



Citizens' Assemblies for Ontario

Bill 213, the ***Election Amendment Act***, was proclaimed on the last day of the spring session of the Legislature. It makes amendments to the *Election Act* to authorize the selection of "representative bodies of electors to consider specified matters relating to democratic renewal."

In November 2004, the Premier specified that there would be two bodies. One would be a Citizens' Assembly made up of people from across the province who would re-examine our first-past-the-postelectoral system and recommend possible changes. Then, if the Assembly recommends an alternative voting system, a referendum on that alternative would be held during the government's mandate.

The second body would be a Citizens' Jury that would make recommendations to the government regarding changes in how provincial political parties and election campaigns are financed.

The Bill which passed in June directs the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make a regulation to set up these bodies and specify terms of reference. It also details how the Chief Election Officer is to draw names for the Assembly from the permanent voters list, and provide it to the Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal.

In addition, the government authorized the establishment of a Select Committee of MPPs who will visit countries with different voting systems and then hear depositions from interested citizens back in Ontario.

End of Spring Session

The Legislature resumed sitting for nine days following the May break, and then adjourned on June 13 with a scheduled return set for September 26.

The following twelve Government Bills were given Royal Assent during this period:

Bill 92, ***Municipal Amendment Act***, the Province must consult with municipalities on matters of mutual interest.

Bill 110, ***Mandatory Gunshot Wounds Reporting Act***, public hospitals and prescribed health care facilities must report to police when they treat anyone for a gunshot wound.

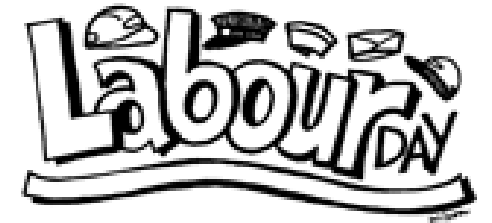
Bill 118, ***Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act***, establishment of accessibility standards by regulation that apply to persons and organizations in both the public and private sectors.

Bill 133, ***Environmental Enforcement Statute Amendment Act***, lists the types of contraventions for which environmental penalties may be imposed, describes the types of persons on whom they may be imposed, and the amounts of the penalties.

Bill 136, ***Places To Grow***, gives Lieutenant Governor in Council authority to designate any area of

land as a growth plan area and to establish a growth plan for all or part of that area.

Bill 144, ***Labour Relations Statute Law Amendment Act***, repeals posting of decertification information and disclosure of trade union salaries, gives card-certification to construction industry, restores remedial certification in the context of an employer contravention.



Bill 155, ***Family Responsibility and Support Arrears Enforcement Amendment Act***, strengthens enforcement tools available to the Family Responsibility Office, improves methods used for locating defaulting payors, and streamlines enforcement procedures.

Bill 148, **Film Classification Act**, governs classification, approval, exhibition, and distribution of film.

Bill 164, **Tobacco Control Statute Amendment Act**, bans smoking in enclosed workplaces and enclosed public places, restricts sale of tobacco by means of “counter-top displays” and promotions in places of entertainment.

Bill 186, **Regional Municipality of Peel Act**, specifies composition of council of Regional Municipality of Peel for the regular election of 2006.

Bill 194, **Education Amendment Act**, regulates boards charging fees to non-citizens.

Bill 213, **Election Amendment Act**, authorizes the selection of Citizen’s Assemblies to consider matters relating to democratic renewal.

Four Liberal Private Members’ Bills also received Royal Assent:

Bill 3, **Sabrina’s Law**, school boards must establish strategies and training to deal with life-threatening allergies in pupils.

Bill 113, **Asian Heritage Act**, proclaims May as *Asian Heritage Month*.

Bill 142, **Highway Traffic Amendment Act (School Crossing Guards)**, expands function of school crossing guards to cover directing all persons across a highway, not just children.

Bill 203, **Ontario Wine Week Act**, proclaims third week in June as *Ontario Wine Week*.

Two Conservative Private Members’ Bills also received Royal Assent:

Bill 168, **Farm Implements Amendment Act**, regulates distribution and repair of farm implements.

Bill 216, **Apprenticeship and Certification Amendment Act**, establishes a Fuel Industry Technician Advisory Committee for the group of trades in that sector.

Two Government Bills passed Second Reading during this period:

Bill 169, **Transport Statute Law Amendment Act**; and

Bill 86, **Election Statute Law Amendment Act**.

Four Private Members’ Bill also passed Second Reading:

Bill 103, **Blind Persons’ Rights Amendment Act** (PC);

Bill 198, **Missing Persons Reporting Act** (LIB);

Bill 199, **Rural Ontario Day Act** (LIB); and

Bill 201, **Health Insurance Amendment Act** (LIB).

Three Government Bills were introduced at first Reading:

Bill 206, **Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act**;

Bill 210, **Child and Family Services Statute Law Amendment Act**; and

Bill 211, **Ending Mandatory Retirement Statute Law Amendment Act**.

Six Private Members’ Bills were introduced at First Reading:

Bill 205, **Developmental Services Amendment Act** (PC);

Bill 207, **Sexual Harassment Awareness Week Act** (LIB);

Bill 208, **Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Amendment Act (Assistance to Municipalities)** (PC);

Bill 209, **Highway Traffic Amendment Act (License Suspension)** (LIB);

Bill 212, **Joe Cordianno Act** (NDP); and

Bill 215, **Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act** (PC).

The full text of all bills can be viewed at www.ontla.on.ca

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