subject, or keyword by clicking "Prior Sessions (1998-2009)"</li> <li>▪ Can select multiple sessions by clicking "Search Multiple Years' Legislation" tab under "Prior Sessions"</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " and * in search phrases</li>   <li>▪ Does not highlight search phrase</li> <li>▪ "Glossary of Terms" tab provides abbreviations used in bill status and subject index</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML</li> <li>▪ Does not show changes in bill</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Has "Search Tips Section" under search engine</li> <li>(-) Confusing notes on "Search Help" about punctuation</li> </ul>	

IL		Illinois General Assembly	
Website	<a href="http://www.ilga.gov/">http://www.ilga.gov/</a>	Contact	(217) 782-3944
Bill Search Link		Years Covered	1999 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by number, term and advanced search on left menu bar</li> <li>▪ Provides good search tips under the text search                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ see these for explanation of how to do most relevant search</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Powered by Google Search Appliance (see tips on how Google searches)</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " do not use *</li>   <li>▪ Can access previous sessions for bill text search,                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ from home page click "Site Map" from top menu bar, under "Legislation" choose desired session. For current through 93rd session, click number then click "Previous GA" from left menu bar, choose session in drop down menu, hit go, then choose search under "Legislation, Public acts".</li> <li>✓ for 90 - 92nd do this way too, otherwise can only search bill number</li> </ul> </li>   <li>▪ Can get bill text and status in search results</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search phrase</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Nice search engine, clear and good information provided</p> <p>(-) Inconvenient to search previous sessions</p>	

IN Indiana General Assembly			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.in.gov/legislative/">http://www.in.gov/legislative/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(317) 212-9856
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo">http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1997 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To search bills in the current session, select "Bills and Resolutions" under the "Session Information" tab in the left task bar                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ provides bills by topics by clicking "Subject Listing"</li> <li>✓ provides detailed bill information on "Complete Information for All Bills", or "List of Live Information for All Bills" tab</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Can search previous sessions by selecting " Archives" then chose the "Sessions"</li> <li>▪ Powered by "Google"</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " ", not *</li> <li>▪ Different bill versions and bill status are not available</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search phrase</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML/ PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <b>bold</b>; deleted text – <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		(-) No guiding information on bill searching  (-) While searching, it is not possible to get back to homepage (link does not work)	
IA Iowa Legislature			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.state.ia.us/index.html">http://www.legis.state.ia.us/index.html</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(515) 281-5129; lioinfo@legis.state.ia.us
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/CoilICE/BySubject.htm">http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/CoilICE/BySubject.htm</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1995 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available on top menu bar by bill number and key word</li> <li>▪ To search, click "Track Legislation" on left menu and then "BillBook"</li> <li>▪ BillBook shows all versions of bills and amendments, resolutions, study bills, bill histories, fiscal notes, and sponsor information</li> <li>▪ In BillBook, only able to search bill numbers</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text – <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		(+) "Site Help" under quick search very helpful in explaining searches	

KS		Kansas Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-&lt;br/&gt;legisportal/index.do">http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv- legisportal/index.do</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(800) 432-3924 (in state); (785) 296-2149 (out of state)
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-bills/index.do">http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-bills/index.do</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1997 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available by bill number and bill text on right menu bar</li> <li>▪ Click "Bills" on left menu to get a list of web site features for bills and bill tracking</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " ", not *</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by drop down menu</li>   <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <i>italic</i>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Good features and clear</p> <p>(+) Available to search just adopted legislation</p>	
KY		Kentucky Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.lrc.ky.gov/">http://www.lrc.ky.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(800) 372-7181; (866) 840-2835 (in session only)
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.lrc.ky.gov/legislation.htm">http://www.lrc.ky.gov/legislation.htm</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1997 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "Legislation &amp; Legislative Record" on left menu bar</li> <li>▪ Can search 2008 - 2010, or click "Past Legislative Records" at bottom to go back to 1997</li> <li>▪ Some sessions have bills by headings with grouping into predetermined categories</li>   <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML</li> <li>▪ Does not show changes in bill</li> </ul>		<p>(-) No quick search available</p> <p>(-) Difficult to find bills: no search options, but site lists all bill numbers and you have to know the bill numbers</p>	

