

What's In the Index?


from the Theobald Legislative Library

The *Index to the Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature* is produced by legislative librarians at the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB). It is a companion volume to the *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature* produced by staff of the Senate and Assembly Chief Clerks. Through its subject and author indexes, the *Index* assists users in locating a bill, resolution, or joint resolution.

What's in it?

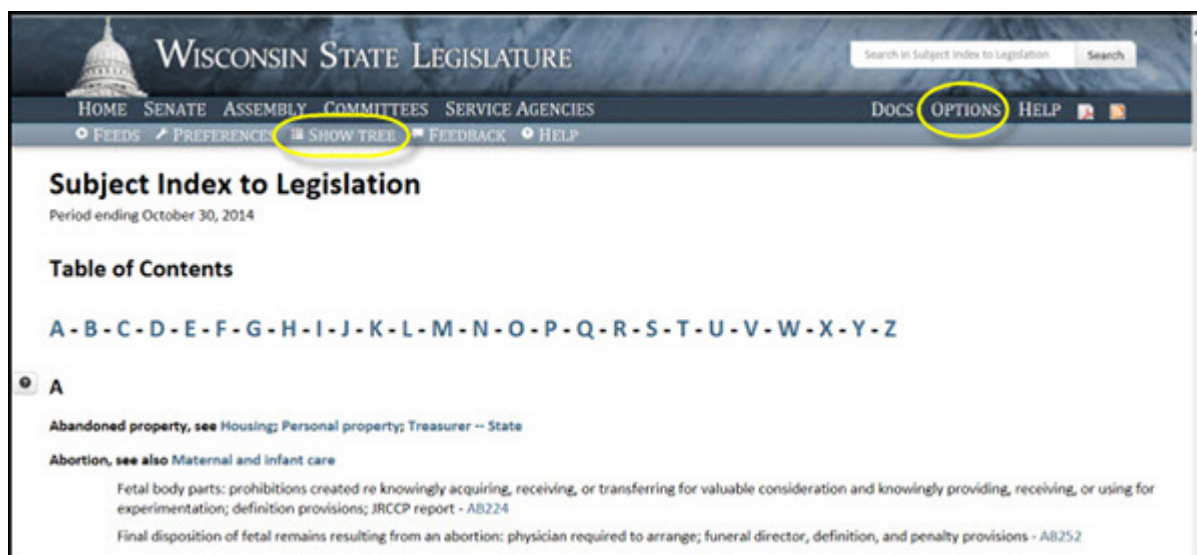
- ◆ ***Subject Index to Legislation:*** A guide to all bills, resolutions, and joint resolutions introduced during the session. Arranged by subject, it gives a descriptive abstract and the bill number of each piece of legislation. Notes on substantial amendments to enrolled bills are added. Hundreds of detailed abstracts are written to describe the budget bill, including section numbers. Substantial changes to budget concepts by amendment are reflected in the abstracts, along with the changes in related section numbers. Cross references (*see* and *see also*) are added to point users to related subjects and to direct users from a catch phrase or subtopic to the appropriate subject.
- ◆ ***Author Index to Legislation:*** There are four author indexes. The **Senate** and **Assembly** author indexes give access to legislation authored or sponsored by an individual legislator. Joint Rule 77 (2) determines whether the bill abstract or number appears under the legislator's name. **Legislative Committees** author index lists legislation authored or sponsored by committee. **Entire Membership** index displays legislation authored or sponsored by an entire house.
- ◆ ***Subject Index to Journals:*** Arranged by subject, this index provides a guide to pertinent information in the Senate and Assembly journals, such as committee appointments, reports to the legislature, rulings of the chair, and resignations.
- ◆ ***Subject Index to Acts:*** A guide to all enrolled bills, Wisconsin acts, enrolled joint resolutions, and Supreme Court orders. Arranged by subject, the descriptive abstract reflects changes made by amendments. Veto information and, in the case of budget abstracts, section numbers affected by veto action are noted.

