

# The State Decoded Documentation

## API

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### Contents

- [How to...](#)
- [Methods](#)
  - [Dictionary](#)
  - [Law](#)
  - [Search](#)
  - [Structure](#)
  - [Suggest](#)
- [Errors](#)

### How to...

#### ...get an API key.

Register for a key on the site in question (e.g., [Virginia](#)).

#### ...browse the Code starting at the root.

`http://vacode.org/api/structure/?key=[api_key]`

#### ...get information about a given law.

`http://vacode.org/api/law/[section_number]?key=[api_key]`

#### ...get a information about a given title/chapter/part/etc.

`http://vacode.org/api/structure/[identifier]?key=[api_key]`

#### ...get all definitions for a word or phrase.

`http://vacode.org/api/dictionary/[term]?key=[api_key]`

#### ...get the definition for a word or phrase as it's used in a specific law.

`http://vacode.org/api/dictionary/[term]?section=[section_number]&key=[api_key]`

#### ...restrict the fields that are returned.

Append `&fields=field1, field2, field3` to the query, substituting the desired field names for "field1," etc.

## Methods

### Dictionary

When provided with a term, returns all definitions for that term found within the code. Optionally, when provided with a section identifier and no term, returns all terms that apply within the scope of that section.

#### Query format

`http://vacode.org/api/dictionary/[word_or_phrase]?key=[api_key]`

#### Optional parameters

##### Section number

Pass the parameter `section` and a section number, and get only the definition of the term that is relevant to that law. (Most terms have a defined scope of a given structural unit or law.) *N.B.: Because only one definition is returned, rather than providing an array of definitions, just a single definition's fields are returned. They are not stored as the lone element in an array, but are at the top level of the JSON.*

`http://vacode.org/api/dictionary/person?section=12.1-14&key=[api_key]` `http://vacode.org/api/dictionary/?section=12.1-14&key=[api_key]`

Callback

Pass the parameter `callback` and a callback string to have results returned as JSONP.

`http://vacode.org/api/dictionary/[word_or_phrase]?key=[api_key]&callback=d9f31Ib013`

Specified fields

Pass the parameter `fields` and a comma-separated listing of fields to limit the response to those fields.

`http://vacode.org/api/dictionary/word_or_phrase?key=[api_key]&fields=definition`

Fields

When looking up a definition

| Name           | Type    | Description   | Notes   |
|----------------|---------|---|---|
| term           | string  | The term that is being defined.   |   |
| definition     | string  | The text of the definition.   |   |
| scope          | string  | How broadly that this definition applies.                                 | This is based on the structural unit labels, which vary between implementations. Possible values might be <b>title</b> , <b>chapter</b> , <b>part</b> , or others. A definition that applies to just one law would have a value of <b>section</b> , while a definition that applies to the whole code would have a value of <b>global</b> . |
| section_number | string  | The unique identifier for the section in which the definition appears.    |   |
| url            | string  | The URL of the section in which the definition appears.                   |   |
| formatted      | string  | The definition, with display-ready formatting and a citation.             | This is the same as the content of <b>definition</b> , with typographic niceties and a parenthetical citation.  |
| generic        | boolean | Determines if the query should include terms from the generic dictionary. | Overrides the <a href="#">USE_GENERIC_TERMS</a> setting.  |
| api_version    | integer | The version of the API that is returning this result.                     |   |

Term list

| Name | Type   | Description                     | Notes |
|------|--------|---------------------------------|-------|
| term | string | The term that is being defined. |       |

Sample queries and responses

`http://vacode.org/api/dictionary/person?section=12.1-14&key=[api_key]`

```
{
  "term": "person",
  "definition": "“Person” includes any individual, corporation, partnership, association, cooperative, limited liability company, trust, joint vent
  "section_number": "1-230",
  "scope": "global",
  "url": "http://vacode.org/1-230/",
  "formatted": "“Person” includes any individual, corporation, partnership, association, cooperative, limited liability company, trust, joint vent
  "api_version": "1.0"
}
```

