

CLASS B

INTRODUCTION

Class B constructs the body of statutory law, as it has been enacted in each of the states, into a number of companion series arranged in chronological sequence. The class is subdivided into four parts: Part 1, Codes and Compilations; Part 2, Session Laws; Part 3, Special Laws; and Part X, Miscellany.

Part 1 consists of the compiled and codified law of the states and includes abridgments of the law, collections of laws in special fields, codes, compilations, revisions and digests. This part groups the classics of American statute law. The first of these to be adopted in each colony and territory formed the core and the base support for the future build-up of enactment in the state. Later ones reveal the results of reform in the basic system of law in particular jurisdictions and show the status of enactment in its breadth as of a certain time. These masterpieces in the summation and statement of the law reflect the contributions of great legal scholars and their influence on the development of the American system of law.

Part 2 contains the sessional laws enacted from the beginning by the legislatures of each of the states. The original session laws contain much basic information, not carried forward in the periodic revisions of the body of law, which retains present value for the lawmaker engaged in the formulation of new legislation. Development trends in any subject division of the law may be traced historically state by state through the series of session laws and comparative studies may be made of the progress of legal reform at any given time throughout the states.

Part 3 contains many types of specialized legislation separately printed and issued collaterally with the regular sessional volumes. Series of special laws provide a rich source for specialists studying institutional development and social and administrative reforms in the law.

Part X provides a catch-all for miscellaneous statutory materials that do not fit into one of the regular categories.

Class B is a closely unified segment of the microfilm collection. The purpose in its arrangement has been to prepare a statutory source book generally useful to the largest possible number of libraries and institutions engaged in legal research. The plan followed, therefore, has been to select a terminal date for each state on the basis of the unavailability of the laws of the state in law libraries generally, and then to microfilm the entire series from the earliest copy found down to the terminal date rather than to copy as fill in material only exceptionally rare periods of various series. The aim has been to construct on microfilm complete series of volumes of laws, state by state, with perfect text volume by volume