

AUGUST 21, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 12832 which creates a Law Revision Commission for the District of Columbia. The bill establishes a Law Revision Commission to examine D. C. laws and to recommend reforms. There has been no complete revision of the D. C. laws since the early 1900's.

H.R. 12832:

- establishes a D. C. Law Revision Commission of 15 members appointed as follows:
  - two by the President;
  - one each by the Speaker, the President pro tempore, the House Minority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader;
  - three by the D. C. Commissioner;
  - one by the Chairman of the D. C. Council;
  - two by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in D. C.;
  - one by the D. C. Corporation Counsel; and
  - two by the D. C. bar.
- provides that members of the Commission serve four year terms and select their own chairman;
- establishes no political criteria for Commissioners but specify that members must meet statutory criteria of residence, be lawyers, or otherwise meet expressed criteria;
- authorizes the Commission to employ staff, to obtain information, to contract for activities necessary to carry out its duties, and to establish advisory groups;

(MORE)

- makes the Commission responsible to:
  - review the law and recommend needed reforms;
  - receive and consider proposed changes and suggestions from all sources;
  - recommend changes in the law to the Congress or to the Commissioner;
  - give special consideration to the criminal law; and
  - recommend uniform rules of practice including those before administrative agencies of D. C. and a review of the D. C. Administrative Procedure Act;
- limits the life of the Commission to 4 years;
- provides for codification of D. C. regulations in the Municipal Code; and
- authorizes appropriation of such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the work of the Commission.

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