

# THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY

## Pathfinder Series

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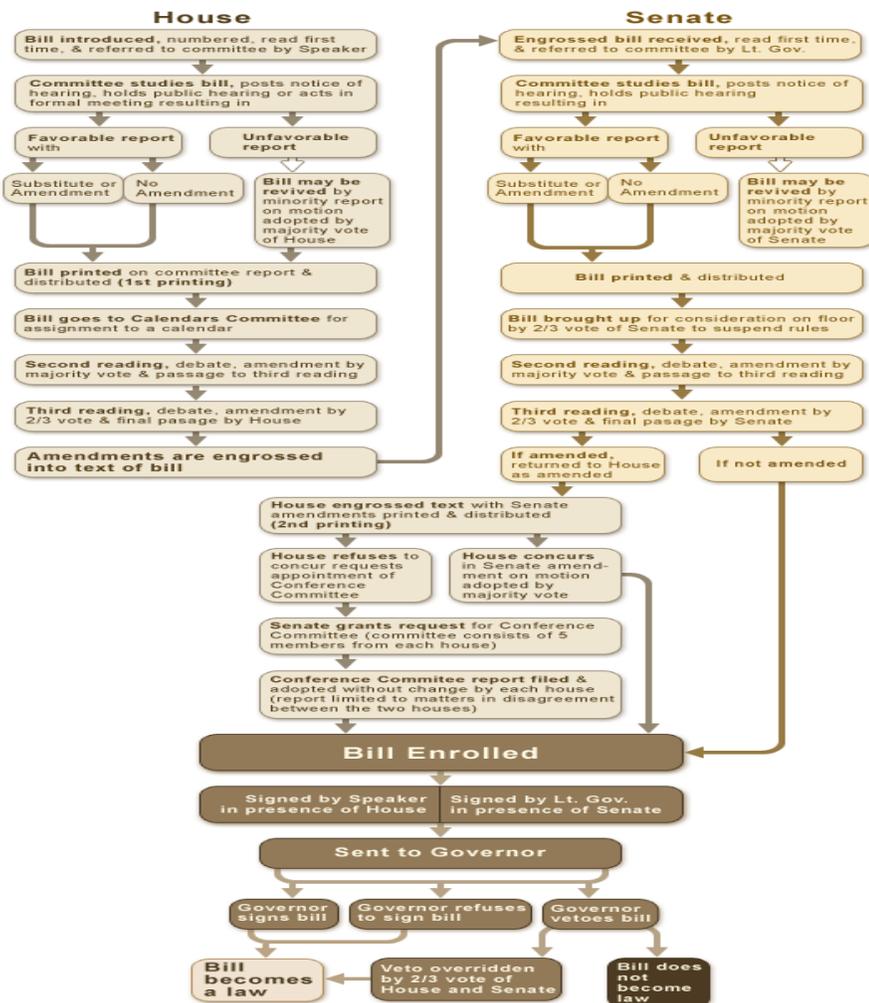
# Texas Statutes and Codes

