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Report of Committee on Legal Sections/Report of Legislation Committee

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGAL SECTIONS

TO THE MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION:

Your Committee reports as follows:

Report

Article IX of the Constitution, approved at the June 1946 Convention, provides authority for the formation of Sections of the Minnesota State Bar Association. That article and By-Law VI set forth in detail the purposes, procedure, organizational set up, limitations and general provisions relating to and governing such sections.

Only one Section has been created pursuant to the authority above referred to. This is the Section of Real Property Law, the Chairman of which is Carroll G. Patton of Minneapolis. At the time this report is made, there is a membership of 607 in that Section. The organizational set up is complete. An annual meeting will be held in June. The Section is active. Its secretary followed the legislative session closely; standards have been published and are available to members; it is expected that the activity of the Section will be expanded to provide additional helpful service to its members. The officers are hopeful that there will be many additional applications for membership.

Respectfully submitted,

ELMER R. PETERSON, Chairman	HAROLD A. STEVENS
FRANK C. HODGSON	E. L. FOGARTY
RUDOLPH L. SWORE	T. H. WANGENSTEEN
P. J. LYONS	JAMES H. MULALLY
A. W. SPELLACY	BURTON E. HUGHES
WILLIAM P. MURPHY	LEO A. REUTHER
HON. J. J. HADLER	A. B. OVERSTREET
RAY C. ENGAN	CARL A. HOLMQUIST

REPORT OF LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

TO THE MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION:

Your Committee recommends:

Recommendation

That the measures lost should have the continued support and sponsorship of the Association.

Report

The 1946 Convention of the Minnesota State Bar Association approved Committee Reports with many recommendations for legislation. Our Committee was thus confronted with the task of serving these recommendations and at the same time pursuing the wise policy of offering only a few necessary and popular proposals to the 1947 Session.

At a joint meeting of the Executive and Legislative Committees all proposals were considered, and eight were selected as the program to be sponsored by the Association before the Minnesota Legislature. With approval of the Board of Governors, the eight bills were prepared and introduced early in the Session.

The 1947 lawmakers of our state encountered at least two difficulties which were not so prevalent in previous sessions: (1) They faced unprecedented demands for revenue and increased cost of government, and

(2) the number of lawyer members of both houses was unusually low, thus throwing a greater burden upon the 15 lawyers in the House of Representatives and the 24 lawyers in the Senate. Progress was therefore slow and very trying to all concerned. Nevertheless, the Association came through with 5 out of its 8 bills enacted into law. These were:

1. S. F. 337 (Laws, 1947, Chapter 595) The Youth Conservation Commission.
2. S. F. 879 (Laws 1947, Chapter 498) Rulemaking power for all Courts except Probate Courts given to the Minnesota Supreme Court.
3. H. F. 192 (Laws, 1947, Chapter 118) 40-year limitation upon adverse claims to real estate titles.
4. H. F. 63 (Laws, 1947, Chapter 114) Amendment to Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 160.09 relating to confidential accident reports and admissibility of testimony of officers making such reports.
5. S. F. 105 (Laws, 1947, Chapter 46) Service of process upon non-resident and absent owners of aircraft authorized to be made upon commissioner of aeronautics.

The three bills lost during the session were not lost on merit; but at least two came very close to enactment, though all three died in committees. These included:

6. S. F. 511—Interlocutory decree of 6 months in divorce and repeal of 6 months waiting period for remarriage within the state. This bill passed the Senate unanimously, but died in the House Judiciary Committee, although a majority of that committee agreed to amend the bill so as to restrict the interlocutory decree to divorces involving a minor child. Objections of a minority kept the bill in committee until too late in the session for favorable action.
7. S. F. 109—The administrative law bill. The bill also passed the Senate, but died in the House Appropriations Committee. The chief objection seemed to be the \$10,000.00 needed for publication of the rules and regulations of the various state agencies.
8. H. F. 222—Compulsory Aviation Insurance. This bill did not come out of the House Insurance Committee. It seemed to lack enthusiasm in an atmosphere of desperate financial problems.

The association's program of legislation had splendid support from the Chairmen and members of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, even though the interlocutory decree bill proved controversial in the House Committee. The tremendous work and unprecedented responsibilities carried by these lawyer members of the Legislature point clearly to the need for more lawyers to seek membership in both branches of our State Legislature.

Your committee feels that the efforts of President M. J. Galvin and the members of this and other Committees of the Association before the Legislature have been fairly successful.

Respectfully submitted,

F. GORDON WRIGHT, Chairman	PAUL A. LUNDGREN
DUNCAN L. KENNEDY	HUGH V. PLUNKETT
ROLAND J. FARICY	HANFORD F. COX
O. A. BLANCHARD	SIGVALD B. OYEN
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