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**Speer's Digest of Toxic Substances State Law 1983-84, R. D.
Speer and G. A. Bulanowski, Eds.**

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SPEER'S DIGEST OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES STATE LAW 1983-84: TRENDS, SUMMARIES AND FORECASTS

R. D. SPEER and G. A. BULANOWSKI, Eds.
Boulder: Strategic Assessments, Inc. 1984. Pp. 372.
Case bound \$100, Paperback \$85.

This notebook size, softcover volume provides 38 pages of analysis of trends of actions by state legislatures concerning toxic substances in the period 1967 to 1983. It then provides 302 pages of summaries, in fifty state chapters, of enacted laws, bills passed just in 1983, and measures that are pending or that failed or were vetoed in 1983. It concludes with an annotated list of further readings and an index.

The volume excels at both its central objectives: trend analysis and the summarization of legislation. The trend analysis shows the resurgence of state legislatures in enacting policies on toxics in the last decade and a half. Twenty-nine large, clear graphs are provided to illustrate the aggregate picture of pollution, conservation, solid and hazardous wastes, nuclear materials, energy and natural resources legislation. The graphs for each category portray both the number of introductions and the number of enactments. Another feature of the trend analysis is the grouping of state toxics laws into tort-related, environmental and administrative sets, with trends within each set. The methods of trend assessment are documented.

The summaries of state law consist of lists, by bill number, giving the substance of each bill and its legislative history. At the upper right of each entry, the key concepts of the bill are printed in large capital letters. Either by turning to a particular state chapter, or by using the index, the reader can quickly find desired information. Notes at the end of each state chapter provide more detail about trends within the state, and provide forecasts for the next legislative session.

The key concepts employed in the organization of the material are:

Tort-related Legislation

Community Right to Know	Statute of Limitation
Confidential Business Information	Victim Compensation
Information Gathering	Worker Right-to-Know
Labeling	Penalties

Environmental Legislation

Air Pollution	Solid and Hazardous Waste Management
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Chemical Specific Disasters	Nuclear Materials Water Contamination
<i>Administrative Legislation</i>	
Ad Hoc Institutions	Government Reorganization
Definitions	Licensing
Fees	Permitting
Taxes	Research Authorization
Trusts or Funds	

The busy reader will appreciate the precision and economy of language of this reference book, the teamwork between the graphs and the prose, and the cross indexing. The methodology of how the material is treated by the authors is explicit, and they make every reasonable effort to define their terms. They identify the legislative material that they purposefully do not include. My only complaint about the exclusions is that some important groundwater contamination issues are related to water well and municipal sewage and waste water disposal practices, and legislation on these matters was not included. A very minor editorial complaint is that some of the definitions are "buried" in the text. An appreciated editorial decision is the allowance of marginal space for the reader to enter notes. The Digest is a welcome addition to the legal reference literature.

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