Edited for brevity.  
`http://vacode.org/api/dictionary/?section=12.1-14&key=[api_key]`

```
{
  0: "adult",
  1: "bond with surety",
  2: "state agency",
  3: "city",
  4: "collegial body",
  5: "courts of record",
  6: "ex officio",
  7: "includes",
  8: "real estate",
  9: "blighted property",
  api_version: "1.0"
}
```

Law

When provided with a section number identifying an individual law, returns everything that The State Decoded knows about that law.

Query format

`http://vacode.org/api/law/[section_number]?key=[api_key]`

Optional parameters

Callback

Pass the parameter `callback` and a callback string to have results returned as JSONP.

`http://vacode.org/api/law/[section_number]?key=[api_key]&callback=d9f31b013`

Specified fields

Pass the parameter `fields` and a comma-separated listing of fields to limit the response to those fields.

`http://vacode.org/api/law/[section_number]?key=[api_key]&fields=catch_line,url_official_url,citation`

Fields

| Name           | Type           | Description  | Notes   |
|----------------|----------------|--|---|
| section_number | string         | The unique identifier for this section.                              |   |
| section_id     | integer        | Internal unique identifier for this law.                             |   |
| structure_id   | integer        | Internal unique identifier for the law's containing structural unit. |   |
| catch_line     | string or null | The title of this section.   | Not all legal codes have catch lines. California's laws, for instance, lack them.   |
| history        | string or null | The acts of the legislature that created this law.                   | Only some legal codes include histories.  |
| full_text      | string         | The complete text of the law as a single string of text.             | This duplicates the collective contents of `text`, but concatenates all subsections into a single string.   |
| repealed       | true/false     | Indicates whether this law is still in force.                        | Only some legal codes continue to publish laws that have been repealed.   |
| text           | array          | Contains the subsections of text that comprise this law.             | There is one child element for each subsection. Some codes may be broken up not by labelled subsection, but by paragraphs that lack any labels or unique identifiers. |

| Name               | Type              | Description  | Notes   |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| text               | string            | The text of the subsection.  |   |
| type               | string            | What type of subsection this is—`section` (the default), `table`, `illustration`, or possibly others, as dictated by the needs of each legal code. |   |
| prefixes           | array             | A list of of the complete prefix path that uniquely identifies this subsection.  |   |
| prefix             | string<br>or null | This subsection's identifying prefix.  |   |
| entire_prefix      | string<br>or null | The complete, uniquely identifying prefix for this subsection.   | The same data that's in `prefixes`, only collapsed into a single string.          |
| prefix_anchor      | string<br>or null | The complete, uniquely identifying prefix for this subsection, ready to be used in a URL.  | This is `entire_prefix`, URL encoded.   |
| level              | integer           | How deeply nested that this level is, in the hierarchy of subsections. 1 is the top level.   |   |
| ancestry           | array             | Contains a subsection for each hierarchically nested structural unit that contains this law.   |   |
| id                 | integer           | Internal unique identifier for this structural unit.   |   |
| name               | string            | The title of this structural unit.   |   |
| identifier         | string            | The identifier for this structural unit.   | This will often—but not always—be a number.                                       |
| label              | string            | The name of this level of structural unit.   |   |
| url                | string            | The public (non-API) URL for this structural unit.   |   |
| structure_contents | array             | Contains a subsection for each law that is part of the immediate structural unit (siblings of the requested section).                              |   |
| id                 | integer           | Internal unique identifier for this law.   |   |
| structure_id       | integer           | Internal unique identifier for the containing structural unit.   |   |
| section_number     | string            | The unique identifier for this section.  |   |
| catch_line         | string or null    | The title of this section.   | Not all legal codes have catch lines. California's laws, for instance, lack them. |
| url                | string            | The public (non-API) URL for this law.   |   |
| api_url            | string            | The API URL for this law.  |   |
| previous_section   | array             | The prior law within the containing structural unit, as ordered.   |   |
| id                 | integer           | Internal unique identifier for this law.   |   |
| structure_id       | integer           | Internal unique identifier for the containing structural unit.   |   |
| section_number     | string            | The unique identifier for this section.  |   |
| catch_line         | string or null    | The title of this section.   | Not all legal codes have catch lines. California's laws, for instance, lack them. |
| url                | string            | The public (non-API) URL for this law.   |   |
| api_url            | string            | The API URL for this law.  |   |

