

Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA)

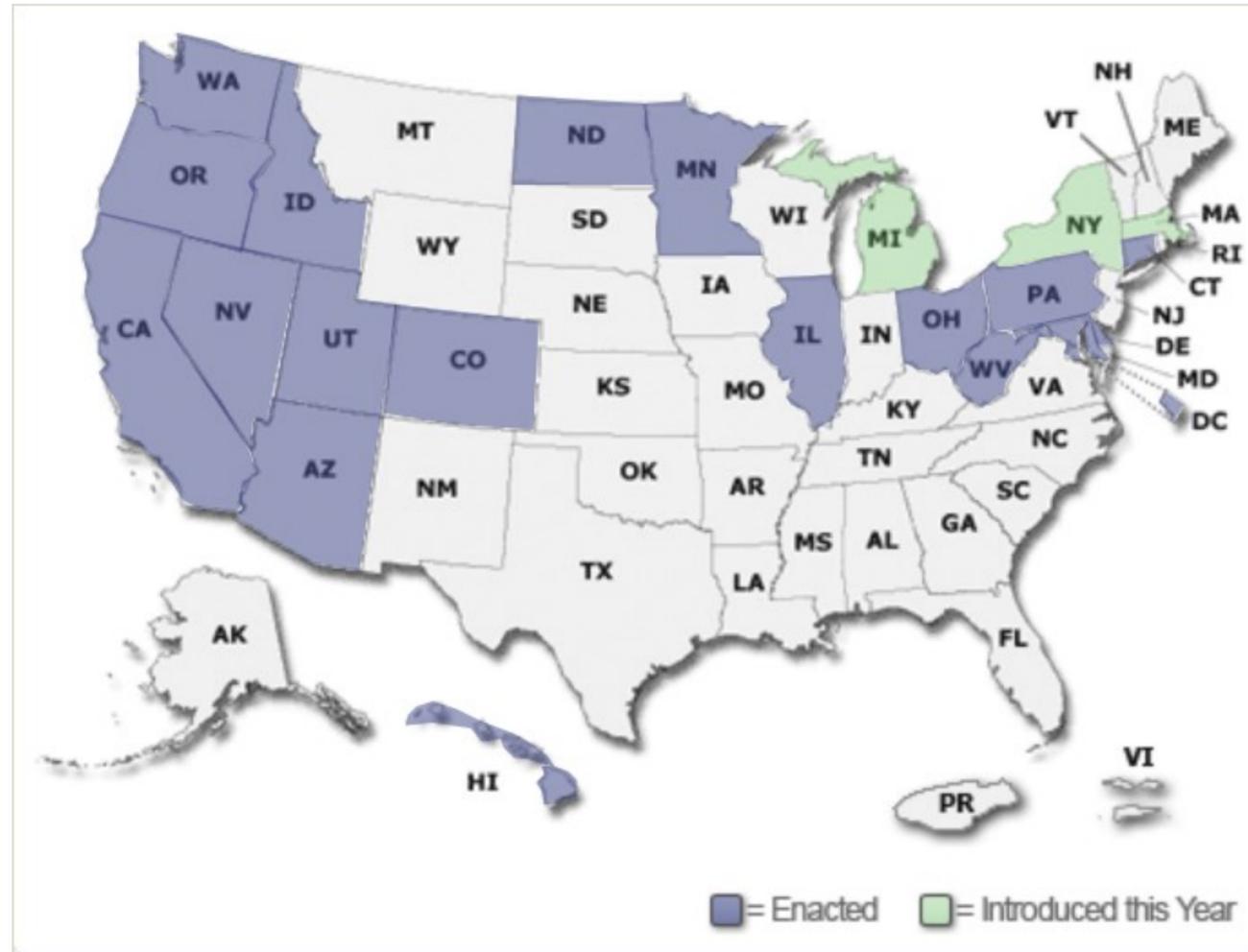
The Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act establishes an outcomes-based, technology-neutral framework for providing online legal material with the same level of trustworthiness traditionally provided by publication in a law book. The Act requires that official electronic legal material be:

- (1) authenticated, by providing a method to determine that it is unaltered;
- (2) preserved, either in electronic or print form; and
- (3) accessible, for use by the public on a permanent basis.



Real World Implications

- Free Access to Legal Information (Online)
- Uniform formatting of legal documents
- Updated websites from State governments
- Authentication of Online Legal Documents



MAALL States with UELMA

North Dakota—§ 46-03.1

Illinois—P.A. 98-1097

States with MAALL Member(s) with UELMA

Minnesota—ch. 3E

Ohio— 2018 Ohio Laws File 74

Tips for Advocacy

- Contact Uniform Law Institute (ULI)
- Apply the tips found on ULI website
- Contact state representatives
- Find and work with other stakeholders (i.e. libraries, attorneys, open access advocates)

Want to Help?

Scan the QR Code OR Sign Here



Quotes from Advocates and Stakeholders

- ♦ “[G]overnments are increasingly moving to a paradigm where their official records are published exclusively in digital form ... This is an exciting opportunity for libraries and archives to be strong advocates for digital stewardship methods and practices.” - Andrew Weber, Library of Congress Blog, <https://perma.cc/76UZ-ZLSN>
- ♦ “Lawyers want what they rely on to be absolutely accurate. It’s too important. We want to make sure [any court decision made by states] is the signed, sealed and delivered version of the document,” - Sheila Slocum Hollis, chair of the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress.
- ♦ “[P]rovides states with an outcomes-based approach to the authentication and preservation of electronic legal material. The goals of the authentication and preservation program outlined in the Act are to enable end-users to verify the trustworthiness of the legal material they are using and to provide a framework for states to preserve legal material in perpetuity in a manner that allows for permanent access.” - The Council of State Governments, August 2011, “UELMA Overview.”
- ♦ “[A]s a democratic society, the citizens of this country are the driving force behind all its institutions, including those institutions that create and compose the law... as the “owners” of the law, citizens should have unfettered access to that which they own.” - The Council of State Governments, September 2011, “Public Access to Official State Statutory Material Online—Executive Report.”

Additional Resources

AALL Resources for UELMA Implementation — <https://www.aallnet.org/advocacy/government-relations/state-issues/uelma-resources/>

Minnesota Office of Revisor of Statutes “Prototype for Authentication of Official Electronic Record and Pricing”— https://www.revisor.mn.gov/revisor/pubs/Minnesota_Authentication_Prototype.pdf

Susan Nevelow Mart, “UELMA in Colorado” - <https://www.aallnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UELMAinColorado.pdf>

California Office of Legislative Council, “Authentication of Primary Legal Materials and Pricing Options,” - https://www.pnrc.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/CA_Authentication_WhitePaper_Dec2011.pdf

Presented by the
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