

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to this experimental website providing access to the draft legislation that is currently under consideration by the Criminal Code Revision Commission. We of the Commission hope that by making these working drafts widely available through the medium of the Internet that we will be able to effectively inform a broad spectrum of concerned citizens, such as yourselves, about the work of the Commission and solicit the type of informed and objective criticism of the Commission's legislative proposals that will assist us in refining and revising our work product. The Commission's assignment has been daunting and exhaustive and only by working in relatively small, select subcommittees has it been possible to process the range of statutes involved with the objectivity and care the task merits. But now that the primary phase of the Commission's work is almost completed, we welcome your suggested amendments, informed input, and general responses.

It will not be possible in this short introduction to describe to you all of the thought processes, considerations, and ideas that the Commission members would, in an ideal world, wish that you would be able to reference as you read and study these proposals. To a considerable extent the drafts will have to speak for themselves. However, as you review these documents, please bear the following points in mind:

1. For convenience in dealing with a very large amount of material, we have grouped the drafts into three general categories: common law crimes, drug and alcohol related crimes, and felonies found outside the criminal code;
2. Convenient links to these three groupings are located on the preceding page;
3. Individual tables of contents will orient you once you access each grouping;
4. Although the Commission anticipates introducing its work in three comprehensive bills corresponding to these groupings, at present the drafts have been broken into a substantial number of shorter bills for ease of consideration;
5. Not all of the draft changes are substantive----many reflect modernization of style and form. It is important to refine the archaic language and to attempt to clarify the grammar and syntax of these statutes, but please do not make the mistake of attempting to find substantive changes where only stylistic changes are intended;
6. These are working drafts----works in progress. The Commission can and will amend, revise, approve, reject, supplement, and cull various drafts as the interim progresses;

7. The Commission has three ad hoc subcommittees on the sex offender registry, firearm restrictions, and protection orders that have not yet completed their work. Any resulting draft legislation from these subcommittees will be added to this website as they become available;
8. As the Commission members work through these drafts, any obvious errors, typos, or incorrect cross references will be corrected at once----so minor changes in these drafts may occur from time to time;
9. You may notice a few sections where the lead line would indicate that there is an amendment, but where no amendment appears in the text. These sections are present so that the Commission and anyone studying the drafts may read the material in its context. These unamended context sections will not appear in the final bills.

The Criminal Code Revision Commission cordially invites and solicits public input to these criminal code revision drafts. If you have thoughts, ideas, or concerns that you wish to share with the Commission, several methods are available to you. You may write or email any member of the Commission or the staff of the Commission utilizing information easily accessible on the Legislative Research Council website. You may choose to appear in person during the public testimony portion of the Commission's final meeting currently scheduled for November 30th in Legislative Conference Room 1 in the Capitol in Pierre. Nor do the members or staff discourage contact by phone or in person. But please remember that the type of public testimony that is most likely to result in the adoption of your revisions to the draft legislation is that which is objective, reasoned, and specific.

I hope that this attempt to broaden public input on this important legislative process meets with your approbation and generates useful ideas to be further incorporated into the final drafts. If you have concerns or questions that are not answered or addressed by this or related web pages, please do not hesitate to contact the staff, Reuben Bezpaletz, Annie Mehlhaff, and Jacque Storm for additional assistance.

I look forward to your participation in this meaningful project.

Sincerely,
Lee Schoenbeck
Chair