

P. O. Box 512
Montpelier, Vermont 05601
February 15, 2018

House Committee on Government Operations
State House

Re: H-779 - the legislative directory prepared by the Secretary of State

Dear Committee:

Please continue with the printed versions of the legislative directory.

I am a user of the directories and I think it is important to continue the series of printed and bound volumes.

It is important to retain and continue the printed directories for historical continuity. That continuity is broken when the printed directories are abandoned and available as only a digital version.

Digital versions, and particularly their locations, are ephemeral. Internet sites change and are altered. So the location in the future will almost definitely be different than the initial location. Being unable to find a document is as bad as not having it at all.

It is important to have the complete series in a set. (The series in the State Library, the one next to the State House, goes back continuously to 1884 with four additional volumes going back to 1867). When I use the directories for research in the State Library or my local library, it is most convenient to have the entire series available together. An advantage of the printed form is that I can spread out multiple volumes at once on one of the library tables for comparison and cross-reference. I lack, and I presume most of us lack, monitors large enough to display three or more directories legibly at once.

A digital version of this document is no substitute for the printed and bound version.

For these reasons, please vote the bill down in your committee. (Or, at least let the bill languish in your committee until it expires at the end of the session.)

Sincerely,
Thomas Weiss