| Name            | Type            | Description  | Notes  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|
| next_section    | array           | The following law within the containing structural unit, as ordered.                                       |  |
| id              | integer         | Internal unique identifier for this law.   |  |
| structure_id    | integer         | Internal unique identifier for the containing structural unit.   |  |
| section_number  | string          | The unique identifier for this section.  |  |
| catch_line      | string or null  | The title of this section.   | Not all legal codes have catch lines. California's laws, for instance, lack them.  |
| url             | string          | The public (non-API) URL for this law.   |  |
| api_url         | string          | The API URL for this law.  |  |
| metadata        | array, or null  | Contains all metadata about this law that is stored separately in the metadata table.                      | By default, this contains nothing, but any State Decoded implementation that wants to store additional metadata about laws—data beyond the structure otherwise described here—would emit that metadata here. |
| court_decisions | array, or null  | Every court decision that cites this law.  | Only available within State Decoded implementations that have chosen to ingest court rulings.  |
| official_url    | string, or null | The URL for this law on the official website for this legal code.  |  |
| history_text    | string, or null | A narrative version of the <b>history</b> field.   |  |
| references      | array           | A listing of all other laws that refer to this one.  |  |
| id              | integer         | Internal unique identifier for this law.   |  |
| section_number  | string          | The unique identifier for this section.  |  |
| catch_line      | string or null  | The title of this section.   | Not all legal codes have catch lines. California's laws, for instance, lack them.  |
| url             | string          | The public (non-API) URL for this law.   |  |
| related         | array           | A list of all other laws that are have been determined through lexical analysis to be similar to this one. | This list is generated by <a href="#">Solr's MoreLikeThis handler</a> .  |
| id              | integer         | Internal unique identifier for this law.   |  |
| catch_line      | string or null  | The title of this section.   | Not all legal codes have catch lines. California's laws, for instance, lack them.  |
| section_number  | string          | The unique identifier for this section.  |  |
| url             | string          | The public (non-API) URL for this law.   |  |
| amendment_years | array           | A list of every year in which this law was amended.  |  |
| url             | string          | The public (non-API) URL for this law.   |  |
| citation        | array           | A list of formal citation methods for this law.  |  |
| official        | string          | A formal citation for this law, in <i>The Bluebook</i> format.   |  |
| universal       | string          | A formal citation for this law, in the <a href="#">AALL Universal Citation Guide</a> format.               |  |
| api_version     | integer         | The version of the API that is returning this result.  |  |

