I. INTRODUCTION
Texas is one of the few states that have retained a unified code, which uses a single alphanumeric system of numbering for all statutes. This arrangement proved too difficult to accommodate growth in statutory law. As a result, the Texas Legislative Council began work on a non-substantive revision of the Texas statutes in 1963. This large-scale project continues today. Material is being moved from the *Vernon’s Annotated Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas* and is being incorporated into individual annotated codes arranged by subject (for example, the *Family Code*). The current Texas Statutes are available on the Texas Legislature's website Texas Legislature Online. While the online version of the statutes contain only the language of the law, the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library has a complete set of *Vernon’s Texas Codes Annotated* which is available for patrons to use in the library. This set provides helpful annotations to case law and secondary sources relevant to a particular statute.

II. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN TEXAS
The Texas Legislature meets regularly in odd-numbered years for a maximum of 140 days beginning the second Tuesday in January. Along with the 140-day session, the Governor may call special sessions to consider other matters. Both the House and Senate members introduce bills in the first 60 days. After 60 days, there are restrictions on introducing a bill. When a bill is introduced, it is assigned a bill number such as S.B. (Senate Bill) 1 or H.B. (House Bill) 1. After debate and revisions, the first version of the bill passed in both houses is called the
“enrolled bill”, which is sent to the Governor for his signature. If the bill is signed, it is later published in the state’s session laws.

III. SESSION LAWS

During the legislative session and immediately thereafter, the most recent session laws are available in pamphlets called *Vernon’s Session Law Service*. These session laws along with concurrent and joint resolutions enacted into law are subsequently published in a bound set of volumes called the *General and Special Law of Texas*, the official session law of Texas. In addition to the text of the law, the session law includes: the chapter number assigned to the bill for citation purposes; the bill number; the caption and text of the bill; the Vernon’s statute number to which the bill is assigned; date of passage; vote total; date of the governor’s signature; and effective date (if no effective date is given, it is September 1). The session law service contains a cumulative index, which provides subject access to the laws, as well as tables for use if the bill number or the Vernon’s statute number affected by the legislation is known. Session laws are ultimately codified (arranged topically) in *Vernon’s Texas Codes Annotated*. 
IV. STATUTES AND CODES

Most statutes not yet incorporated into the subject-matter codes are found in *Vernon’s Annotated Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas*. These statutes are organized by articles and further subdivided into sections. *Vernon’s Annotated Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas* also includes four independent codes—the Business Corporations Act, Code of Criminal Procedure, Insurance Code and Probate Code that have been codified, but not moved to the Annotated Code. As the Legislature continues revising and codifying Texas statutes, these independent codes will be incorporated into the subject-matter codification system. The codes are as follows:

1. Agriculture Code
2. Alcoholic Beverage Code
3. Business and Commerce Code
4. Civil Practice and Remedies Code
5. Corporations and Associations Code
6. Criminal Procedure Code
7. Education Code
8. Election Code
9. Family Code
10. Financial Code
13. Human Resources Code
15. Labor Code
16. Local Government Code
17. Natural Resources Code
18. Occupations Code
19. Parks and Wildlife Code
20. Penal Code
21. Probate Code
22. Property Code
23. Tax Code
24. Transportation Code
25. Utilities Code
26. Water Code

To locate a statute on a particular topic, check the *General Index* for the Texas statutes. The last volume of the *General Index* includes a Popular Name Table, which includes common act names, such as the Deceptive Trade Practices Act. In addition, each code contains its own index in the last volume of the individual code, which is updated in the pocket part or pamphlet supplement.
**How to Research in Vernon’s:**

1. Develop search terms from the facts  
2. Use the terms to check the index which is published annually  
3. After statute/code has been found, check the annual pocket part to see if the code has been updated or repealed.

**V. SUPERSEDED STATUTES AND CODES**

Researching the history of a particular Texas statute involves looking at the statute in its past versions. By looking at the Historical Notes section at the end of the statute, you can see when the statute was passed, amended and any former citations. There are conversation tables at the front of the codified statutes that cross-reference code provisions with their former article numbers in the *Vernon’s Annotated Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas (Revised Civil Statutes)*. Start your research with the earliest version of the statute as printed in the Historical Notes. At the end of the Revised Civil Statutes are various supplements that are organized chronologically and by subject matter and article number. Check these supplements also. In sum, check the earliest version of the law and then year by year through the supplements.

If the law has been codified, superseded codified statutes can be found in alphabetical and chronological order by code. The specific code’s supplements begin after the last volume of the code. Peruse all editions of the codified statute and then go through each year of the supplements that follow to ensure that you have viewed all of our holdings regarding the specific statute.

**VI. HOW TO CITE TEXAS STATUTE AND CODES**

In order to cite Texas statute and codes properly, refer to Rule 10 in the *Texas Rules of Form*. Below are proper citations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Citation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Codified Statute</td>
<td>Cite material in these statutes to the subject codes, or, if appropriate, their supplements. The citation should include the name of the subject matter code, the section number, and a parenthetical including the publisher and year.</td>
<td><em>Tex. Water Code Ann.</em> § 15.732 (Vernon 1997).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Laws</td>
<td>The elements of a session law citation are: name of statute, legislature and session of enactment; the chapter and session number of the statute; the publication; and the future location in the code.</td>
<td><em>Act of May 27, 2005, 79th Leg., R.S., ch. 484, 2005 Tex. Gen. Laws 1345 (Vernon) (to be codified at Tex. Fam. Code § 107.013(c)).</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VII. WHERE TO LOCATE TEXAS STATUTES

- Texas Legislature Online, Texas Statutes
  - http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/

- Print
  - Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library Aisles 107A & 107 B

- Westlaw
  - Texas Statutes – Unannotated, TX-ST Database
  - Texas Statutes – Annotated, TX-ST-ANN Database
  - Historical Statutes – Annotated, TX-STANNXX Databases (insert the year for XX; e.g., TX-STANN92 to search the 1992 annotated statutes)

- Lexis
  - Texas Codes and Rules Annotated – TEX Library, TXCODE File
  - Texas Statutes and Codes – TEX Library, CODE File
  - Texas Statutes and Codes Archive – TEX Library, TXARCH File

- Individual codes are located in the Reserve section, which is behind the Reference Desk.

VII. WORKS CONSULTED

