

How To Read A BASIS Bill History

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the BASIS Bill History page for House Bill 21. The page is titled "Bill History/Action for 25th Legislature" and includes a navigation menu with options like HOME, SENATE, HOUSE, BASIS, SEARCHES, MEDIA CENTER, PUBLICATIONS, and GET STARTED. A search bar is visible at the top right. The main content area displays the following information:

- BILL:** HB 21
- SHORT TITLE:** THE STATE FLAG
- BILL VERSION:** CSHB 21(STA)
- CURRENT STATUS:** CHAPTER 3 SLA 07
- STATUS DATE:** 03/15/07
- SPONSOR(S):** REPRESENTATIVE(S) HARRIS, HAWKER, DAHLSTROM, WILSON, Lynn, Kerttula, Johnson, Meyer, Johansen
- TITLE:** "An Act relating to the state flag; and relating to the proper retirement of an official state flag."

Below this information, there are buttons for "Display Bill" and "Next Bill", and a "Bill Number:" input field. Further down, there are buttons for "Full Text", "Fiscal Notes", "Minutes", "Sponsor Statement", and "Display Committee Action with Bill History".

The bottom section of the page is a table of actions:

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
01/16/07	0027	(H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/5/07
01/16/07	0027	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/16/07	0027	(H) STA
01/31/07	0142	(H) COSPONSOR(S): KERTTULA
02/07/07	0174	(H) STA RPT CS(STA) NT 6DP
02/07/07	0174	(H) DP: JOHANSEN, ROSES, GRUENBERG, COGHILL, DOLL, LYNN
02/07/07	0175	(H) FN1: ZERO(ADM)
02/08/07	0188	(H) RULES TO CALENDAR 2/8/2007
02/08/07	0188	(H) READ THE SECOND TIME
02/08/07	0188	(H) STA CS ADOPTED UNAN CONSENT
02/08/07	0188	(H) ADVANCED TO THIRD READING UNAN CONSENT
02/08/07	0189	(H) READ THE THIRD TIME CSHB 21(STA)
02/08/07	0189	(H) PASSED Y36 E4
02/08/07	0194	(H) COSPONSOR(S): JOHNSON, MEYER, JOHANSEN
02/08/07	0194	(H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)
02/08/07	0194	(H) VERSION: CSHB 21(STA)
02/09/07	0200	(S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/09/07	0200	(S) STA
02/22/07	0330	(S) STA RPT 3DP
02/22/07	0330	(S) DP: MCGUIRE, FRENCH, GREEN
02/22/07	0330	(S) FN1: ZERO(ADM)
02/26/07	0372	(S) RULES TO CALENDAR 2/26/2007
02/26/07	0372	(S) READ THE SECOND TIME
02/26/07	0372	(S) ADVANCED TO THIRD READING UNAN CONSENT
02/26/07	0372	(S) READ THE THIRD TIME CSHB 21(STA)
02/26/07	0372	(S) PASSED Y19 N- E1
02/26/07	0372	(S) RETURN TO (H), TRANSMIT TO GOV NEXT
02/26/07	0372	(S) VERSION: CSHB 21(STA)
02/28/07	0352	(H) 9:42 AM 2/28/07 TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR
03/19/07	0502	(H) SIGNED INTO LAW 3/15 CHAPTER 3 SLA 07
03/19/07	0502	(H) EFFECTIVE DATE(S) OF LAW 6/13/07

The bill history begins with the BILL number and its SHORT TITLE. Next, the BILL VERSION entry gives the most recent version that has been formally adopted on the floor of the House or the Senate. The CURRENT STATUS and the STATUS DATE are where the bill is currently and the date of last action. The SPONSOR(s) are listed next. The first sponsor listed is the Prime Sponsor. After the Sponsor(s), is the full and legal title of the bill.

After the title of the bill is an opportunity to leave this bill history and go to another. The Bill Root is the basic number of the bill. For example, SB1.

The buttons in the center of the screen includes valuable information on the bill. Clicking the [Full Text](#) button will give the option of viewing all of the versions of the bill. The [Fiscal Note](#) button gives access to the different department's fiscal impact information on the bill. The Minutes button will take you to a listing of the audio and minutes of the committee meetings. The [Amendments](#) button will show the amendments that were offered on the floor and the action taken on them. The [Intent](#) button will show any adopted letters of intent. The [Sponsor Statement](#) button takes you to the sponsor's website for their information on the bill.

Clicking the Display Committee Action with Bill History button will change the history display to include committee action, including minutes, on the bill. It will also give the option of the Committee Hearing History button that will show when and where the bill was scheduled for a hearing.

The Bill History is listed in a three-column format. The first column (Jrn-Date) is the date that the action is in the journal. Column 2 (Jrn-Page) is the journal page on which the action is written. The page numbers only show here after the journal is printed. You may click on the number and see the text of the journal entry. Column 3 (Action) is a shortened version of the action taken on the bill. The (H) or (S) indicates whether the action took place in the House or the Senate.

Generally the first two lines of any bill history are the First Reading and then the names of the committees that the bill has been referred. All bills go to Rules last and that committee referral is usually not listed. In the example bill, it was read the first time and referred to State Affairs and the Labor & Commerce Committees. The rest of the lines describe the actions taken by those committees, the floor action on the bill, the other body's action on the bill and, if it passes the Legislature, the Governor's action on the bill.

At the bottom of the Bill History is the list of subjects that the bill was listed under. If you are interested in bills of this topic, you may click on one of the subjects and get a listing of other bills that pertain to that subject. You can also click on Exact Subject Match to see if there is a companion, or identical, bill that was introduced in the other body.

LIST OF COMMON ABBEVIATIONS

Bill Identification		Committee Names	
SS	Sponsor Substitute	CRA	Community & Regional Affairs
CS	Committee Substitute	FIN	Finance
CS(____)	Name of Committee offering Substitute	HES	Health, Education & Social Services
CCS	Conference Committee Substitute	JUD	Judiciary
2d CS	Second Committee Substitute	L&C	Labor & Commerce
HCS	House Committee Substitute	MLV	Military & Veterans Affairs
SCS	Senate Committee Substitute	O&G	Oil & Gas
AM	Amended (on the floor)	RES	Resources
AM S	Amended by the Senate	RLS	Rules
AM H	Amended by the House	STA	State Affairs
EFD ADD	Effective date added	TRA	Transportation
Floor Action		Committee Action	
Y	Yes	DP	Do Pass
N	No	DNP	Do Not Pass
E	Excused	NR	No Recommendation
A	Absent	RPT	Report or reported

Miscellaneous

FN (F&G)	Fiscal Note and the abbreviation for the department affected
Zero FN	Fiscal note showing no additional cost for implementing the bill
Chapter 33 SLA 04	Chapter 33 Session Laws of Alaska 2004. Signed bills are given a chapter number for the year in which they are passed into law.