

Oregon

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OFFICIAL STATUS X	AUTHENTICATION X
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Oregon online legal resources are not *official*.
The state's online administrative rules publications, statutes, session laws, and court opinions have disclaimers that clearly state that the resources are unofficial and identify the official print titles. Online resources are made available "as a public service" or are "provided for convenience of reference and enhanced access."

Oregon is not addressing the authentication of online legal resources.
Authentication methods involving technology are not being considered at this time. Disclaimers for some of the resources state that the online text has not been reviewed for accuracy or legal sufficiency. In the case of statutes, state law prescribes a certification procedure that has been applied to print versions only.

Oregon's online legal resources typically identify the print titles that represent *official* versions for purposes of notice and receipt by the state's courts. The disclaimer on the Legislative Assembly's website states that "[i]nformation . . . is made available on the Internet as a public service. It does not constitute or represent an official record of the Oregon Legislature. The information or opinions contained at this location and at any of the sites linked from this location have not been reviewed for accuracy or legal sufficiency by the Legislative Administration Committee or the Office of Legislative Counsel. The legislature, its offices, and employees make no warranty as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness or timeliness of any information [on] the Oregon Legislature's web site and are not responsible for any errors or omissions or for results obtained from the use or misuse of this information." The pages dedicated to the online statutes further state that "[t]he text appearing in this database was produced from material provided by the Legislative Counsel Committee of the Oregon Legislative Assembly. The official record copy is the printed published copy of the Oregon Revised Statutes. The text in the database is not the official text of Oregon law."

In the case of the *Oregon Revised Statutes*, the Legislative Counsel, who serves under the Legislative Assembly's Legislative Counsel Committee, is responsible for certifying that he or she "has compared each section" of new statutes within any new edition, part or supplement "with the original section in the enrolled bill" and that the new text has been correctly copied. OR. REV. STAT. § 171.285(1). The text so certified "shall constitute prima facie evidence of the law in all courts and proceedings . . . No compilation of the statute laws of Oregon not bearing such certificate" or that of the Revisor of Statutes "shall be admissible as evidence of the law in any court or proceeding." OR. REV. STAT. § 171.285(2). Only the print is admissible as an authorized publication.

The session laws follow a similar pattern. The Legislative Counsel is responsible for the *official* session laws. OR. REV. STAT. §§ 171.236(1) and 171.255. Only the print is admissible.

The online Oregon Administrative Rules compilation states that "[t]he online version of the OAR is provided for convenience of reference and enhanced access. The official copy of an Oregon Administrative Rule is contained in the Administrative Order filed at the Archives Division . . . Any discrepancies with the published version are satisfied in favor of the Administrative Order." The online Oregon Bulletin makes a nearly identical statement.

The Oregon Courts, Oregon Judicial Department website is a repository for opinions of the state's Supreme Court, Tax Court, and Court of Appeals. The Oregon Tax Court has exclusive jurisdiction to hear tax appeals under state laws. The disclaimer for the repository states "[t]he slip opinions published at this website are subject to copy correction prior to preliminary publication in the Advance Sheets and final publication in the bound volumes of the Oregon Reports." It goes on to point out that "[t]he Oregon Appellate Courts Advance Sheets and Bound Volumes are published by the Publications Section of the Office of the State Court Administrator under the direction of the Oregon Supreme Court and are the official published decisions of the Oregon Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Tax Court [citing OR. REV. STAT. § 2.150]."

Note that the online publication of the slip opinions of the Supreme Court, Tax Court, and Court of Appeals is organized by court and by date. The opinions are arranged according to the bound volume and print advance sheets issue number where the opinion appears. Coverage on the website runs from 1998 to date.