WESTLAW EDGE

How to compare statutes from different jurisdictions

Compare Text in Westlaw Edge™ allows you to select a snippet of text up to 4,000 characters from two Westlaw Edge documents to quickly compare the similarities and differences. You can use Compare Text with cases, statutes, regulations, secondary sources, trial court orders, expert materials, court rules, legislative history, proposed and enacted legislation, administrative decisions and guidance, and Business Law Center. Let’s take a look at an example of how this tool can help you with statutory research.

How to compare the text of two different jurisdictional statutes

Comparing statutes between different states, comparing statutes to uniform laws, or comparing or comparing a jurisdiction's court rules to one another is often needed when conducting legal research.

SELECT YOUR TEXT

1. Begin with your first statute and right click on the text you would like to compare. Then, select Add to Compare.
2. Select your next statute and right click on the text you would like to compare. Now select Add to Compare.
3. The names of the selections may be edited with pencil icon if you’d like to create your own description. Up to 10 text selections may be saved at a time and expire after one year.
4. Select the boxes next to the two text sections you would like to compare and select Compare.
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VIEWING COMPARE TEXT REPORTS

There are two different reports available, Side By Side View and Compare View. If you are comparing versions of a statute from different jurisdictions, Side By Side View will be the easiest way to compare the similarities and differences. Compare View is a better report choice if you’re analyzing differences between versions of the same text.

- Side By Side View allows you to view two snippets of selected text and highlight matching text and text differences.
  - Arrows allow you to navigate between similarities and differences.
  - You can change the view to show either similarities or differences between the documents with the dial in the top left.
  - Highlights can be turned on or off with the toggle switch on the right.

- Compare View displays a redline comparison of two selected snippets of text.
  - Arrows to the left of the document title allows you to invert the comparison and view which document is your primary. Your primary document's language is the one that will show up as deleted text. The added text will be the language from the document that is not marked as primary.
  - Navigate across the differences with arrows in the top left.
  - Highlights can be turned on or off with the toggle switch on the right.
DELIVERING AND SAVING THE COMPARE TEXT REPORT

To deliver either the Side by Side or Compare View reports, click on the delivery icon in the top right-hand corner of the screen and select Email, Print or Download. Then, select what you would like to deliver Side by Side similarities, Side by side differences or Compare View.

At the bottom of the Compare text screen, click Save. Up to 10 Compare text reports may be saved at a time.
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CHANGING TEXT TO COMPARE

Click on Change selections from the Compare text screen. Select the boxes next to your new selections and click Compare.

ACCESSING ALREADY SAVED COMPARE TEXT OR COMPARE TEXT REPORTS

To access already selected text or review a Compare Text report you’ve saved you can access Compare Text from a couple different locations in Westlaw Edge:

- Tools tab on the home page
- From Tools & Resources within Statutes & Court Rules

Looking for more information?

To sign into Westlaw Edge, visit westlaw.com/edge.
For assistance using Westlaw Edge, call the Reference Attorneys at +1 800 REF ATTY (+1 800 733 2889).
For additional training materials, visit tr.com/westlawedge-training.