LA		The Web Portal to the Louisiana State Legislature	
Website	<a href="http://www.legis.state.la.us/">http://www.legis.state.la.us/</a>	Contact	(225) 342-2456
Bill Search Link		Years Covered	1997 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by text or number on "Search" tab</li> <li>▪ Can search session by scrolling down to "Bill Search", or clicking "Session Info" or "Search" on top menu                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ see the "How Do I" tab for good overview of search functions</li> <li>✓ see "Search Tips" link under "Bill Search" for full bill text search</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Can change sessions from menu bar when searching</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " and *</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		(+) Useful "How Do I" section to explain search functions	
ME		Maine State Legislature	
Website	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/legis/">http://www.maine.gov/legis/</a>	Contact	(207) 287-1692; Teen.Griffin@legislature.maine.gov
Bill Search Link		<a href="http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/default_ps.asp?PID=1456&amp;snum=124">http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/default_ps.asp?PID=1456&amp;snum=124</a>	Years Covered
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available by bill number on top right; to search bill by text, click "Bill Status" then "Search by Bill Text" on bottom right</li> <li>▪ Able to search bill status, but must know LD # or other abbreviation</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " ", not *</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions in bill text search</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML/ PDF/ MS Word</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		(+) Gives very useful information once bill is found, including amendments, status, actions, etc.  (+) Can get "Searching Hint" under advanced search  (-) Sometimes difficult to sift through	

MD Maryland General Assembly			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://mlis.state.md.us/">http://mlis.state.md.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(410) 946-5400 (Baltimore); (301) 970-5400 (D.C.); libr@mlis.state.md.us
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://mlis.state.md.us/mgaweb/google.aspx">http://mlis.state.md.us/mgaweb/google.aspx</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1996 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available by clicking "Bill information and status" tab; searching by predetermined subject by "Bill Indexes" tab</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by text, scroll down on home page to "Search" and choose "Google" search as your engine                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ see Google search tips under text search</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Can change sessions by clicking "Prior Session Information"</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " and *</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline and italic</u>; deleted text - <del>double strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		(+) Good information provided  (-) Hard to search by bill text	
MA The 186th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/legis/">http://www.mass.gov/legis/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	House clerk: (617) 722-1276; Senate clerk: (617) 722-1276
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/legis/billsrch.htm">http://www.mass.gov/legis/billsrch.htm</a> or <a href="http://www.mass.gov/legis/hbillsrch.htm">http://www.mass.gov/legis/hbillsrch.htm</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	2005 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No quick search available</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by text, scroll down on home page to "Current Legislation" and search either house or senate text                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ takes you to senate site or house search engine where you can do bill text and quick searches</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " and *</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions from drop down menu after choosing either house or senate search</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ HTML</li> <li>▪ Does not show changes in bill</li> </ul>		(-) Can only search text and Senate and House separately  (-) Searchable legislation only dates back to 2005	

