WESTLAW EDGE

How to check the status of a statute using KeyCite

Use KeyCite® on Thomson Reuters Westlaw Edge™ to instantly verify whether a statute is still good law and to find citing references to support your legal argument. KeyCite information is available for federal statutes and statutes from all 50 states.

Accessing KeyCite

There are several ways to access KeyCite information:

• While viewing a document with a KeyCite flag, click the flag.
• While viewing any document, the History or Citing References tabs at the top of the page.
• Enter kc or keycite followed by a citation, e.g., kc 26 C.F.R. § 1.301-1, in the Search bar at the top of the page and click Search.

Checking Statutes or Court Rules in KeyCite

If a statute or court rule has a red or yellow flag, the most negative treatment is displayed next to the flag at the top of the document. Most negative treatment consists of phrases such as Unconstitutional, Preempted, or Proposed Legislation and includes a link to the underlying document, if available, for your review.

KEYCITE STATUS FLAGS FOR STATUTES

- A red flag indicates that the statute has been amended by a recent session law, repealed, superseded, or held unconstitutional or preempted in whole or in part.
- A yellow flag indicates that the statute has been renumbered or transferred by a recent session law, that an uncodified session law or proposed legislation affecting the statute is available, that the statute was limited on constitutional or preemption grounds or its validity was otherwise called into doubt, or that a prior version of the statute received negative treatment from a court.

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VIEWING HISTORY FOR A STATUTE

Click the History tab for more information on the statute you’re researching, including:

- **Graphical Statute**, which helps you visually track changes to a statute
- **Validity**, which includes cases affecting the validity of the statute, recent session laws that have amended or repealed the statute, and proposed legislation
- **Versions**, which includes prior versions of the statute and allows you to compare any two versions
- **Editor’s and Revisor’s Notes**, which show legislative changes affecting a statute section as detailed by West attorney-editors or state revisors’ offices
- **Bill Drafts**, which includes drafts of bills introduced before a section was enacted into law
- **Legislative History Materials**, which lists reports, journals, Congressional Record documents, presidential or executive messages, and testimony relevant to the section
VIEWING CITING REFERENCES FOR A STATUTE

The Citing References tab allows you to view cases, statutes, regulations, administrative decisions, secondary sources, briefs and pleadings, motions, memoranda, and other documents that have cited the statute you are researching. This tab makes it easy to evaluate how the courts have interpreted a statute and to gain insight into legislative intent. To change the order in which the citing references are displayed, select a date option from the Sort By drop-down list on the toolbar.

To narrow the list of citing references, you can:

• Enter terms in the Search within results box in the left column.
• Click a document type in the left column, e.g., Cases. You can further narrow this list by selecting a filter in the left column, e.g., Jurisdiction.

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