

LawVM: independent evidence for legislative change

A bounded institutional assurance and pilot brief

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Purpose

LawVM reconstructs legal text through time from amendment sources and exposes the derivation for review. An institution can begin with a bounded, read-only pilot without replacing its drafting, consolidation, or publication systems.

The assurance chain

1. Bind the work to exact source manifestations and identities.
2. Declare the source-effect universe and account for every member.
3. Lower supported effects to typed operations; preserve residuals instead of guessing.
4. Admit operations only under a declared profile and authority boundary.
5. Compare declared writes with independently observed before/after mutation on wired lanes.
6. Construct point-in-time state with explicit temporal and identity rules.
7. Return evidence that a reviewer can reproduce, challenge, qualify, or reject.

Each step has a separate claim ceiling. Source correctness requires authority and content review; legal interpretation requires separate semantic evidence; one confirmed case supports only that case.

Project maturity

LawVM is an open-source, beta-stage, pre-1.0 engineering system. Its MIT-licensed code and substantial working compiler, CLI, API, frontend, test, and evidence surfaces are available for bounded evaluation. Every result remains bound to its declared software, sources, profile, corpus, and reviewer boundary. Public interfaces and evidence formats can change, and frontend maturity varies by jurisdiction.

Four bounded starting points

Question	Declared input	Return
Does a consolidation follow from amendments?	One source-complete transition set and comparison surface	Source census, replay account, classified differences, evidence packets
Do official-language expressions stay structurally aligned?	Declared expressions, versions, and a bilingual legal reviewer	Availability, pairing, invariant-fact, and residual account
What can be built from our archives?	Representative APIs, XML, HTML, PDFs, scans, registers, and access constraints	Source/page account, claim-specific reconstruction evidence, residual map, and transition feasibility
Can we check a transition before publication?	One versioned structured export and declared rules	Read-only target, reference, temporal, language, and mutation checks

Pilot evidence products

- source and scope manifest, including missing and inaccessible sources;
- typed transition account, residuals, and blocked candidates;
- exact source locators, before/after witnesses, and a human review queue;
- review outcomes that distinguish established within scope, qualified, blocked, unresolved, invalid, uncheckable, and not claimed;
- a promotion recommendation stating which checks may remain observational and which could block a shadow result.

Public evidence and current reach

Riigi Teataja reviewed one LawVM-reported omission in Estonia’s Auditors Activities Act and corrected the Estonian consolidation. The corresponding English-translation detail remains a project report pending separate adjudication. Five additional source/current-text candidates reported from New Zealand and UK work are public with official links and await publisher disposition. Finland provides a dated replay-construction experiment over a declared corpus. Other integrated frontends exercise different source and effect models. Japan, South Korea, Poland, and Switzerland remain staging lanes with source-level claim ceilings and explicit next gates.

Each jurisdiction has its own engineering maturity, evidence base, claim ceiling, and next gate.

Reliance boundary and next step

LawVM is a beta-stage, pre-1.0 engineering system for bounded evaluation. Official text, legal advice, jurisdiction certification, and production authority remain with the responsible institutions and applicable sources. Public APIs and evidence formats can still change. For confidential or restricted source files, describe the material and access constraints before arranging transfer.

Send the jurisdiction, institutional role, objective, representative sources, bounded corpus or transition family, and local reviewer role to hello@lawvm.org. See lawvm.org/assurance/brief, lawvm.org/pilots, and the [assurance overview](#).