## Sample query and response

Edited for brevity.

```
http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-627?key=[api_key]
```

```
{
  "section_number": "15.2-627",
  "section_id": "7508",
  "structure_id": "1980",
  "catch_line": "Department of education.",
  "history": "Code 1950, § 15-324; 1956, c. 153; 1962, c. 623, § 15.1-644; 1980, c. 559; 1981, c. 246; 1982, cc. 32, 75; 1995, c. 8; 1996, c. 873;
  "full_text": "<p>The department of education shall consist of the county school board, the division superintendent of schools and the officers and
  "repealed": "n",
  "text": {
    "0": {
      "text": "The department of education shall consist of the county school board, the division superintendent of schools and the officers and
      "type": "section",
      "prefixes": [
        ""
      ],
      "prefix": "",
      "entire_prefix": "",
      "prefix_anchor": "",
      "level": 1
    },
    "1": {
      "text": "A vacancy in the office of school board member shall be filled pursuant to §§ 24.2-226 and 24.2-228.",
      "type": "section",
      "prefixes": [
        ""
      ],
      "prefix": "",
      "entire_prefix": "",
      "prefix_anchor": "",
      "level": 1
    },
    "2": {
      "text": "In order to have their names placed on the ballot, all candidates shall be nominated only by petition as provided by general law
      "type": "section",
      "prefixes": [
        ""
      ],
      "prefix": "",
      "entire_prefix": "",
      "prefix_anchor": "",
      "level": 1
    },
    "3": {
      "text": "The county school board may also appoint a resident of the county to cast the deciding vote in case of a tie vote of the school
      "type": "section",
      "prefixes": [
        ""
      ],
      "prefix": "",
      "entire_prefix": "",
      "prefix_anchor": "",
      "level": 1
    },
    "4": {
      "text": "The chairman of the county school board, for the purpose of appearing before the board of county supervisors, shall be considered
      "type": "section",
      "prefixes": [
        ""
      ],
      "prefix": "",
      "entire_prefix": "",
      "prefix_anchor": "",
      "level": 1
    }
  ],
  "ancestry": {
    "1": {
      "id": "1980",
      "name": "County Manager Form of Government",
      "identifier": "6",
      "label": "chapter",
      "url": "/15.2/6/"
    },
    "2": {
      "id": "27",
      "name": "Counties, Cities and Towns",

```

```

        "identifier": "15.2",
        "label": "title",
        "url": "/15.2/"
    }
},
"structure_contents": {
    "0": {
        "id": "7481",
        "structure_id": "1980",
        "section_number": "15.2-600",
        "catch_line": "Designation of form; applicability of chapter.",
        "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-600/",
        "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-600/"
    },
    "1": {
        "id": "7482",
        "structure_id": "1980",
        "section_number": "15.2-601",
        "catch_line": "Adoption of county manager form.",
        "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-601/",
        "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-601/"
    },
    "2": {
        "id": "7483",
        "structure_id": "1980",
        "section_number": "15.2-602",
        "catch_line": "Powers vested in board of supervisors; election and terms of members; vacancies.",
        "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-602/",
        "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-602/"
    },
    "3": {
        "id": "7484",
        "structure_id": "1980",
        "section_number": "15.2-603",
        "catch_line": "Referendum on election of supervisors by districts or at large.",
        "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-603/",
        "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-603/"
    },
    "4": {
        "id": "7485",
        "structure_id": "1980",
        "section_number": "15.2-604",
        "catch_line": "General powers of board.",
        "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-604/",
        "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-604/"
    },
    "5": {
        "id": "7486",
        "structure_id": "1980",
        "section_number": "15.2-605",
        "catch_line": "Prohibiting misdemeanors and providing penalties.",
        "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-605/",
        "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-605/"
    },
    "6": {
        "id": "7487",
        "structure_id": "1980",
        "section_number": "15.2-606",
        "catch_line": "Investigation of county officers.",
        "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-606/",
        "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-606/"
    },
    "7": {
        "id": "7488",
        "structure_id": "1980",
        "section_number": "15.2-607",
        "catch_line": "Organization of departments.",
        "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-607/",
        "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-607/"
    },
    "8": {
        "id": "7489",
        "structure_id": "1980",
        "section_number": "15.2-608",
        "catch_line": "Designation of officers to perform certain duties.",
        "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-608/",
        "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-608/"
    },
    "9": {
        "id": "7490",
        "structure_id": "1980",
        "section_number": "15.2-609",
        "catch_line": "Appointment of county manager.",
        "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-609/",
        "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-609/"
    }
},