<b>MI</b>		<b>Michigan Legislature</b>	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(gluwnxiyixlts3255ell4y55))/mileg.aspx?page=home">http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(gluwnxiyixlts3255ell4y55))/mileg.aspx?page=home</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(517) 373-0630
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(1xld2e45ajtfqxy3cdvtzm45))/mileg.aspx?page=Bills">http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(1xld2e45ajtfqxy3cdvtzm45))/mileg.aspx?page=Bills</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1995 - Present
<b>Bill Searching</b>		<b>(+/-) Characteristics</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available by bill number and keyword</li> <li>▪ To search bill text, click "Bills" on left menu bar                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ can get search tips by clicking the bubble symbol next to the search box</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " and *</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions from drop down menu on "Bills" page</li>   <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <b>bold</b> or CAPITALIZE; deleted text – <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Provides detailed information on searches and results</p> <p>(-) Not organized site layout</p>	
<b>MN</b>		<b>Minnesota State Legislature</b>	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.leg.state.mn.us/">http://www.leg.state.mn.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(651) 296-2314
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="https://www.revisor.mn.gov/revisor/pages/search_status/status_search.php?body=House">https://www.revisor.mn.gov/revisor/pages/search_status/status_search.php?body=House</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1995 - Present
<b>Bill Searching</b>		<b>(+/-) Characteristics</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking on either “Search House or Senate bills” on homepage                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ gives an option to search both or separately by bill number but have to search either House or Senate for text</li> <li>✓ Advanced search available to do more technical text searches</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ To search with " ", click the circle that says exact phrase under text bar; no *</li> <li>▪ Uses the search options above and below the text bar - it changes search results</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by drop down menu after you choose to search either House or Senate</li>   <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text – <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Good information on searches and results</p> <p>(-) Searches House and Senate separately when searching text</p>	

MS Mississippi State Legislature			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/">http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(601) 359-3135 (out of session); (601) 359-3719 (in session)
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://index.ls.state.ms.us/2010Session.html">http://index.ls.state.ms.us/2010Session.html</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1997 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available by bill number on bottom left homepage                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ for search tips, check "Search Syntax" at bottom</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Search bills and bill text by scrolling down on left menu bar to "Bill Status"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ DO NOT click "Bill Status" (a glitch)</li> <li>✓ click on the popup menu either "Select a Measure" for bill number search or "Text Search"</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Can click on "Word Tense Conflation" as search option which is *</li>   <li>▪ To search previous sessions, click "Bill Status" on left menu bar, then click on the pop up menu "Previous Session Text Search"</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions by "Bill Status" then "Previous Session", or "Previous Session Text Search"</li>   <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Does not use any symbols to change text, writes out to strike "(old text)" and to add "(new text)"</li> </ul>		(-) Not a great searching site	
MO Missouri General Assembly			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.moga.mo.gov/">http://www.moga.mo.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	Senate: <a href="mailto:sweb@senate.mo.gov">sweb@senate.mo.gov</a> ; webmaster: <a href="mailto:Charlotte.neuner@lr.mo.gov">Charlotte.neuner@lr.mo.gov</a>
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.house.mo.gov/billcentral.aspx">http://www.house.mo.gov/billcentral.aspx</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1995 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available</li> <li>▪ Search bills by text and bill number, click "Joint Bill Tracking" on left menu bar</li> <li>▪ Gets full bill text from results by clicking on bill wanted, then click "Bill Page" at bottom, then click "Full Bill Text" in middle of page</li> <li>▪ Drop down menu under search bar for "Search Type" which deals with " " and *</li> <li>▪ Click "Help" next to search bar for tips</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by "Year/type" drop down menu under search bar</li>   <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML(summaries)/ PDF (full text)</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text – <b>bold</b>; deleted text - <b>[Bold brackets]</b></li> </ul>		(-) Hard to find bill text from results  (-) Says not official copy of bills and should not be quoted or cited	