## 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*.

SUNSET

<p><b>SUNSET ACT—Cont’d</b>          Medical board, Oer 351.006          Medical care and treatment, integument, all          body members, Ger 331.363          Mental health, children and minors, busi-          ness, H &amp; S 333.012          Mental health and mental retardation depart-          ment, application, H &amp; S 332.002          Metropolitan rapid transit authorities, Tran          611.430          Motorists, boards and commissions, Oer          361.000          Motion pictures, promotions, loans, Ger          361.020          Motor vehicle department, Tran 1001.000          National resources conservation commission,          Water 5.014          Names and numbering, this index          Organizational structure, administration and re-          gulation, boards and commissions, Oer          361.000          Ophthalmology, ophthalmic dispensing and depen-          dency, Hum R 64.004          On-site research, treatment research team          on, H &amp; S 361.000          Optometric and optometry, boards and com-          missions, Oer 361.000          Organic, human, and eye donor services, H &amp; S          333.000          Outfalls and pre-treatment, Oer 601.000          Patients and patient board, Ger 361.000          Parks and wildlife department, P &amp; W          11.010          Application of law, P &amp; W 11.011          Patient review board, Ger 361.000          People with disabilities, governance committee          on, Hum R 114.000</p>	<p><b>SUNSET ACT—Cont’d</b>          Real estate appraisers, boards and commis-          sions, Oer 1101.000          Real estate brokers and salespersons, boards          and commissions, Oer 1101.000          Real River groundwater conservation district,          local directors, Oer 1003.000          Rehabilitation commission, Hum R 111.010          Residential conservation subdivisions, Prop          401.000          Residential conservation commission, Prop          401.000          Retail office department, Ger 401.000          Savings and mortgage lending department,          Fin 12.010          Schools and health, Nat R 21.000          Security board, review of board, Cr-Stat,          601.0          Self-directed interdependent agencies, pro-          fessions and occupations, Cr-Stat, 600          Social workers, boards and commissions, Oer          361.000          Speech language pathologists and audiolo-          gists, boards and commissions, Oer          361.000          State bar, Ger 31.000          State federal relations office, Ger 711.000          State health services department, application          of law, H &amp; S 361.000          State history, Ger 661.000          State health education board, review board,          Cr-Stat, 400a          Strategic economic development planning          commission, Ger 411.000          Storage and recovery, boards and commis-          sions, Oer 1071.000          Student administration, application, Ger</p>
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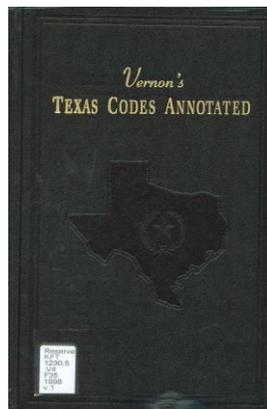
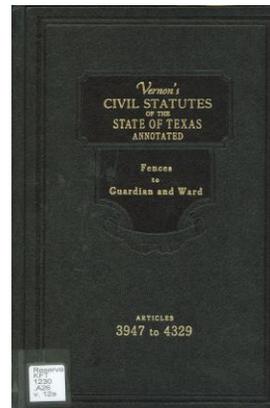
**SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**Generally, Gov 325.003 et seq.**  
**Attorneys, continuing legal education, credit,**  
**Gov 81.113**

<p>Public finance authority, Ger 3221.000          Public insurance renewal, Ins 011.000          Public safety department, Ger 111.000          Public utility commission, Util 11.000          Public utility account office, Util 11.000          Public utility regulation, Util, CCJP          22.15          Railroad commission, Cr-Stat, 4400a, Nat R          11.00001</p>	<p><b>SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION</b>          Generally, Ger 325.003 et seq.          Attorneys, continuing legal education, credit,          Ger 81.113          Confidential or privileged information, Ger          325.000          Gifts or grants, Ger 325.004</p>
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#### 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
11. Government Code
12. Health and Safety Code
13. Human Resources Code
14. Insurance 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.

Type	Explanation	Citation
Codified Statute	Cite material in these statutes to the subject codes, or, if appropriate, their supplements. The citation should include the name of the <b>subject matter code</b> , <b>the section number</b> , and a <b>parenthetical including the publisher and year</b> .	<b>Tex. Water Code Ann. § 15.732 (Vernon 1997).</b>
Current Uncodified Statutes	Statutes not incorporated into the subject matter codes are found in <i>Vernon’s Annotated Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas</i> . Articles are organized by <b>articles</b> , which are further divided by sections.	<b>Tex. Rev. Civ. Stat. Ann. Art. 581-33F(2) (Vernon Supp. 2004-2005).</b>
Session Laws	The elements of a session law citation are: <b>name of statute</b> , <b>legislature and session of enactment</b> ; <b>the chapter and session number of the statute</b> ; <b>the publication</b> ; and <b>the future location in the code</b> .	<b>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)).</b>

## 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

Cordon, Matthew C. and Brandon D. Quarles, Legal Research for the Texas Practitioner. United States of America: William S. Hein & Co., Inc., 2003.

Available at Classified (KFT1275 .Q37 2003).

Brandt, Lydia M. V. Texas Legal Research: An Essential Lawyering Skill. Dallas: Texas Lawyer Press, 1995.

Available at Classified (KFT1275 .B73 1995).

Cordon, Matthew C. and Brandon D. Quarles, Researching Texas Law . William S. Hein & Co., Inc., 2008.

Available at Classified (KFT1275 .Q37 2008).