```

```

"10": {
  "id": "7491",
  "structure_id": "1980",
  "section_number": "15.2-610",
  "catch_line": "Tenure of office; removal.",
  "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-610/",
  "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-610/"
},
"11": {
  "id": "7492",
  "structure_id": "1980",
  "section_number": "15.2-611",
  "catch_line": "Disability of county manager.",
  "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-611/",
  "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-611/"
},
"12": {
  "id": "7493",
  "structure_id": "1980",
  "section_number": "15.2-612",
  "catch_line": "Manager responsible for administration of affairs of county; appointment of officers and employees.",
  "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-612/",
  "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-612/"
}
},
"previous_section": {
  "id": "7507",
  "structure_id": "1980",
  "section_number": "15.2-626",
  "catch_line": "Department and board of social services.",
  "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-626/",
  "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-626/"
},
"next_section": {
  "id": "7509",
  "structure_id": "1980",
  "section_number": "15.2-628",
  "catch_line": "Terms of school boards.",
  "url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-628/",
  "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/law/15.2-628/"
},
"metadata": {
  "history": {
    "1": {
      "year": "1956",
      "chapter": "153"
    },
    "2": {
      "year": "1962",
      "chapter": "623",
      "section": "1962, c. 623, § 15.1-644"
    },
    "3": {
      "year": "1980",
      "chapter": "559"
    },
    "4": {
      "year": "1981",
      "chapter": "246"
    },
    "5": {
      "year": "1982",
      "chapter": [
        "32",
        "75"
      ]
    },
    "6": {
      "year": "1995",
      "chapter": "8"
    },
    "7": {
      "year": "1996",
      "chapter": "873"
    },
    "8": {
      "year": "1997",
      "chapter": "587"
    }
  }
},
"court_decisions": false,
"official_url": "http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?000+cod+15.2-627",
"history_text": "This law has been modified 7 times since it was first created in 1956. Those modifications are cataloged by \"The Acts of Assembly\"",
"references": [
  {

```



```

    "id": "12528",
    "section_number": "22.1-29.1",
    "catch_line": "Public hearing before appointment of school board members.",
    "url": "http://vacode.org/22.1-29.1/"
  },
  {
    "id": "12533",
    "section_number": "22.1-34",
    "catch_line": "Application of article.",
    "url": "http://vacode.org/22.1-34/"
  },
  {
    "id": "12542",
    "section_number": "22.1-41",
    "catch_line": "Application of article.",
    "url": "http://vacode.org/22.1-41/"
  },
  {
    "id": "12596",
    "section_number": "22.1-75",
    "catch_line": "Procedure in case of tie vote.",
    "url": "http://vacode.org/22.1-75/"
  }
],
"related": {
  "0": {
    "id": "7469",
    "catch_line": "Department of education.",
    "section_number": "15.2-531",
    "url": "/15.2-531/"
  },
  "1": {
    "id": "7618",
    "catch_line": "Department of education.",
    "section_number": "15.2-837",
    "url": "/15.2-837/"
  },
  "2": {
    "id": "12566",
    "catch_line": "Election of school board members; appointment of tie breaker.",
    "section_number": "22.1-57.3",
    "url": "/22.1-57.3/"
  },
  "3": {
    "id": "7428",
    "catch_line": "County school board and division superintendent of schools.",
    "section_number": "15.2-410",
    "url": "/15.2-410/"
  },
  "4": {
    "id": "7583",
    "catch_line": "Powers of county vested in board of supervisors; membership, election, terms, etc., of board; vacancies; powers of chairmen.",
    "section_number": "15.2-802",
    "url": "/15.2-802/"
  }
},
"amendment_years": {
  "0": "1950",
  "1": "1956",
  "2": "1962",
  "3": "1980",
  "4": "1981",
  "5": "1982",
  "6": "1995",
  "7": "1996",
  "8": "1997"
},
"url": "http://vacode.org/15.2-627/",
"citation": {
  "official": "Va. Code §15.2-627",
  "universal": "VA Code §15.2-627"
},
"api_version": "1.0"
}

```

## Structure

When provided with a structural identifier identifying an individual structural unit (e.g., a title, a chapter, a part, etc.), returns everything that The State Decoded knows about that structural unit.