Where can I find it online? <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/>



The screenshot shows the Wisconsin State Legislature website. The main navigation bar includes: HOME, SENATE, ASSEMBLY, COMMITTEES, SERVICE AGENCIES, DOCS, OPTIONS, HELP. A search bar is located at the top right. The page content is organized into several columns:

- Statutes:** 1. Table of Contents, 2. Subject Index to the Statutes, 3. Sections Affected by Acts, 4. Statute Cross-References, 5. Wisconsin Constitution
- Administrative Code:** 1. Table of Contents, 2. Administrative Register, 3. Subject Index to Administrative Code, 4. Administrative Code Cross-References, 5. Administrative Code Citations, 6. Clearinghouse Rules (Active Rules), 7. Final Filed Rule Orders, 8. Subject Index to Clearinghouse Rules, 9. Emergency Rules
- 2013-14 Session:** 1. Senators and Representatives, 2. Committees, 3. Bill, Rule, and Appointment Histories, 4. Text of Introduced Proposals, 5. Amendment Text, 6. Acts, 7. Veto Messages, 8. Enrolled Bills, 9. Drafting Files, 10. Votes, 11. Assembly and Senate Floor Calendars, 12. Schedule of Committee Activities, 13. Assembly and Senate Journals, 14. Committee Records (ROCPS), 15. Legislative Rules, 16. All Session-Related Documents
- Bulletin of Proceedings Indices:** 1. Subject Index to Acts, 2. **Subject Index to Legislation** (highlighted), 3. Subject Index to Journals, 4. Author Index to Legislation, 5. Subject Index to Clearinghouse Rules, 6. Miscellaneous Budget Documents
- Miscellaneous Documents:** 1. Executive Orders, 2. Rulings of the Chair, 3. Wisconsin Supreme Court Rules, 4. Opinions of the Attorney General, 5. Town Law Forms
- Archives:** 1. Law, 2. Districts, 3. Session, 4. Drafting Files, 5. Admin Code
- Links:** 1. Help, 2. Feeds, 3. Preferences, 4. Feedback, 5. Notification Service



Under “Laws and Legislation” on the Legislature’s homepage (<http://legis.wisconsin.gov>), you’ll find every component of the *Index* (see image on first page) from the current session. The *Subject Index to Legislation* includes links to a summary page with links to the text of the bills, the bill history, Journal page, amendments, committee proceedings, and Legislative Council memos. The document grows to around 250 pages by the end of the session. Use “Show Tree” under “Options” to scroll through subjects and cross references or the alphabet shortcuts to jump around the document (see image above). The *Subject Index to Acts* includes links to the text of the acts. The *Author Index to Legislation* includes links to the text of the bills in a similar way as the *Subject Index to Legislation*. The *Subject Index to Journals* includes links to the Assembly and Senate journal pages. Every component of the *Index* is also available in a PDF format, just click on the Adobe icon.

The *Index* is available online back to 1995. To go to a specific session from the Docs page, <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov>, select “3. Session” under “Archives.” A *Subject Index to Legislation* search, for example, will look at every index back to 1995. The results can be limited further by selecting biennium.

The *Subject Index to Legislation* and the Senate and Assembly author indexes are updated frequently. The remaining author indexes, the *Subject Index to Journals*, and the *Subject Index to Acts* are updated as needed.

Under “Miscellaneous Budget Documents” you will find budget drafts (the individual bill drafts that go into the final budget bill), and the *Budget Index Report*. Posted shortly after the budget is introduced, the *Budget Index Report* provides immediate and easy access to budget provisions.

Before 1995

The indexes are only available in paper prior to 1995. Bound volumes are available in the LRB reference area and at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library.

The *Wisconsin Legislation Retrospective Card File*, located in the LRB reference area, is a comprehensive subject index to Wisconsin legislation in a catalog card format covering the years 1895 to 1994. It is arranged first by subject then by date. The LRB began indexing legislation in 1903 for in-house use and retrospectively indexed legislation back to 1895. Beginning in 1969 and under the direction of the Chief of the LRB, the *Index* was published as a separate title from the Senate and Assembly *Bulletins*. Prior to 1969, the Senate and Assembly *Bulletins* had their own subject indexes. Bound copies of the *Index* and the other volumes of the *Bulletin of the Proceedings* are shelved with the Senate and Assembly Journal volumes in the LRB reference area.