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Dickinson Law

DICKINSON LAW REVIEW
PUBLISHED SINCE 1897

Volume 39
Issue 4 *Dickinson Law Review - Volume 39,*
1934-1935

6-1-1935

Book Review

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Recommended Citation

Book Review, 39 DICK. L. REV. 256 (1935).

Available at: <https://ideas.dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/dlra/vol39/iss4/9>

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BOOK REVIEW

MODEL LAWS FOR PLANNING CITIES, COUNTIES, AND STATES

By Edward M. Bassett, Frank B. Williams, Alfred Bettman, and Robert Whitten.
Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1935. pp. 137.

This work is Volume VII of the Harvard City Planning Studies and must inevitably meet with the hearty approval of those interested in this vital subject.

Since the publication of the Standard Zoning and Planning Acts of the United States Department of Commerce, which were the first basic legislative forms for planning in this country, accumulated experience in their application has resulted in still further advances in city planning legislation. Circumstances have greatly changed in the meantime, however, and now there is need of a consistent set, or several sets, of typical or model acts, each based upon a single conception of the purpose in view, dealing with planning, zoning, subdivision regulation, and protection of mapped streets, applying to cities, counties, regions and states and inevitably bearing certain implications and suggestions even as to national planning.

The four authors of this volume, although agreeing as to results to be sought, differ as to the methods which they consider to be desirable. Messrs. Bassett and Williams believe in submitting to our legislatures something already understood in principle and essentially familiar in use; Messrs. Bettman and Whitten prefer to give the techniques and procedures of planning more emphatic support in the structure and methods of legislation and of administration in local government.

Whichever of these views you favor, you will find in this book an indispensable help in your thinking about planning legislation. In addition to the general discussions and the recommendations regarding legislative forms, two comprehensive sets of model laws for states, cities and counties are included in the volume. Officials, consultants, and those immediately engaged in drawing up laws will therefore find here practical help. The book can also be strongly recommended to all planning practitioners, and to members of state and regional planning boards.

Harold S. Irwin