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Legislation--Bar Committee Appointed to Report Formal Errors in Revised Code

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LEGISLATION — BAR COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO REPORT FORMAL ERRORS IN REVISED CODE. — The Executive Committee of the West Virginia Bar Association has authorized the appointment of a committee of three, for the purpose of collecting and reporting manifest errors and oversights in the Revised Code. The desirability of such a committee was suggested by the writer in the last issue of this publication. The committee appointed by the President of the Association consists of Ronald F. Moist and Lawrence R. Lynch, both of Clarksburg, and James W. Simonton of Morgantown, Mr. Moist being the chairman. This committee is to serve as a body to which suggestions as to errors in the Revised Code can be reported by members of the judiciary and the bar, and will consider all suggestions reported to it and report such as it believes fall within the scope of its authority, to the President and Executive Council of the Bar Association, probably in the form of a bill to be presented to the Legislature.

The Executive Council of the Bar Association has limited the authority of the committee to the collecting and reporting of

manifest errors. It is not to deal with matters which go beyond the scope of corrections. It is a committee for the collection and reporting of errors, using the term in a broad sense. It will limit its report to those errors which it believes all members of the bar will agree ought to be corrected.

It is believed that some errors will become apparent only when some judge or lawyer examines a portion of the code with a view to determining its proper construction. Some rather obvious errors may have so far escaped detection, but others may be revealed only after a careful study of some particular section or sections. Therefore, it will be greatly appreciated if each member of the bar will kindly report any error or errors which he may discover to Mr. Ronald F. Moist, of Clarksburg, the chairman of this committee. In reporting such error the party making the report should suggest a draft of a proposed correction in the exact language which, in his opinion, will effect the desired change, and should briefly state the reasons why he believes there is an error which ought to be corrected. Otherwise the committee may fail to understand the full significance of the suggested error. If each person reporting errors will follow the above method it will be of much assistance to the committee. The committee further requests that suggestions for correction of errors be made in triplicate, so that the chairman of the committee may forward a copy to each member for preliminary study in advance of the committee meeting at which such suggestions are to be considered.

The committee hopes to be able to send out a letter to all members of the judiciary and the bar in the state, explaining the purpose of the committee and the scope of its authority, and asking their earnest cooperation in making its work of value to the state. The success of the committee's work will depend in a great measure on such cooperation. If any judge or lawyer now has anything to report, the committee will be glad if he will do so without awaiting any further notice. As stated above, all communications should be addressed to Mr. Ronald R. Moist, Empire Building, Clarksburg, West Virginia.

—JAMES W. SIMONTON.