**REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON (RCW)**

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) is a compilation of all permanent laws now in force. It is a collection of Session Laws arranged by topic, with amendments added and repealed laws removed. It does not include temporary laws such as appropriations acts. The official version of the RCW is published by the Statute Law Committee and the Code Reviser.

The current RCW consists of ten volumes. Volume 1 includes the U.S. Constitution, the Organic Act, the Enabling Act and the Washington State Constitution as well Codification Tables, a Table of Initiatives and Referenda and the Table of Disposition of Former RCW Sections. Volume 10 is a General Index. A new edition of the entire set is re-issued in even-numbered years with supplements issued in odd-numbered years.

**SOURCES OF THE RCW**

**Official:** the print version of the RCW that contains the certificate of the Statute Law Committee is considered the official code (see RCW 1.08.040).

*Revised Code of Washington, 1974*-
Main Reading Room

Main Reading Room

Digital copies of the RCW, while not official, are also available from the following:
- *Internet* (current edition)
- *Internet* (RCW Archive, 2002-)

**Commercial:**

*West’s Revised Code of Washington Annotated* (commonly called RCWA).
Main Reading Room (current edition). Superseded volumes at Lower Level East.
- Westlaw: WA-STANN (current edition)
- Westlaw: WA-STANNxx (1989-)

The RCWA is a convenient set of Washington laws with annotations following each section. In addition to case annotations, references are provided to law review articles, pertinent Key Numbers in the American Digest System, Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS), a legal encyclopedia, and other Thomson/West publications such as the Washington Practice series.
RCW CITATIONS

Each section of the RCW is made up of three parts: number of title; number of chapter within the title; and number of section within the chapter. For example, RCW 1.04.020 refers to Title 1, chapter 4, section 20.

Citations to the Revised Code of Washington:

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HISTORY OF THE RCW (taken from Volume 1, p.iv, of the 2012 ed.)

The Revised Code of Washington was adopted by the legislature in 1950 (see chapter 1.04 RCW). The original publication (1951) contained material variances from the language and organization of the session laws from which it was derived, including a variety of divisions and combinations of the session law sections. During 1953 through 1959, the Statute Law Committee, in exercise of the powers in chapter 1.08 RCW, completed a comprehensive study of these variances and, by means of a series of administrative orders or reenactment bills, restored each title of the code to reflect its session law source, but retaining the general codification scheme originally adopted. An audit trail of this activity has been preserved in the concluding segments of the source note of each section of the code so affected. The legislative source of each section is enclosed in brackets [ ] at the end of the section. Reference to session laws is abbreviated; thus “1891 c 23 § 1; 1854 p 99 § 135” refers to section 1, chapter 23, Laws of 1891 and section 135, page 99, Laws of 1854. “Prior” indicates a break in the statutory chain, usually a repeal and reenactment. “RRS or Rem. Supp. — “ indicates the parallel citation in Remington’s Revised Code, last published in 1949.

SESSION LAWS

Session laws are an accumulation of all laws adopted in the current legislative session. They are presented chronologically in the form in which they were enacted by the legislature. In amended sections, new matter is underlined while deleted matter is lined out and bracketed between double parentheses. Completely new sections are prefaced by the words NEW SECTION.

Main Level Historical Collection, Main Level Staff Area and Main Reading Room
• Internet (Office of the Code Reviser, 1854-current)
• HeinOnline: Session Laws Library (1854-current)

Index to the laws, memorials and resolutions passed by the Washington Territorial Legislature, 1853 [i.e. 1854]-1887.
Main Level Historical Collection
• Internet (Washington State Library)
HISTORICAL CODES

Several codes have been published since Washington was a territory including those listed below. See the article, *Statutory Compilations in Washington* by Kelly Kunsch, 12 U. Puget Sound L. Rev. 285 (1989), for a survey of the codes over the years.

*Statutes of the Territory of Washington, 1855* (commonly called the **Code of 1854**).
Main Level Historical Collection
• HeinOnline: Session Laws Library

Main Level Staff Area and Main Level Historical Collection
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive

*Complete Index to the Code of Washington and to the Session Laws Enacted by the Territorial Legislature: Sessions of 1881, 1883, 1885, and 1887.*
Main Level Staff Area
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive

*General Statutes and Codes of the State of Washington*, compiled and annotated by William Lair Hill, 1891. 2 vols. (commonly called **Hill’s Code**).
Main Reading Room
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive

*Real Property Statutes of Washington Territory, from 1843 to 1889*, by T.O. Abbott, 1892.
Lower Level call number KF566 1892
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive

Special Collections Room call number KF9207 1893
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive

*The Revised Statutes and Codes of the State of Washington*, compiled, annotated and published by E.D. McLaughlin et al., 1896 (commonly called **McLaughlin’s Code**).
Supplement published in 1897.
Main Level Staff Area
Main Reading Room
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive

Main Reading Room
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive (1905 and 1912 editions)

Main Reading Room
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive

Main Reading Room
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive

Main Reading Room
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive (1919 edition only)

Main Reading Room
• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive

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• HeinOnline: State Statutes: A Historical Archive

Note: Access to the HeinOnline and Westlaw databases is restricted to in-library use only.

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