### Query format

[http://vacode.org/api/structure/\[identifier\]?key=\[api\\_key\]](http://vacode.org/api/structure/[identifier]?key=[api_key])

Leave [identifier] blank to get a top-level listing of structural units—that is, the major structural units that make up the basic divisions of the code (e.g., titles).

Optional parameters

Callback

Pass the parameter **callback** and a callback string to have results returned as JSONP.

http://vacode.org/api/structure/[identifier]?key=[api\_key]&callback=d9f31Ib013

Specified fields

Pass the parameter **fields** and a comma-separated listing of fields to limit the response to those fields.

http://vacode.org/api/structure/[identifier]?key=[api\_key]&fields=catch\_line,url\_official\_url,citation

Fields

| Name           | Type           | Description  | Notes   |
|----------------|----------------|--|---|
| ancestry       | array          | Information about every structural unit included in the path specified in the request.     |   |
| id             | integer        | Internal unique identifier for this structural unit.                                       |   |
| identifier     | string         | The identifier for this structural unit.   | This will often—but not always—be a number.                                       |
| name           | string         | The title of this structural unit.   |   |
| label          | string         | The name of this level of structural unit.   |   |
| parent_id      | integer        | Internal unique identifier for this structural unit's parent.                              |   |
| level          | integer        | How deeply nested that this level is, in the hierarchy of subsections. 1 is the top level. |   |
| url            | string         | The public (non-API) URL for this structural unit.   |   |
| children       | array          | A list of every structural unit that is a child of the requested one.                      |   |
| id             | integer        | Internal unique identifier for this structural unit.                                       |   |
| label          | string         | The name of this level of structural unit.   |   |
| name           | string         | The title of this structural unit.   |   |
| identifier     | string         | The identifier for this structural unit.   | This will often—but not always—be a number.                                       |
| url            | string         | The public (non-API) URL for this structural unit.   |   |
| api_url        | string         | The API URL for this structural unit.  |   |
| laws           | array          | A list of every law that is a child of the requested structural unit.                      |   |
| id             | integer        | Internal unique identifier for this law.   |   |
| structure_id   | integer        | Internal unique identifier for the containing structural unit.                             |   |
| section_number | string         | The unique identifier for this section.  |   |
| catch_line     | string or null | The title of this section.   | Not all legal codes have catch lines. California's laws, for instance, lack them. |
| url            | string         | The public (non-API) URL for this law.   |   |
| api_url        | string         | The API URL for this law.  |   |
| api_version    | integer        | The version of the API that is returning this result.                                      |   |

Sample query and response

http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2?key=[api\_key]

```

{
  "ancestry": {
    "0": {
      "id": "30",
      "identifier": "18.2",
      "name": "Crimes and Offenses Generally",
      "label": "title",
      "parent_id": "",
      "level": 1,
      "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/"
    }
  },
  "children": {
    "0": {
      "id": "2082",
      "label": "chapter",
      "name": "In General",
      "identifier": "1",
      "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/1/",
      "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/1/"
    },
    "1": {
      "id": "2083",
      "label": "chapter",
      "name": "Principals and Accessories",
      "identifier": "2",
      "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/2/",
      "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/2/"
    },
    "2": {
      "id": "2084",
      "label": "chapter",
      "name": "Inchoate Offenses",
      "identifier": "3",
      "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/3/",
      "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/3/"
    },
    "3": {
      "id": "2085",
      "label": "chapter",
      "name": "Crimes Against the Person",
      "identifier": "4",
      "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/4/",
      "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/4/"
    },
    "4": {
      "id": "2086",
      "label": "chapter",
      "name": "Crimes Against Property",
      "identifier": "5",
      "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/5/",
      "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/5/"
    },
    "5": {
      "id": "2087",
      "label": "chapter",
      "name": "Crimes Involving Fraud",
      "identifier": "6",
      "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/6/",
      "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/6/"
    },
    "6": {
      "id": "2088",
      "label": "chapter",
      "name": "Crimes Involving Health and Safety",
      "identifier": "7",
      "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/7/",
      "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/7/"
    },
    "7": {
      "id": "2089",
      "label": "chapter",
      "name": "Crimes Involving Morals and Decency",
      "identifier": "8",
      "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/8/",
      "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/8/"
    },
    "8": {
      "id": "2090",
      "label": "chapter",
      "name": "Crimes Against Peace and Order",
      "identifier": "9",
      "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/9/",
      "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/9/"
    }
  }
}

