



PUBLIC RECORDS AND STATE LEGISLATURES – EXAMPLES OF CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH AND POWERS PROVISIONS

State	Constitutional Provision
Alabama	Art. IV, Sec. 56 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Alaska	Art. II, Sec. 6 (<i>Speech and debate</i>)
Arizona	Art. IV, Sec. 7, Part 2 (<i>Speech and debate liability</i>)
Arkansas	Art. V, Sec. 15 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
California	Art. I, Sec. 3(b)(6) (<i>Legislative confidentiality exception</i>) Art. IV, Sec. 7 (<i>Each house shall adopt rules for its proceedings</i>)
Colorado	Art. V, Sec. 16 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Connecticut	Art. III, Sec. 15 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Delaware	Art. II, Sec. 13 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Florida	Art. III, Sec. 4(a) (<i>Each house shall determine its rules of procedure</i>)
Georgia	Art. III, Sec. IV, Para IX (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Hawaii	Art. III, Sec. 7 (<i>Speech and debate</i>)
Idaho	Art. III, Sec. 7 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Illinois	Art. IV, Sec. 12 (<i>Speech and debate</i>)
Indiana	Art. IV, Sec. 8 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Iowa	Art. III, 2nd, Sec. 9 (<i>Each house shall determine its rules of proceedings</i>)
Kansas	Art. II, Sec. 22 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Kentucky	Sec. 43 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Louisiana	Art. III, Sec. 8 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Maine	Art. IV, Part. 3, Sec. 8 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Maryland	Art. III, Sec. 18 (<i>Speech and debate liability</i>)
Massachusetts	Part 1, Art. XXI (<i>Speech and debate</i>)
Michigan	Art. IV, Sec. 11 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Minnesota	Art. IV, Sec. 10 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Mississippi	Art. IV, Sec. 55 (<i>Each house may determine rules of its own proceedings</i>)
Missouri	Art. III, Sec. 19(a) (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>) Art. III, Sec. 19(b) (<i>Legislative Records are Public Records</i>)

Montana	Art. V, Sec. 8 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Nebraska	Art. III, Sec. 26 (<i>Speech and debate liability</i>)
Nevada	Art. IV, Sec. 6 (<i>Each house shall determine the rules of its proceedings</i>)
New Hampshire	Part. 1, Art. 30 (<i>Speech and debate</i>)
New Jersey	Art. IV, Sec. IV, Para. 9 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
New Mexico	Art. IV, Sec. 13 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
New York	Art. III, Sec. 11 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
North Carolina	<i>None Found</i>
North Dakota	Art. IV, Sec. 15 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Ohio	Art. II, Sec. 12 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Oklahoma	Art. V, Sec. 22 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Oregon	Art. IV, Sec. 9 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Pennsylvania	Art. II, Sec. 15 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Rhode Island	Art. VI, Sec. 5 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
South Carolina	Art. III, Sec. 12 (<i>Each house shall determine its rules of procedure</i>)
South Dakota	Art. III, Sec. 11 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Tennessee	Art. II, Sec. 13 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Texas	Art. III, Sec. 21 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Utah	Art. VI, Sec. 8 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Vermont	Ch. 1, Art. XIV (<i>Speech and debate</i>)
Virginia	Art. IV, Sec. 9 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Washington	Art. II, Sec. 17 (<i>Speech and debate liability</i>)
West Virginia	Art. VI, Sec. 17 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)
Wisconsin	Art. IV, Sec. 16 (<i>Speech and debate liability</i>)
Wyoming	Art. III, Sec. 16 (<i>Speech and debate immunity</i>)

1. “*Speech and debate immunity*” generally corresponds with language that is substantially similar to the speech and debate clause in the U.S. Constitution ([Article 1, Section 6](#)).
2. “*Speech and debate liability*” generally corresponds with language stating that legislators shall not be liable in a civil or criminal prosecution for words spoken in debate.
3. “*Speech and debate*” generally corresponds with language stating that legislators shall not be held to answer before any other tribunal or court for any statement made or any legislative speech or debate.

Public Records Law and State Legislatures

For additional information about state statutes related to public records law, see:

<https://www.ncsl.org/cls/public-records-law-and-state-legislatures>