Full Statute Revisions

2018 Legislative Drafting Conference: Charting Legislative Courses in a Complex World

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Purpose of Revisions

• Following are the two main purposes:
  • To consolidate the statute law as of a particular date
  • Provides an official consolidation of the statute law as of that date
  • Generally to improve the readability of the statutes without changing the meaning
Authority for Revisions

- Authorized by statute
  - Recent statute revision Acts
  - Earlier statute revision Acts
Statute Revision Process

- Who is responsible for preparing a revision?
- Determining the scope of the revision
- Bringing a revision into force
Revision Powers

• Following are some of the main revision powers:

  • Consolidate in the revision all amendments made to an enactment

  • Change the numbering and the arrangement of enactments

  • Revise and alter language to achieve gender-neutral terminology

  • Revise and alter language so as to give better expression to the meaning of the law
Revision Powers – cont’d

• Following are some of the main revision powers – cont’d:
  • Make any alterations in language and punctuation that are desirable to obtain a uniform mode of expression
  • Change any outdated references
  • Correct clerical, grammatical or typographical errors
  • Repeal enactments that are obsolete, are spent or have no legal effect
Legal Effect of a Statute Revision

- Meant to have no significant legal effect
- Presumption against change in the law
- What if there is an inadvertent change in the law?
What can go wrong?
Questions?