MT		Montana Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://leg.mt.gov/css/default.asp">http://leg.mt.gov/css/default.asp</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(406) 444-3064; sfox@mt.gov
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://leg.hngoogle.leg.mt.gov">http://leg.hngoogle.leg.mt.gov</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1999 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides separate online service for legislative search: LAWS (Legislative Automated Workflow System)</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "Bills" on the left menu bar - choose subcategory of "2011 Session", "Past Sessions" or "Help Finding Bills"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ can search for specific bill type and number; bill draft number; chapter number; subject; primary sponsor</li> <li>✓ when searching by subject on the LAWS, look up "Bill Information" page, you must use the link on the left and select a defined field for your search criteria (search fields can not be edited)</li> <li>✓ can search bill text by keywords by clicking "Search the Text of Bills Using Keywords" at the bottom of the page</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Can search the database using one or more of the following search criteria: general subject matter, keywords, bill number, bill sponsor, and bill status</li> <li>▪ Does not recognize *</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML and H27PDF (w/line numbers)</li> <li>▪ Does not show changes in bills</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Helpful Advanced Text Search</li> <li>(+) Can search past sessions easily on main page</li> <li>(-) "Help" link at the bottom of the Look Up Bill Information page did not load</li> </ul>	
NE		Nebraska Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://nebraskalegislature.gov/">http://nebraskalegislature.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	webmaster@leg.ne.gov
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/search_past.php">http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/search_past.php</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1999 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available on top right with option to search past sessions</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "Bills and Laws" then "Search Bills" on left menu bar                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ able to find specific bills and resolutions by number, date of introduction, introducer or keyword</li> <li>✓ advanced options are provided to search past legislation</li> <li>✓ available to search all types of legislatives</li> <li>✓ must know session number not year to change (by drop down menu)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Does not recognize " ", does recognize*</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Easy to use</li> <li>(-) No detailed search tips available</li> </ul>	

NV Nevada Legislature			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(775) 684-6827; library@lcb.state.nv.us
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://search.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/billtext/75th2009billtext.html">http://search.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/billtext/75th2009billtext.html</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1985 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No quick search available</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "Session Info" on left menu bar, then choose session wanted and click "Bill Information"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ click "History of Specific Legislation" to search by bill number or "Search Bill Text " under "Bill Lists"</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Does not recognize " " or *, uses advanced search</li> <li>▪ Can change session before searching by clicking on wanted</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ HTML/ MS Word</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <b><i>bold italic</i></b>; deleted text - [bracket]</li> </ul>		(+) Can search all years in bill text (-) "Highlighted hits" does not work	
NH New Hampshire General Court			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://gencourt.state.nh.us/">http://gencourt.state.nh.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	House clerk: (603) 271-3315 Senate clerk: (603) 271-3420
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://gencourt.state.nh.us/index/default.html">http://gencourt.state.nh.us/index/default.html</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1989 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick bill search available on right home page; quick link to bill text search on right</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "NH state legislation" on left menu</li> <li>▪ Advanced bill status search available</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " and *</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions by typing year in box above text search</li> <li>▪ Has a link to show highlighted hits in bill, but some do not work</li> <li>▪ Click "Help" under text search for tips</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <b><i>bold italic</i></b>; deleted text - [bracket <del>strikethrough</del>]</li> </ul>		(+) Can search all years in bill text (-) "Highlighted hits" does not work	

NJ		New Jersey Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/">http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(609) 292-4840; leginfo@njleg.org
<b>Bill Search Link</b>		<b>Years Covered</b>	1996 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick bill search available by text and bill number on right of home page                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ the easiest way to search; can change sessions and search by key word, sponsor, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking on legislative sessions on left menu</li> <li>▪ Does not recognize " " or *</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions by drop down menu on quick search</li> <li>▪ Gives all types of bills in search results</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <b>[bold bracket]</b></li> </ul>		(+) Keeps search terms (+) Gives you last sessions bill number in results (-) Inconvenient to change sessions (-) No search tips provided	
NM		New Mexico Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/default.aspx">http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/default.aspx</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(505) 986-4600 (out of session); lcs@nmlegis.gov (in session)
<b>Bill Search Link</b>		<a href="http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/keyword.aspx">http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/keyword.aspx</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search bar available on top of the main page</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "Legislation" then "Bill Finder" from left menu bar</li> <li>▪ In "Bill Finder", can search by number, sponsor, locator reports, keywords, subjects, and capital outlay</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions by drop down menu after choosing the search option</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strike through bracket</del></li> </ul>		(+) Provides 'Quick Links' for key information (-) Does not highlight search term	

