

# U of S Online Research Module: **Federal Legislation** by Greg Wurzer & David Francis



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## Module 1 - Federal Bills

In Module 1, we will learn about the federal legislative process, beginning with bills. We will cover LegisInfo and required background information on the Parliamentary procedures for passing legislation.



### Module 2 - Official Sources of Online Federal Legislation

The goal of this module to gain familiarity with official sources of federal legislation. Note that you will routinely use these sources to access statutes and regulations throughout your studies and professional career.





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#### Module 3 - HeinOnline Sources of Federal Legislation

In Module 3, you will learn how to further use HeinOnline - an online collection of legal resources - to advance your studies here at the University of Saskatchewan. This collection contains digital copies of all annual and revised statutes in Canada.



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#### Module 4 - Interactive Research Resources

In Module 4, you will access videos regarding legislative history, noting up legislation and legislative intent. Legislative history can be important in legal research particularly when one must find out the origins of a piece of legislation.

The videos that follow will provide greater understanding of these important concepts. Please note that you will see screen shots from Westlaw and the Federal Justice Laws website that look different from each of these sources now but the same principles apply. If you wish to see a small collection of crime comics, please see Greg in the Law Library.





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### Module Objectives 📀

#### Module Objectives

The goal of this module to gain familiarity with Canadian federal statutes.

After completing this module, you will be able to:

- 1. Define a government bill.
- 2. Identify the stage at which a bill becomes an act (or statute).
- 3. Understand different types of bills (such as private Members' bills or Senate public bills).

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- 4. Understand how bills are numbered.
- 5. Describe how a bill becomes a law.
- Understand First, Second, and Third readings of a bill.
- Understand the significance of and procsses related to Royal Assent.
- Recognize the significance of the Coming Into Force Date.
- 9. Describe the differences between bills numbered S-1 and C-1.
- Describe the long titles and short titles of bills.

### Assigned Readings

#### **Assigned Readings**

To provide a context for this module's learning objectives, please complete the following readings as indicated below:

1. The Comprehensive Guide to Legal Research, Writing and Analysis

Read chapters 3 and 4. These chapters will provide an excellent background and description of federal bills and how they become laws.

#### 2. LegisINFO - Info!

LEGISinfo is an essential research tool for finding information on legislation before Parliament. This tool provides electronic access to a wide range of information about each bill, such as:

- details on the passage of the bill through the Senate and House of Commons;
- the text of the bill as introduced at First Reading and its most recent version if it is amended during the legislative process;

- votes;

- major speeches at second reading;
- coming into force data;
- legislative summaries from the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library
- of Parliament; and
- government press releases and backgrounders (for government bills).

LEGISinfo is a collaborative effort of the Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament.

You can launch this web resource here.



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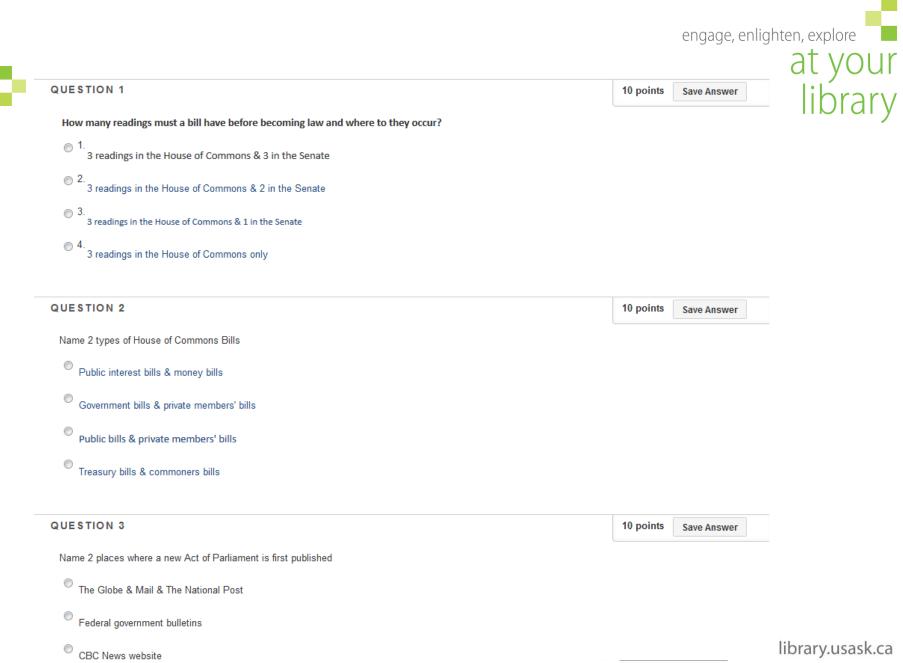


# Continue: Check Your Understanding: Chapter 3

		Cancel Continue	
Force Completion	If interrupted, this test can be resumed.		
Multiple Attempts	This test allows multiple attempts.		
	ue: Check Your Understanding: Chapter 3. Click <b>Cancel</b> to go back. s assessment and your results will not be recorded.		
Click Begin to start. Clicl	k Cancel to quit.	Cancel Continue	



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10 out of 10 points

# Review Test Submission: Check Your Understanding: Chapter 3

User	Gregory William Wurzer
Course	LAW-243-01 (82176.201609)
Test	Check Your Understanding: Chapter 3
Started	4/11/17 12:45 PM
Submitted	4/11/17 12:47 PM
Status	Completed
Attempt Score	20 out of 60 points
Time Elapsed	2 minutes
Results Displaye	d All Answers, Submitted Answers, Correct Answers, Incorrectly Answered Questions

#### Question 1



A How many readings must a bill have before becoming law and where to they occur?

