Montana members of the National Commission for Uniform State
Laws intend to work for legislative action

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/292

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The Montana members of the National Commission for Uniform State Laws, who attended the commission's 67th national conference, in Los Angeles in August, announced Thursday their intention to work for legislative action on the program adopted at the national meeting.

Montana's commissioners, who were appointed by Gov. J. Hugo Aronson to work with commissioners from the other states, are Chief Justice James T. Harrison of the Montana Supreme Court, chairman of the Montana group; Dean Robert E. Sullivan of the Montana State University Law School, secretary, and Alex Blewett, Great Falls attorney.

Delinquent husbands will have a harder time evading support of abandoned families if Montana's commissioners succeed in selling the next session of the state legislature on the adoption of amendments to the Reciprocal Support Act, according to Dean Sullivan.

Amendments to the Act, adopted at the national conference in Los Angeles, would spell out the specific duties of prosecuting attorneys, judges, court clerks, and other agencies in enforcing the Reciprocal Support Act. The act itself is already on the books of every state in the Union.

The amendments would also provide that documents follow a fleeing husband from state to state as fast as the mails can carry them, without the necessity of introducing new proceedings in each state. They would further provide for the enforcement of a judgment obtained for support by summary proceedings in any state where the husband or his property can be found.

In addition to the amendments to the support act, the national conference adopted amendments to the Uniform Principal and Income Act, the Uniform Narcotic

(more)

The national meeting also approved a Model Water Use Act, which would serve as a pattern for future state legislation in this field. Under its terms, instead of the water being owned either by those living contiguous to it or by those who first appropriated the water to use, the water would be held in trust by the state governments to be used in a manner that would best serve the interests of all the people. This model act has no application in the 17 western states, however, Dean Sullivan said, so the Montana commissioners will not urge its adoption in Montana.

The national conference, with the endorsement of the American Bar Assn., urges the enactment by state legislatures of the acts it has approved in order to bring about uniformity in the laws of the land, Dean Sullivan said. The acts are drafted by committees of the national organization and are considered in detail by at least two annual conferences before they get final approval, he explained.

Sometimes the national conference judges that a uniform act on a particular subject is not desirable and it adopts a model act instead. A model act serves as a guide to state legislatures, which can modify it to suit local conditions, while a uniform act is the same in every state that passes it, the dean said.

The uniform state laws approved by the conference this year were ratified by the House of Delegates of the American Bar Assn. on August 28, during the association's 81st annual meeting, Dean Sullivan said.

###

91058