📖 statedecoded / **statedecoded**

Legal codes, for humans.   https://www.statedecoded.com/

#legal #laws

🕐 **1,820** commits	⎇ **3** branches	🏷 **11** releases	👥 **8** contributors	⚖ GPL-3.0

Branch: master ▾   New pull request   Create new file   Upload files   Find file   Clone or download ▾

👤 **krues8dr** Typo.   Latest commit 782cdb5 on Apr 24

📁 htdocs	Updating version & copyright.	5 months ago
📁 includes	Merge branch 'master' of github.com:statedecoded/statedecoded	5 months ago
📁 solr_home	Adding support for structures in Solr indexing. General cleanup of St…	8 months ago
📄 .gitignore	Add a few new files to be ignored	4 years ago
📄 CHANGELOG.md	Typo.	5 months ago
📄 LICENSE	Resolve conflicts.	5 months ago
📄 README.md	Update README.	5 months ago
📄 lexis-nexis.xsl	Exclude "subtitle" from identifiers	a year ago
📄 sample.xsl	Correcting description of creation	4 years ago
📄 statedecoded	Fixing output from commandline tool, now properly outputs data for ht…	2 years ago

📖 README.md

The State Decoded

What is The State Decoded?

The State Decoded is a free, open source, web-based application to display laws online. Although it's meant for laws, it'll basically work for any structured legal text. It makes legal text searchable, interconnected, and machine-readable, adding an API, bulk downloads, and powerful semantic analysis tools. With The State Decoded, legal codes become vastly easier to read, more useful, and more open. Here's an actual before-and-after from the Code of Virginia:

§ 2.2-3704. Public records to be open to inspection; procedure for requesting records and responding to request; charges; transfer of records for storage, etc.

A. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, all public records shall be open to inspection and copying by any citizens of the Commonwealth during the regular office hours of the custodian of such records. Access to such records shall not be denied to citizens of the Commonwealth, representatives of newspapers and magazines with circulation in the Commonwealth, and representatives of radio and television stations broadcasting in or into the Commonwealth. The custodian may require the requester to provide his name and legal address. The custodian of such records shall take all necessary precautions for their preservation and safekeeping.

B. A request for public records shall identify the requested records with reasonable specificity. The request need not make reference to this chapter in order to invoke the provisions of this chapter or to impose the time limits for response by a public body. Any public body that is subject to this chapter and that is the custodian of the requested records shall promptly, but in all cases within five working days of receiving a request, provide the requested records to the requester or make one of the following responses in writing:

1. The requested records are being entirely withheld because their release is prohibited by law or the custodian has exercised his discretion to withhold the records in accordance with this chapter. Such response shall identify with reasonable particularity the volume and subject matter of withheld records, and cite, as to each category of withheld records, the specific Code section that authorizes the withholding of the records.

← PREVIOUS
2.2-3703 Public bodies and records to which chapter inapplicable; voter registration and election records; access by persons incarcerated in a state, local, or federal correctional facility.

NEXT →
2.2-3704.1 Posting of notice of rights and responsibilities by state public bodies; assistance by the Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

2.2 Administration of Government > 37 Virginia Freedom of Information Act > § 2.2-3704 Public records to be open to inspection; procedure ...

§ 2.2-3704

Public records to be open to inspection; procedure for requesting records and responding to request; charges; transfer of records for storage, etc.

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LEGISLATIVE VIDEO

SB 1317

Del. Morgan Griffith
Salem (R-8)

We have 5 video clips of this law being discussed on the floor of the General Assembly between 02/24/2009 and 02/22/2011.

- 02/24/2009 00:01:15
- 02/11/2010 00:01:44
- 02/11/2010 00:01:38
- 02/22/2011 00:00:25
- 02/22/2011 00:00:15

CROSS REFERENCES

Can I try it out?

Sure! This project can be seen in action on sites for Virginia, Chicago, San Francisco, and a growing list of others. If you want to install it, you can also download a Vagrant image from GitMachines, or just download and install it from scratch.

Is this ready for prime time?

Quite nearly! The current release is being used in production on a half-dozen different sites, with no serious bugs, and is certainly in good enough shape to be used on websites that aren't official, government-run repositories of the law.

This is a v1.0 release, which is to say that it's functionally complete but may have minor issues. A capable developer who is comfortable with legal terminology should be able to wrangle her laws into this release with a couple of hours of work. There is, however, no built-in upgrade path to new releases. That said, it's easy enough to install a new version and just re-import your site's legal code.

How do get my legal code into The State Decoded?

There are two ways.

1. Natively, The State Decoded imports XML in The State Decoded XML format. If you have your legal code as XML, you can adapt the provided XSLT to transform it into the proper format. Or if you don't have your legal code as XML, you can convert it into XML.
2. Skip XML entirely and modify the included parser to import it in the format in which you have it.

Project documentation

Project documentation can be found at docs.statedecoded.com, which explains how to install the software, configure it, customize it, use the API, and more. The documentation is stored as a GitHub project, with its content automatically published via Jekyll, so in addition to reading the documentation, you are welcome to make improvements to it!

How to help

- Use State Decoded sites and share your feedback in the form of filing issues—suggestions for new features, notifications of bugs, etc.
- Write or edit documentation on the wiki.
- Read through unresolved issues and comment on those on which you have something to add, to help resolve them.
- Contribute code to fix bugs or add features.
- Comb through existing code to clean it up—standardizing code formatting, adding docblocks, or editing/adding comments.

Keep up to date

Follow along on Twitter @StateDecoded, or on the project website at StateDecoded.com.

Supported by

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