**Steps in Conducting an Ohio Legislative History:**

Step 1  Locate the relevant Ohio Revised Code statute.
- Read the statute looking for “intent” language.
- Use the Ohio’s Rules of Statutory Construction to read the statute. See Ohio Revised Code General Provisions Chapter 1 § 1.11 to 1.64. [http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/gp1](http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/gp1)

Step 2  Find the effective date of the statute.
- Was the statute in effect when the event happened in your case scenario?
- Is there a grandfather clause that applies to this scenario?
- When were the amendments passed in relation to your case? What version of the law should you look at?

Step 3  Find enacting legislation and amendments for your statute.
- Generally, but not always, the enacting legislation has the legislative intent. Sometimes you will also have to look at the amendment language.

Step 4  Look at primary sources that compose the legislative history of the legislation.
- Committee reports, hearing summaries, etc. (See bill tracking reports)
- Additions and changes to the bill can indicate intent to clarify the meaning of the legislation. (See House and Senate Journals)
- Speeches by sponsors on the floor of the General Assembly can include reasons why the legislation should pass (the intended purpose of the legislation).
- Case law to help interpret the wording of the statute and how it is applied in situations with facts similar to your case.

Step 5  Look at secondary resources that describe the legislation and actions by the General Assembly. This includes:
- Legislative Service Commission: Bill Analysis Reports, Fiscal Notes, and other publications issued by the commission. (Ohio courts have found LSC Bill Analysis persuasive.)
- Ohio newspaper articles about the legislation.
- Law reviews and bar journals articles.
- Treatises.