LEGISLATIVE HISTORY RESEARCH GUIDE

1 CHECK AT THE REFERENCE DESK TO SEE IF YOUR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY HAS ALREADY BEEN DIGITIZED

2 IDAHO CODE (1887–PRESENT; CURRENT CODE ONLINE)

- **Check the history line** in brackets at the end of the Idaho Code section. This provides each Session Law year, chapter, page, and section number that added or amended the section.
- **Not all Idaho Code books are published each year**, so you may need to refer to the Pocket Supplements or a previous year's publication.

example: [I.C. § 39-2609, added 1997, ch. 246, sec. 2, p. 714; am. 2015, ch. 222, sec. 1, p. 685.]

3 SESSION LAWS (1863–PRESENT; 1945–PRESENT ONLINE)

- **Review the Session Law chapter** to see if the language you are interested in was included in that version of the law.
- **If the language is not there,** go to the next year listed in the history line and repeat the process until you find the Session Law that added the pertinent language.
- **Note the House or Senate bill number** under the heading of the Session Law chapter, as all other sources in the Legislative Library are organized by year and bill number.

4 BILL TEXT (1901–PRESENT; 1998–PRESENT ONLINE)

- **Locate the bill:** Check the library's bill binders for a copy of the bill and any amendments it may have. For bills older than 1968, ask library staff for assistance.

5 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (1963, 1967, 1972–PRESENT; 1998–PRESENT ONLINE)

- **Locate the Statement of Purpose:** There are separate House and Senate volumes for each year, organized numerically by bill number in each volume. Statements of Purpose can also contain a fiscal note for the bill and any bill sponsor information.

6 BILL STATUS (1970–PRESENT; 1998–PRESENT ONLINE)

- **Review the Bill Status** (*Daily Data* prior to 2004) for a procedural history, summary of action, votes, and effective date for every introduced bill, listed in numerical order.

7 COMMITTEE MINUTES (1960 (HOUSE) AND 1970 (SENATE)–PRESENT; 2003–PRESENT ONLINE, EXCEPT FOR SOME ATTACHMENTS)

- **Use the Committee Minutes Indexes** to identify the committee and dates on which the bill was discussed. The Committee Minutes volumes are organized by House or Senate, then by year, and finally alphabetically by committee within that year.
- **Note the Routing Slip (RS) Number:** On the first day that a bill is heard in committee it is often referred to by its RS number, which is listed in the same row with the bill number and committee dates.
- **Review attachments:** Check behind each listed day of committee minutes for any attachments, typed testimony, reports, presentations, etc.

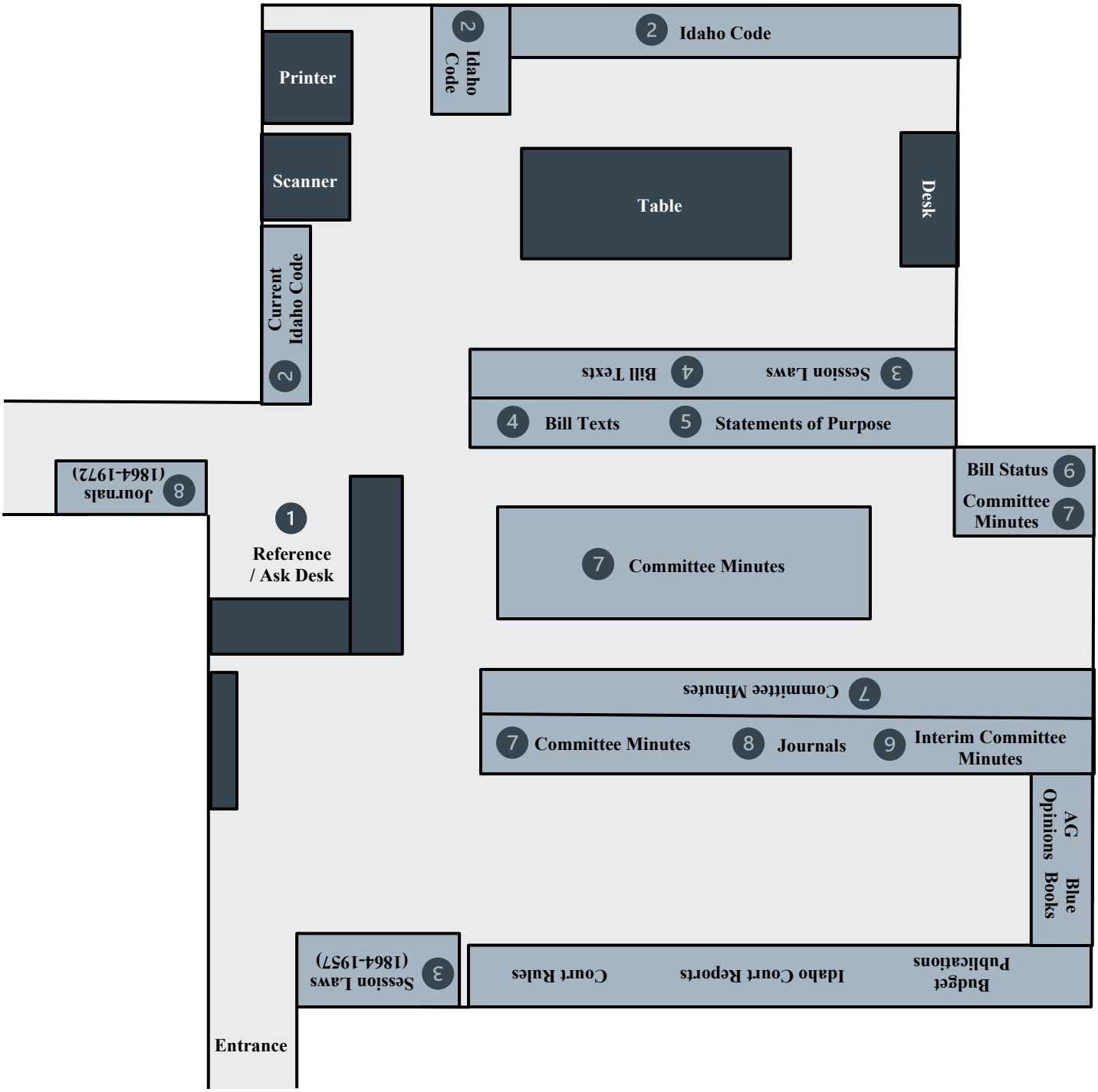
8 HOUSE AND SENATE JOURNALS (1863–PRESENT; 1998–PRESENT ONLINE)

- **Review the "House and Senate Journal Index for Legislative Intent"** on the counter to see if your bill is listed (only a few bills each year will have a Statement of Legislative Intent and/or a Governor's Message).
- **Check the indexes in the back of the Senate and House Journals** to find the pages on which your bill is introduced, read, voted on and signed.

9 INTERIM COMMITTEE MINUTES (1963–PRESENT; 2003–PRESENT ONLINE)

- **Check the Interim Committee Index for the two years before your bill was introduced** to see if there is a relevant interim committee with minutes available.

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH LIBRARY MAP



LSO Legislative Services Office

library@lso.idaho.gov • Capitol Building, C114 • 208-334-4822 • legislature.idaho.gov