NY			
New York State Assembly			
Website	<a href="http://assembly.state.ny.us/">http://assembly.state.ny.us/</a>	Contact	(518) 455-4218
Bill Search Link	<a href="http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/">http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/</a>	Years Covered	Current Session
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick bill search available by number in middle of home page</li> <li>▪ Search by clicking "Bill Search and Legislative Info" from left menu bar by keyword or number</li> <li>▪ Gets text from results by clicking "See Text" in top left corner after clicking on the desired bill</li>   <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Does not recognize " ", does *</li>   <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <i>italic</i>; deleted text - [bracket]</li> </ul>		(+) No search tips  (-) Cannot change sessions	
NC			
General Assembly of North Carolina			
Website	<a href="http://www.ncleg.net/">http://www.ncleg.net/</a>	Contact	(919) 733-9390
Bill Search Link	<a href="http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/billsearch/billsearch.asp">http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/billsearch/billsearch.asp</a>	Years Covered	1985 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick bill search available by text and number on right menu bar</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "Legislation/Bills" on top menu</li> <li>▪ Search tips available by clicking the '?' next to "Search" on text searching</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " ", not *</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by drop down menu under search</li>   <li>▪ Can search different versions of bills</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML/ PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text: <u>underline</u>; deleted text: <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		(+) Good tips provided for searching  (+) Much detailed information on search results provided  (-) All the different options to click on search results can be overwhelming	

ND North Dakota Legislative Branch			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.nd.gov/">http://www.legis.nd.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(701) 328-4900
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.nd.gov/dtsearch/">http://www.legis.nd.gov/dtsearch/</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	2003 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by text, hit "Search" on top right of home page then choose sessions from drop down menu on left</li> <li>▪ Cannot search bills by number, must click "Bills, Resolutions and Journals" on left menu, then either H or S bills, then choose the bill number</li> <li>▪ Search tips right on search page explaining how to and different types of searching (stemming and natural language)</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions by drop down menu when you choose bill/resolution search</li> <li>▪ Full bill text and amendments available in search results</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Good search guide and explanation</li> <li>(-) Hard to search</li> <li>(-) Not available to search by number</li> <li>(-) Limited years to search</li> </ul>	
OH The 128th General Assembly of the State of Ohio			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/">http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/</a> or <a href="http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/statusreport.html">http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/statusreport.html</a>	<b>Contact</b>	webmaster@lis.state.oh.us
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/search.cfm">http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/search.cfm</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1998 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available for text and bill number of current legislation</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "Search for legislative information" on top left menu</li> <li>▪ Does not recognize " " , does *</li> <li>▪ Can change session by clicking corresponding bubble under they way you want to search</li> <li>▪ Full bill text and amendments available in search results</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Can search House and Senate together</li> <li>(-) Bill search by text gives not only search bills and resolution, but adds other information you cannot filter out</li> <li>(-) No search tips</li> </ul>	

OK		Oklahoma Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/">http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	House: (405) 521-2711 Senate: (405) 524-0126
<b>Bill Search Link</b>		<b>Years Covered</b>	1991 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking on "Status of Measures" on bottom middle of home page then "Basic Search Form" on left menu</li> <li>▪ Can search by text, click "Search Text of Measures", NOT "Text of Measures" on bottom middle of home page</li> <li>▪ Search tips by clicking "Tips on Searching" in red on text search</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " "</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions under bill number search by drop down menu, under text search by clicking "Search Measures from Previous Years"</li>   <li>▪ Provides all versions of bills introduced, amendments, and substitute</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: RTF/ MS Word</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		(-) Searching options are not uniform; hard to navigate	
OR		Oregon State Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.leg.state.or.us/">http://www.leg.state.or.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(503) 986-1000; help.leg@state.or.us
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.leg.state.or.us:8765/">http://www.leg.state.or.us:8765/</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1995 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available on right of home page by keyword; has advanced searching</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "Bills/Laws" on top of page, then "Search Bills and Laws" on top right, then choose by text or number</li> <li>▪ Search tips by clicking "Help" under search bar</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " ", not *</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by clicking on bubble under each type of search</li>   <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML/ PDF</li> <li>▪ Does not use any symbols to change text, to delete "(old text)" and insert "(new text)"</li> </ul>		(-) The text search page is badly formatted and have to scroll around to find things	

