



Library Briefs

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From the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library, an office of the Maine Legislature

WE'RE ALWAYS HERE: The Law and Legislative Reference Library serves the Legislature and the people of Maine all year round. If you need assistance on a topic during the interim or if you wish to refer a constituent to us, please feel free to contact us. Please let us know how we can help you. Remember that the best ways to contact the Reference Desk are by phone at 287-1600 or via our reference intake form at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/lawlib/refemail.htm>.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES: Many of the Law Library's resources are available electronically, as well as in print. Researching online can be tricky, but the rewards of more flexible searching and easily tailored results can ease the task of many researchers. If you would like to learn more about how to access the many databases and documents at your fingertips, please contact Elaine Apostola at 287-1600, or stop by the Reference Desk. We will be glad to provide you with individualized assistance.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORIES: Our collection of online legislative histories continues to grow. At present we have 33 topical histories on our website, and individual legislative histories for all LDs and papers from the 114th Legislature through the first session of the 128th Legislature. All of these legislative histories link to documents, including debate and reports, or provide references for committee testimony and newspaper articles that can easily be requested from the Reference Desk. Check out our legislative history collection through our portal at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/lawlib/lldl/legishistory.htm>.

OUTSIDE IN: Visitors to the Law and Legislative Reference Library are now greeted by a new artwork commissioned by the Maine Arts Commission. Artist Judith Allen of Portland has created "Outside In" from sheets of copper salvaged from the old State House dome. "Outside In" draws on the shapes of pine trees and shadow to recreate a Maine forest scene above the exterior doors of the Law Library. The artist herself oversaw the installation. Please stop by for a moment to take in this beautiful and intriguing addition to the Law Library corridor.



DIGITAL COLLECTIONS: The Law and Legislative Reference Library is closing in on the conclusion of our project to digitize all available committee master files. We are working on the first half of the files from the 111th Legislature (1982-1984), and hope to wrap up this gargantuan effort in a matter of weeks. At present we have more than 1,529,000 pages of testimony and related committee materials digitized and ready for instantaneous delivery to our patrons. To request a committee file on an LD, contact the Reference Desk at 287-1600 or by email at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/lawlib/refemail.htm>.



PRESERVATION: We recently marked the tenth anniversary of the project to put our news clipping collection in electronic format. There are now more than 150,000 articles in our database, electronically searchable and retrievable. Our most recent efforts involve digitizing the oldest clippings in our collection, going back to the 1940s and in fragile condition. These clippings include unique items about Maine's attorneys, judiciary, legislators, and other interesting people involved in Maine government. The news clipping collection is searchable at the public terminals in the Law Library, or you can ask the reference librarian to assist you with a topical search.



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We look forward to serving you!

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