

Finding Current Michigan Laws at Flint Public Library: Print and Online Sources

ABOUT MICHIGAN LAW

Each session, the Michigan Legislature, comprised of the Michigan Senate and Michigan House of Representatives, considers thousands of bills, or proposed laws. When a bill or resolution is introduced, committees and members of each House debate and revise it. Once both houses approve the bill, it is sent to the Governor, who can either sign it into law or veto it. Once the law is either signed, or 14 days elapse without the Governor's signature, or both houses of Congress override a veto, the bill becomes a law.

SOURCES OF MICHIGAN LAW:

PRINT SOURCES:

- **Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (M.C.L.A.)
(Reference 345.22 MI - Law Aisle)**

Multi-volume set that contains current Michigan laws arranged by subject. Also contains references (annotations) to other sources of information and summaries of court decisions that interpret laws. Kept up to date with pocket parts, *Michigan Legislative Service*, and *Interim Annotation Service*.

- **Michigan Legislative Service**

(Reference 345.22 MI - Law Aisle)

Series of pamphlets issued during each legislative session that contain recently enacted public acts. Also contains a cumulative table showing **M.C.L.A.** sections that have had additions, amendments, etc. Use pamphlets in conjunction with **M.C.L.A.** to ensure that you have the most current law.

- **Interim Annotation Service**

(Reference 345.22 MI - Law Aisle)

Contains updated **M.C.L.A.** annotations.

- **Public and Local Acts of the Legislature of the State of Michigan (Public and Local Acts: MI)
(Michigan History 345.22 Mi)**

Bound volumes by year that contain public laws (also referred to as session laws) that are arranged by legislative session and numerical order; Flint Public Library has 1865-2007. See **Michigan Session Laws** for public acts enacted after 2007. *Please note: In order to find a Public Act, you must know the year it was enacted as well its number.*

- **Michigan Session Laws: Public and Local Acts (Michigan Session Laws)
(Michigan History 345.22 Mi)**

Commercially produced counterpart to **Public and Local Acts: MI**. Flint Public Library has 2000-current.

- **Michigan Law and Practice: (M.L.P.2d)
(Reference 345.22 Mi - Law Aisle)**

An encyclopedia of Michigan law and cases that is an excellent starting place when researching Michigan law. Volumes are in topical order and are updated by annual cumulative pocket parts, Interim Supplements and General Indices. **M.L.P. 2d** refers to laws that can be found in **M.C.L.A.**, **Michigan Legislature**, and some cases that can be found in **North Western Reporter, Second Series** (see *Finding Michigan Court Cases* guide)

- **Shepard's Acts and Cases by Popular Names: Federal and State (Shepard's)
(Reference 345 Sh - Law Aisle) (Current through 2004)**

Provides citations to both federal and state laws and cases that are commonly referred to by popular name. Both the acts and cases are arranged alphabetically. *Note: This source covers laws and cases for all fifty states; the majority of citations are to books that the Flint Public Library does not own*

- **Callaghan's Michigan Digest (Callaghan's)
(Reference 347.99 Ca - Law Aisle)**

Provides a summary of cases affecting Michigan laws, including all reported decisions of the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court, as well as Michigan Attorney General opinions and selected Michigan-related decisions of the federal courts in the Sixth Circuit, which has jurisdiction over Michigan.

ONLINE SOURCES:

- **Michigan Legislature**
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/>
Contains unannotated Michigan Compiled Laws (**M.C.L.**), Public Acts as originally passed (1995 – current), Public Acts as written in the current M.C.L., Acts by Popular Name, and **M.C.L.** Tables (1980–current). Site allows users to search for Michigan laws several ways, including by law, section, and chapter number, popular name, and keyword.
- **Frequently Requested Laws**
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/mileg.asp?page=mostrequestedbycategory>
The State of Michigan’s most frequently requested laws.

HOW TO FIND A MICHIGAN LAW BY CITATION

1974	PA	296
↑	↑	↑
Year	abbreviation for Public Act	Public Act Number

- To view Public Acts as passed:
 - Use **Public and Local Acts: MI** or **Michigan Session Laws**. Look for year the act was passed and then the Public Act number. Current volumes also provide **M.C.L./M.C.L.A.** section numbers.
 - Use *“Public Acts (Signed Bills)”* on [Michigan Legislature](#) (online source) to search by Public Act number and year.
- To convert a Public Act number to **M.C.L.A.** citation,
 - Use **M.C.L.A.**’s Tables volumes or *“Public Act MCL Search”* on [Michigan Legislature](#) (online source)

M.C.L.A.	445.351
↑	↑
Abbreviation for Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (unofficial reporter)	Chapter . Section

- Refer to the **M.C.L.A.** volume that contains the correct chapter/section number.
- [Michigan Legislature](#) (online source) allows users to search by **M.C.L.** number. *M.C.L. and M.C.L.A. use the same numbering system.*

M.C.L.	445.351
↑	↑
Abbreviation for Michigan Compiled Laws (official reporter)	Chapter . Section

- Use **M.C.L.A.** or [Michigan Legislature](#) (online source) to find **M.C.L.** citations; *M.C.L. and M.C.L.A. use the same numbering system*

HOW TO FIND A MICHIGAN LAW BY POPULAR NAME:

- Use **M.C.L.A.**'s "Popular Name Table" located at the end of the General Index. This table contains an alphabetical listing of select Michigan laws which are commonly referred to by popular name.
- Use **Shepard's**, which contains citations to Michigan laws commonly referred to by popular name, current to 2004. The laws can then be found in **M.C.L.A.** or at [Michigan Legislature](#) (online source).
- Use [Michigan Legislature's](#) (online source) Basic or Advanced MCL search modes or the [Frequently Requested Laws](#).

HOW TO FIND A MICHIGAN LAW ON A TOPIC:

- Use the general index to **M.L.P.2d**. The index to **M.L.P. 2d** refers users to certain chapters and sections (§, §§) of particular volumes that pertain to a topic. For a complete listing of abbreviations used in the index see the "Table of Topic Abbreviations" located in beginning of the General Index. **M.L.P.2d** provides a synopsis of the topic and makes references to relevant laws which can then be found in either **M.C.L.A.** or [Michigan Legislature](#) (online source)
- Use the index to **M.C.L.A.**, which is arranged in a similar fashion to **M.L.P.2d**. **M.C.L.A.** uses extensive cross references which are explained in the Preface to Volume One.

HOW TO FIND THE MOST RECENT AMENDMENTS TO A MICHIGAN LAW WHEN USING M.C.L.A.

Once you find a law in the bound volumes of **M.C.L.A.**, you must determine if there have been any changes to the law since the volume was published.

- Refer to the volume's pocket part located in the back of the book.
- Consult Table 1 in the most current **Michigan Legislative Service** pamphlet to determine if any section has been affected by recently enacted public acts.
- Search [Michigan Legislature](#) (online source); there may have been amendments to the law since the last **Michigan Legislative Service** pamphlet was published. The latest act incorporated into the database is noted in the upper right hand corner of the web site.

HOW TO FIND A RECENT MICHIGAN LAW

- See [Michigan Legislature](#) (online source) for recently enacted laws.