```

```
},
"9": {
  "id": "2091",
  "label": "chapter",
  "name": "Crimes Against the Administration of Justice",
  "identifier": "10",
  "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/10/",
  "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/10/"
},
"10": {
  "id": "2092",
  "label": "chapter",
  "name": "Offenses Against the Sovereignty of the Commonwealth",
  "identifier": "11",
  "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/11/",
  "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/11/"
},
"11": {
  "id": "2093",
  "label": "chapter",
  "name": "Miscellaneous",
  "identifier": "12",
  "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/12/",
  "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/12/"
},
"12": {
  "id": "2094",
  "label": "chapter",
  "name": "Virginia Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act",
  "identifier": "13",
  "url": "http://vacode.org/18.2/13/",
  "api_url": "http://vacode.org/api/structure/18.2/13/"
}
},
"laws": false,
"api_version": "1.0"
}
```

Search

When provided with a term, returns all uses of that term within the code, sorted by relevance, limited to the top 100 results.

Query format

http://vacode.org/api/search/[word\_or\_phrase]?key=[api\_key]

Optional parameters

Detail Level

Pass the parameter **detailed** and either **true** or **false** to indicate whether you want brief results or detailed results. Detailed results are exactly the same as if you'd used [the Law method](#) for each result. The standard fields returned by the Search method are all replaced with the standard fields returned by the Law method, with the exception of the **score** field, which remains.

Callback

Pass the parameter **callback** and a callback string to have results returned as JSONP.

http://vacode.org/api/search/[word\_or\_phrase]?key=[api\_key]&callback=d9f31Ib013

Specified fields

Pass the parameter **fields** and a comma-separated list of fields to limit the response to those fields.

http://vacode.org/api/search/word\_or\_phrase?key=[api\_key]&fields=results

Fields

| Name    | Type   | Description                           | Notes                             |
|---------|--------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| results | object | A list of the results of this search. | Limited to the first 100 results. |



http://vacode.org/api/suggest/[word\_or\_phrase]?key=[api\_key]

Optional parameters

Callback

Pass the parameter `callback` and a callback string to have results returned as JSONP.

http://vacode.org/api/suggest/[word\_or\_phrase]?key=[api\_key]&callback=d9f31Ib013

Fields

| Name        | Type    | Description   | Notes                           |
|-------------|---------|---|---------------------------------|
| terms       | object  | A list of the suggested terms.                        | Limited to the first 4 results. |
| api_version | integer | The version of the API that is returning this result. |                                 |

Sample query and response

Edited for brevity.

http://vacode.org/api/suggest/lawsu?key=[api\_key]

```
{
  "terms": [
    {
      id: 0,
      term: "laws"
    },
    {
      id: 1,
      term: "lawful"
    },
    {
      id: 2,
      term: "lapse"
    },
    {
      id: 3,
      term: "lawsuit"
    },
    {
      id: 4,
      term: "lawns"
    }
  ],
  "api_version": "1.0",
}
```

Errors

When a request cannot be completed, the API will return a JSON-formatted error. For example, if an invalid key is provided in a request, the response would be as follows:

```
"error"
{
  "message": "An Error Occurred",
  "details": "Invalid key."
}
```

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