Review of State Legislative Sourcebook

Paul M. Birch

University of Richmond, pbirch@richmond.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarship.richmond.edu/law-faculty-publications

Part of the Legal Writing and Research Commons

Recommended Citation
Paul M. Birch, Book Review, 8 Jurisdocs 45 (1986).

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Law at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Law Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.
Contents

The President's Page . . . . . 32
Letter from the Editor . . . . 33
Effect of Gramm-Rudman . . . 34
Gramm-Rudman Cutback . . . 35
AALL Convention Programs . . 36
D.L.C. - Spring 1986 . . . . 38
ALA Midwinter (GODORT) . . 42
N.L.R.B. Commemorative Publication: A Review . . 44
State Legislative Sourcebook:
A Review . . . . . . . . . . . 45
Depository Workshop . . . . 46
State Department Program . . 47
New AALL Nominations Form . 48
State Bibliographies . . . . 49
Contributions/Subscriptions . 50
of the supporting documents have been gathered together in one source. This provides valuable information to any student of labor law seeking a better understanding of the process leading to the passage of the law. Their titles are: Legislative History of the National Labor Relations Act, 1935 (LR1.5:L22/v.1-2); Legislative History of the Labor Management Act, 1947 (LR1.5:Lii/3/v.1-2), and Legislative History of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (LR.5:L1/7/v.1-2)

Each volume is arranged by house with each piece of legislation presented in chronological order along with supporting materials. While this arrangement may at first appear difficult to the user who wishes to study only one section of the law, it need not be an obstacle. Three indexes have been created to aid the researcher - a sectional index (from the law to the historical document), a topical index, and an index to names and cases cited within.

Every effort has been made to duplicate the document as it first appeared. Original page numbers appear in brackets, with each page of the history being numbered sequentially aid in the index reference. The index references are also differentiated to give a clearer idea to the user of just what they are looking at. Bold-face type indicates drafts of bills, italics indicate hearings and roman print is indication of Congressional reports and proceedings.

Overall, these reprints are a valuable addition to any collection whose users are interested in any aspect of the work of the NLRB or in the history of the labor movement in this country.

SUZANNE AYER


To keep up with the latest proposals and enactments of the fifty state legislatures, the librarian or user must deal with fifty different information systems. State Legislative Sourcebook is a well organized and comprehensive guide to the state legislatures, their support agencies, and their documents.

The main portion of the volume consists of fifty uniform outlines, each of which gives textual, bibliographic, and directory information about one state legislature. Text includes summaries of legislative organization, session data, financial disclosure requirements, and lobbyists' registration procedures. Bibliographic entries are not limited to state government publications ("How a Bill Becomes a Law" pamphlets, directories, bluebooks, etc.), but also include privately published works about the legislatures, some of which would otherwise be difficult for the non-local researcher to track down. Annotations give adequate descriptions of listed publications. Directory information is thorough and precise. Whenever an office, library, or publisher is listed, its complete address and telephone number is furnished. Price information accompanies all listings of publications and copying services. Hellebust's attention to detail is exemplified by his anticipation of changes in the phone system of one state.
old and new numbers are
given along with the effective date
of the change. In several other
instances, he provides phone
numbers for assistance in obtaining
annually changing toll-free
numbers. Users seeking bill status
or copies of bills—probably the
two most frequent users of the
Sourcebook—will appreciate the
author's carefulness.

Appendices include fifty-state
directories of bill status services
and bill rooms. These listings
repeat information given in the
outlines, but in a format that is
handy to the user who wishes to
canvas many states on a
particular issue. Also included is
an extensive and critically
annotated bibliography on the
legislative process and on
influencing legislatures.

As a state-by-state guide to
legislative materials, the
Sourcebook invites comparison to
Mary Fisher's Guide to State
Legislative Materials, 3d ed.
(AALL/Rothman, 1985). The tools
overlap in their coverage of
current legislative resources.
Beyond this, they differ
considerably in emphasis. Fisher's
Guide offers assistance in
accessing the bills and legislative
history of past sessions, a
valuable service to attorneys and
legal scholars. The Sourcebook
does not deal with historical
materials of this type and also
omits references to state codes and
administrative materials, both of
which are included in the Guide.
On the other hand, the Sourcebook
offers more in the way of text and
references to aid the researcher's
understanding of the workings of
today's legislatures. At the risk
of overgeneralization, the
Sourcebook might be termed a
lobbyist's tool, and the Guide a
lawyer's tool. Many libraries will
want both.

State Legislative
Sourcebook is an attractive
publication. Its wordprocessed
composition makes intelligent use
of type fonts and whitespace,
making the outlines easy to follow.
At $95.00, the Sourcebook is an
expensive single-volume tool. Despite its looseleaf format, the
publisher states that it will be
updated and republished annually in
its entirety. Prospective buyers
who are put off by the high price
might consider purchasing the
Sourcebook biennially. Most of its
information should stay current
over two years. (Publisher's
address: Government Research
Service, P.O. Box 2041, Topeka, KS
66601.)

PAUL M. BIRCH

SIS SPONSORS WORKSHOP AT GPO FOR
DEPOSITORY LAW LIBRARIANS

Sixty-two people are
registered to attend our post-
convention workshop, the first ever
sponsored by GD/SIS. This
workshop, "Depository Library
Workshop for Law Librarians at the
Government Printing Office," will
take place on Thursday, July 10,
from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the
GPO Building in Washington, D.C.
The staff of GPO's Library. Programs
Service (LPS) will present the
day's program, which will be
directed in part toward the
specific interests of law
librarians.

Workshop contents will focus
on three general areas: policy,
operations, and administration.
Policy topics will include how the
mission of LPS is affected by
fiscal concerns, such as Gramm-
Rudman-Hollings and OMB Circular A-
130 ("Management of Federal
Information Resources").
Discussion of operations will
consider acquisitions procedures,