PA Pennsylvania General Assembly			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.state.pa.us/">http://www.legis.state.pa.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(717) 787-7535
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm">http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1969 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search by number and keyword on top right of home page</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking the "Session Info" tab in top middle of page</li> <li>▪ Search tips by clicking the ? to the right of each search bar for help, but not very helpful</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " and *</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by drop down menu under search bar</li>   <li>▪ Provides different versions of bills in search results</li> <li>▪ Highlights search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML/ MS Word/ PDF (click 'Bill Information' to have the option to change formats)</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) "Search" option covers many years</li> <li>(-) "Help for Searches" not helpful</li> </ul>	
RI State of Rhode Island General Assembly			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/">http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	webteam@rilin.state.ri.us
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/search/search.asp?SearchWhere=/Billtext09/">http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/search/search.asp?SearchWhere=/Billtext09/</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1997 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available on top left of home page, gives additional information besides bills</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "Legislation" from top menu bar, then click "Bill Text" or "Bill Status"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ can search bills by text by clicking the "Search" button, otherwise must choose either House or Senate and search by bill number</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Has "Searching Tips" at bottom of text search</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " ", not *</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by clicking on the year in left menu bar under search</li>   <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Can search House or Senate or both</li> <li>(-) Advanced search just searches entire site, not helpful</li> </ul>	

<b>SC South Carolina Legislature</b>			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.scstatehouse.gov/">http://www.scstatehouse.gov/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	"Contact Us" link
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.scstatehouse.gov/cgi-bin/query.exe?first=FIRST&amp;querytext=&amp;category=Legislation&amp;session=118">http://www.scstatehouse.gov/cgi-bin/query.exe?first=FIRST&amp;querytext=&amp;category=L egislation&amp;session=118</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1975 - Present
<b>Bill Searching</b>		<b>(+/-) Characteristics</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available on right of home page by bill number, text, etc.</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by number or bill text; search current session by clicking "Current Legislation"</li> <li>▪ Can search previous legislation by clicking "Archives" from top menu</li> <li>▪ Gives different versions when clicking on bill; search tips by clicking "Help" under search bar</li> <li>▪ In current legislation search, gives option to search all sessions when clicking "Change Sessions"</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " ", not *</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by clicking "Archives" on top menu bar</li>   <li>▪ Highlights search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Can scroll through bills using search term arrows</p> <p>(-) Hard to navigate site</p>	
<b>SD South Dakota Legislature</b>			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://legis.state.sd.us/">http://legis.state.sd.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(605) 773-3251
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2010/TextSearch.aspx">http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2010/TextSearch.aspx</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1997 - Present
<b>Bill Searching</b>		<b>(+/-) Characteristics</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available on homepage for text or bill number.</li> <li>▪ Can search bills on current session by choosing "Current Legislative Session", then "Bills" and "Text Search"</li> <li>▪ Can search previous sessions by clicking "Past sessions" on left menu bar</li> <li>▪ Search tips appear under search bar</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " ", not *</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions before searching under previous sessions</li>   <li>▪ Provides different versions of bills in search results</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML/ PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Provides "Students' Page" so that students can easily access to legislative information and to facilitate their learning</p>	

