

National Law Conference Adopts Eight New Uniform Acts

BY REPRESENTATIVE CAM WARD

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws recently approved eight new acts dealing with issues ranging from new rules on volunteer healthcare services in declared emergencies to a revision of the established rules governing organ donations.

The conference is comprised of more than 300 lawyers, judges, law professors, legislators, and government attorneys, appointed by every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The uniform law commissioners draft proposals for uniform laws on issues where disparity between the states is a problem.

The new uniform acts adopted were:

The new **Uniform Emergency Volunteer Healthcare Practitioners Act** allows state governments to give reciprocity to other states' licenses of emergency services providers so that covered individuals may provide services without meeting the disaster state's licensing requirements.

The new **Uniform Anatomical Gift Act** updates the act (which was originally promulgated in 1968 and adopted in every state; a revised version has been available since 1987) in light of changes in federal law relating to the role of hospitals and procurement organizations in securing organs for transplantation.

The **Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act** (UPMIFA), like

its predecessor, the **Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act** (UMIFA), provides statutory guidelines for management, investment and expenditures of endowment funds of charitable institutions—institutions such as colleges, universities and hospitals.

The **Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act** provides courts with guidelines to follow during domestic dispute proceedings to help courts identify families with children at risk for abduction and to provide methods to prevent the abduction of children.

The **Uniform Power of Attorney Act** provides a simple way for people to deal with their property by providing a power of attorney that survives the incapacity of the principal.

The **Uniform Limited Liability Company Act** permits the formation of limited liability companies (LLCs), which provide the owners with the advantages of both corporate-type limited liability and partnership tax treatment.

The **Uniform Representation of Children in Abuse and Neglect and Custody Proceedings Act** seeks to improve the representation of children in proceedings directly affecting their custody by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of children's representatives and by providing guidelines to courts in appointing representatives.

The **Model Registered Agents Act** provides state with one registration procedure

for registered agents no matter the kind of business entity represented by the agent.

Alabama joined the conference in 1906, and since that time has enacted 56 of the uniform or model acts promulgated by the conference. Alabama has seven uniform law commissioners appointed to the conference: **Jerry Bassett, Justice Gorman Houston, Jr., Tom Jones, Senator Ted Little, Robert McCurlay, Jr., Bruce McKee, and Representative Cam Ward.**

Information on all of these acts, including the approved text of each act, can be found at www.nccusl.org. ■



Representative Cam Ward

Representative Cam Ward graduated from Troy University and from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham. He served as deputy attorney general in the Alabama State Auditor's Office from April 1996 until December

1997. In 1998, he joined the Alabama Secretary of State's Office as confidential assistant to the Secretary of State.

From November 1998 to June 2001, Ward worked as district director for Congressman Spencer Bachus of Birmingham. In June 2001, he became executive director of the Industrial Development Board of Alabaster. Ward has been a member of the Alabama Republican Party State Executive Committee since 1999 and was elected as an alternate delegate for George W. Bush to the 2000 and 2004 Republican National conventions. In 2002, he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives for District 49.