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Foreword

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Legislative Symposium: The 1958 Regular Session

Foreword

*George W. Pugh**

In an effort to aid the judge and lawyer in his constant and time-consuming attempt to keep abreast of the ever-changing law, the Louisiana Law Review again publishes a symposium discussion of some of the most significant enactments of the last regular general session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Although fewer than those enacted during the 1956 regular session, the number of 1958 enactments continues to afford ample testimony to the great need for additional time for legislative deliberation. 557 bills were passed at the 1958 regular session¹ (excluding 30 proposed constitutional amendments), of which 23 were vetoed by the Governor. In 1956,² 880 bills were passed (excluding 48 proposed constitutional amendments), of which a whopping 292 met with gubernatorial veto. Even more indicative of the need for greater time for legislative deliberation is the number of bills introduced. During the last regular session, 1536 bills were placed in the legislative hopper (344 in the Senate and 1192 in the House). The number introduced in the 1956 session was even more overwhelming, a staggering 1989 bills (440 in the Senate and 1549 in the House). Can such profuse proposals be effectively handled in the short span of sixty days? In the opinion of this writer, it is essential that means be devised to afford the legislators more time for deliberation. It was hoped that the constitutional amendment providing for a fiscal session in alternate years would provide the needed help in solving the problem, but in the opinion of this writer experience has shown that a different solution is needed. The current trend towards industrialization raises many problems which are

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1. For this and subsequent statistical information concerning the 1958 regular general session, see LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DISPOSITION OF ALL BILLS AT 1958 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE (September 1958).

2. For this and subsequent statistical information concerning the 1956 regular general session, see Hebert & Lazarus, *Survey of 1956 Louisiana Legislation — Foreword*, 17 LOUISIANA LAW REVIEW 17 (1956).

challenging indeed. To grapple with them effectively, our lawmakers must be given more time.

The following symposium does not purport to treat all of the many acts passed at the 1958 regular session, only those which appear to be of greatest significance to the members of the Louisiana legal profession. In the past, the Review has sometimes carried a digest of some of the less significant legislation, but in view of the fact that such easy reference to new legislation is afforded by West's Louisiana Legislative Service and by the supplements to the 1950 Revised Statutes, this practice has been discontinued.

It should be noted that in this symposium some of the new acts have different references to the Revised Statutes than those accorded the same acts in West's Louisiana Legislative Service. This is due to the fact that subsequent to the publication of the Legislative Service the Louisiana State Law Institute, in keeping with its mandate from the Legislature,³ has integrated the new legislation into the Revised Statutes and given the acts official title and section designations.

One of the most important measures approved at the 1958 regular session is not discussed in detail in this symposium, but will be the subject of separate treatment in a subsequent issue of this Review. It is a proposed constitutional amendment which would make many needed changes in the structure, composition, and jurisdiction of the state's appellate courts. The subject of intensive study by many Bar groups over a considerable period of time, and formulated by the Judicial Council, with only minor modifications by the Legislature, the proposed amendment reflects the benefits that can be derived from forward-looking cooperative thought of many men. The plan is a fine one and should result in a much more efficient appellate court system.

Civil Code and Related Subjects: Part I

*Robert A. Pascal**

MARRIAGE

Article 161 of the Civil Code declares the marriage between one divorced for adultery and his or her accomplice to be null.

3. L.A. R.S. 24:251 *et seq.* (1950).

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