TN Tennessee General Assembly			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/">http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	webmaster@capitol.tn.gov
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/billsearch/BillSearch.aspx">http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/billsearch/BillSearch.aspx</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1995 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available on bottom of homepage by number or keyword</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by bill number, hit "Legislation" from top menu bar then "Bill Search"</li> <li>▪ Can search by keywords, hit "Legislation" from top menu, click "Bill Search" then "Advanced Search"</li> <li>▪ No search tips</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " ", not *</li>   <li>▪ Can change sessions by clicking "Legislation" then "Archives"</li>   <li>▪ Gets bill history and amendments when clicking on bill</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Does not use any symbols to change text, writes out to delete "(old text)" and substitute "(new text)" instead</li> </ul>		<p>(+) Have a function to search bills and resolutions separately under keyword search</p> <p>(-) Does not tell you the number of search results</p>	
TX Texas Legislature			
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.state.tx.us/">http://www.legis.state.tx.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(512) 463-1252
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Search/BillSearch.aspx">http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Search/BillSearch.aspx</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1993 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available on homepage by bill number or keyword; can change sessions by dropdown</li> <li>▪ Click "Bill Search" under "Additional Search" link on homepage; search by bill number, click either "Text Search" or "Bill Lookup"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ can choose the version of bills by drop down menu</li> <li>✓ search tips by clicking on the ? in text search</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Can change sessions by drop down menu next to search</li>   <li>▪ Highlights search term on bills</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Offers much information, including different versions of bills and good information in results</p> <p>(+) Goes back to 1993</p> <p>(-) Hard to navigate and not always easy to sort out all the information given</p>	

UT		Utah State Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.le.state.ut.us/">http://www.le.state.ut.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(801) 538-1032
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.le.state.ut.us/asp/billsintro/index.asp">http://www.le.state.ut.us/asp/billsintro/index.asp</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1997 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick bill search available by number or keyword on right menu bar</li> <li>▪ Bill searching by bill number or text, click "Bills" then "Search Bills/Bill Requests"</li> <li>▪ Can change sessions by drop down menu in quick search or under "Bills"</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search terms</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML/ PDF/ WP zipped</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <i><u>italic underline</u></i>; deleted text - <del>bracket strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Easy to search bills, but does not allow you to search multiple words</p> <p>(+) Full of useful information regarding legislative information</p> <p>(-) In search results, does not get relevant results</p> <p>(-) No search tips available</p>	

VT		The State of Vermont Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.leg.state.vt.us/">http://www.leg.state.vt.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(802) 828-2231
<b>Bill Search Link</b>	<a href="http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/billtextSearch.cfm?Session=2010">http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/billtextSearch.cfm?Session=2010</a>	<b>Years Covered</b>	1993 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by clicking "Legislative Information Database", click either "Bill Status" to search by number or "Bill Text" to search by keyword</li> <li>▪ Does not recognizes " " and *</li> <li>▪ Search tips up under text search</li> <li>▪ Can change session by selecting session on left menu bar when searching</li> <li>▪ Provides different versions of bills, including bills introduced and amended</li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search terms</li> <li>▪ Bill format: PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Provides bills according to the process of policy formation</p> <p>(-) No quick search available</p>	

