

Michigan Law Review

Volume 47 | Issue 4

1949

Coigne: STATUTE MAKING

Michigan Law Review

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/mlr>



Part of the [Constitutional Law Commons](#), [Legislation Commons](#), and the [State and Local Government Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Michigan Law Review, *Coigne: STATUTE MAKING*, 47 MICH. L. REV. 602 ().

Available at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/mlr/vol47/iss4/28>

This Regular Feature is brought to you for free and open access by the Michigan Law Review at University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Michigan Law Review by an authorized editor of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact mlaw.repository@umich.edu.

STATUTE MAKING. By *Armand B. Coigne*. Chicago: Commerce Clearing House, Inc. 1948. Pp. xvii, 293. \$4.

The author of this book, a member of the Massachusetts bar, considers the various parts of the machinery used in bringing a statute into being. Although he recognizes that law takes many forms, his work is limited to statutes passed by legislative bodies, thus discarding consideration of maritime, international and common law. Due consideration is given to the influence of forces outside the legislative bodies in the forming of statutes. Legislative conferences and organizations (bicameral and unicameral) are taken into account, and their usual procedures are discussed in order and woven into a unit. A section is given over to parliamentary procedure, defining terms and explaining practices, and more than one third

of the book is devoted to a detailed outline of requirements for the introduction and passage of bills and resolutions. The technical requirements are taken up in order, and the variations in procedure among the various states are noted. The book closes with a discussion of constitutional amendments, the aims of the executive and judicial branches of government, and the effect of treaties. The author considers direct action of the people through the initiative and referendum, now permitted by the constitutions of twenty-two states. Federal and state governments are compared, and the variations in state government are noted. Local legislative bodies are considered and their limitations pointed out. The detailed organizations of both the United States Congress and state legislatures are ably discussed, together with the way in which treaties and state constitutional amendments are originated and carried to completion. While the book is technical in form and detailed enough to be used as a text or reference book, it has a continuity which makes it interesting reading for anyone interested in the problems of government.