#### Selected Answer:

👩 1. 3 readings in the House of Commons & 3 in the Senate

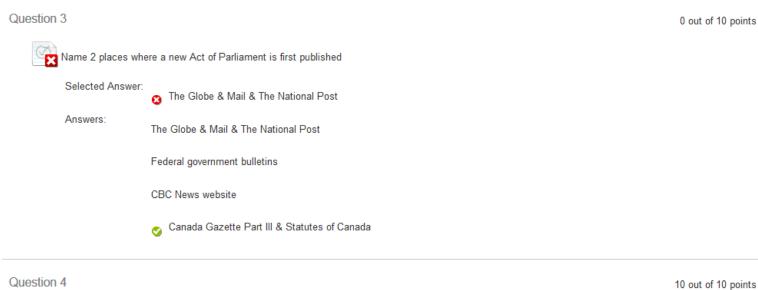
Answers:

- 👩 1. 3 readings in the House of Commons & 3 in the Senate
- 2. 3 readings in the House of Commons & 2 in the Senate
- 3. 3 readings in the House of Commons & 1 in the Senate
- 4. 3 readings in the House of Commons only



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🕁 What is the name of a Federal website that publishes Federal legislation

#### Selected Answer:

👩 2. Justice Laws website

#### Answers:

- 1. LegisINFO
- 👩 2. Justice Laws website
- 3. Canada Gazette online
- 4. Government of Canada website

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### Example: Using LegisINFO

When accessing LegisINFO online, the first screen should appear as follows:



Note the types of information on this page. You will see that different Parliamentary sessions are in the right-hand column. Current session bills are listed in the centre of the page.

A recent change to the Criminal Code regards street racing (street racing in urban environments has unduly endangered human lives to the point where traffic regulations are thought to be inadequate). The point of this example is that this piece of legislation had been introduced in several sessions of Parliament before becoming law.

Note the search box in the lefthand column. Type in "street racing", hit return, and note the different sessions when a bill was introduced.



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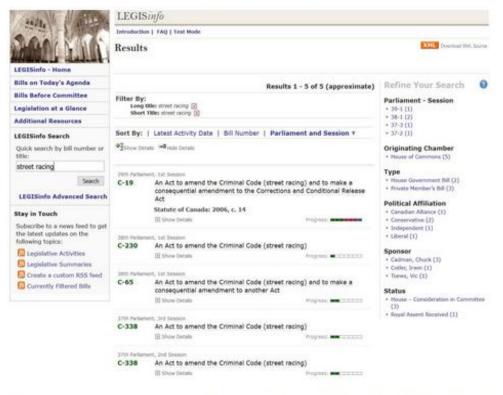
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# Exercise 2: Using LegisINFO

## Exercise 2: Using LegisINFO

Once a Bill has been selected, links are provided, such as Major Speeches at Second Reading, Similar Bills & Coming into Force information (lower right-hand portion of the page):



Based upon this new view of LegisINFO, please answer the following "check your understanding" question.



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## Justice Laws Website

### Justice Laws Website

The Justice Laws website is a great source for federal statutes, regualtions and other tools that are free and available on the internet. Documents and information on the site are official. Becoming familiar with this site will be useful to you while in law school and throughout your career as well.

The following image shows the Justice Laws website: a good source for federal statutes & regulations (split view). Please note the search box in the middle of the page and the contents in the lefthand column, including Constitutional Documents, Consolidated Acts & Regulations, and Annual Statutes.

Open the Consolidated Acts and Consolidated Regulations webpage These contain all amending or added acts & regulations up to the date noted at the bottom of the page:



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#### Annual Statutes and Consolidated Acts

The Annual Statutes, which up until 2014 were published in print volumes and which are located in the law library, publish Public General Acts as they were enacted by Parliament in each calendar year. Each yearly "volume" is comprised of new Acts and those Acts that amend existing Acts. Presently the Justice Laws website does not include Annual Statutes enacted before 2001.

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The Justice Laws Website provides an official consolidation, or updated version, of the federal Acts

and regulations. Each consolidated Act incorporates any changes or amendments up to the date indicated at the bottom of the web page.

"Amending" Acts or regulations make changes to existing laws. The amending Act will add new sections or make changes to existing sections of Act. A consolidated Act or regulation is one that has been updated and incorporates the amendments into the original text.

As of June 1, 2009, all consolidated Acts and regulations on the Justice Laws Website are "official" and can be used for evidentiary purposes.



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# Student Feedback



Students liked the assigned chapters & questions

- Good to be able to go back to review material
- Really liked "hands-on" exercises
- Students wanted more questions!





# Future plans

# Legal Citation Module



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# Got Questions? Need Help?

Gregory Wurzer Associate Law Librarian College of Law, Native Law Centre University of Saskatchewan Room 8, Law Building 15 Campus Drive Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A6 Telephone: (306) 966-6020 Facsimile: (306) 966-6162 Email: greg.wurzer@usask.ca Website: http://library.usask.ca/law/



Image source



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# Thanks for your attendance!





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