VA		Virginia General Assembly	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://legis.state.va.us/">http://legis.state.va.us/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(804) 698-7410; (804) 698-1470 (in session only)
<b>Bill Search Link</b>		<b>Years Covered</b>	1994 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quick search available by bill number on the main page</li> <li>▪ Can search across all sessions, choose the "Legislative Information System" link at the top of the main page then choose the "Bills &amp; Resolutions" link underneath the across sessions category at the bottom of the page</li> <li>▪ Can search previous sessions by linking underneath the quick search for bill text search and session tracking</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " and *</li>   <li>▪ Does highlights search terms</li> <li>▪ Bill formats: HTML/ PDF</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Provides "Visitor's Guide" and "Citizen's Guide" tabs to search for legislative information</p> <p>(+) Provides quick link for bill tracking with detailed guiding information</p> <p>(+) Provides examples on how to refine search</p>	
WA		Washington State Legislature	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/">http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/</a>	<b>Contact</b>	(360) 786-7573; support@leg.wa.gov
<b>Bill Search Link</b>		<b>Years Covered</b>	1985 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill searching by number, keywords or brief description</li> <li>▪ Personalized bill tracking system available to customize reports, manage personal bill tracking lists, or change default settings (must create an account)</li> <li>▪ To search previous session, click the "Detailed Legislative Reports" then "Text of a Legislative Document", from here click the "Search documents from 1985 to the present link" at the bottom of the page, type in the keyword in the search box and select year by choosing the "Previous biennia"</li> <li>▪ Recognizes " " and *</li>   <li>▪ Provides information (information button link to the right of the search box) on the meaning of a bill number                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ this information also provides a link on "Search Feature for Full Text Search" with detailed search tips</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Does not highlight search term</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		<p>(+) Good homepage layout</p> <p>(+) Provides a great deal of useful information on the bill (under "Bill Information")</p> <p>(+) Advanced Search available</p>	

WV West Virginia Legislature			
Website	<a href="http://www.legis.state.wv.us/">http://www.legis.state.wv.us/</a>	Contact	(304) 347-4836
Bill Search Link	<a href="http://www.legis.state.wv.us/bill_status/bill_status.cfm">http://www.legis.state.wv.us/bill_status/bill_status.cfm</a>	Years Covered	1993 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quick search link available on the main page (by keywords and bill number)</li> <li>Has a personalized bill tracking system that allows to create an account (free) and create lists of bills that you are interested in and follow the bills progress</li> <li>Bill searching by text for all years in the same form</li> <li>Recognizes " "</li> <li>Bill formats: HTML/ WPD (word perfect)</li> <li>Shows changes in bill text: added text - <u>underline</u>; deleted text - <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		(+) Reports most relevant results and omits redundant results; to see everything, click on the message about this	
WI Wisconsin State Legislature			
Website	<a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/">http://www.legis.state.wi.us/</a>	Contact	(608) 266-9960; (800) 362-9472
Bill Search Link	<a href="http://nxt.legis.state.wi.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&amp;fn=default.htm&amp;d=billhist&amp;jd=top">http://nxt.legis.state.wi.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&amp;fn=default.htm&amp;d=billhist&amp;jd=top</a>	Years Covered	1995 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quick search available on the top of the main page, "Quick Find"</li> <li>Bill Searching by clicking "Legislation", then "Bill Search"</li> <li>Boolean Operators (and, or, not) available</li> <li>Provides different versions of bills, including introduced and amended</li> <li>Bill formats: web formats</li> <li>Shows changes in bill text: added text: <u>underline</u> or <b>bold</b>; deleted text: <del>strikethrough</del></li> </ul>		(+) Easy to change sessions  (-) Confusing home page layout	

WY		Wyoming State Legislature	
Website	<a href="http://legisweb.state.wy.us/">http://legisweb.state.wy.us/</a>	Contact	(307) 777-7881
Bill Search Link	<a href="http://legisweb.state.wy.us/SiteSearch/LSOSiteSearch.htm">http://legisweb.state.wy.us/SiteSearch/LSOSiteSearch.htm</a>	Years Covered	2001 - Present
Bill Searching		(+/-) Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No quick search available</li> <li>▪ Search bills by subject, sponsor for current bill</li> <li>▪ Search options powered by Google</li>   <li>▪ Can search different sessions by clicking “Session Information Archives” tab</li>   <li>▪ Bill formats: PDF/ web formats</li> <li>▪ Shows changes in bill text: added text: <u>underline in red</u>; deleted text: <del>strikethrough in blue font</del></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(-) No quick search available</li>   <li>(-) Not user-friendly site layout</li> </ul>	



Authors: Jooyoung Kong, Leah Nguyen, Amy Eyler, Jillian Callanan, Beth Leinauer, Ross Brownson  
 Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Grant #65559