

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 - Change any outdated references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?