

17 Bills Passed and 3 Others Introduced During 2017 Spring Sitting of the Legislature

June 1, 2017

The 17 bills passed during the spring sitting of the Ontario legislature are helping to build a fairer and more secure future for people across Ontario. The province is taking action to lower electricity bills, address rising housing costs, protect patients and consumers, encourage economic growth, fight racism and strengthen the child welfare system.

Bills That Passed:

Bill 27, Burden Reduction Act, 2017

(Introduced September 27, 2016)

Reduces and streamlines regulatory and administrative burdens that cost businesses time and money, while maintaining protections for environmental and health standards and worker safety. It changes 50 statutes to build a smarter, more modern and more efficient regulatory framework as part of Ontario's five-year, \$650-million [Business Growth Initiative](#).

Bill 39, Aggregate Resources and Mining Modernization Act, 2017

(Introduced October 6, 2016)

Modernizes the province's resource extraction rules to increase environmental protections, boost competitiveness, and create jobs and economic growth in the aggregates and mining sectors.

Bill 59, Putting Consumers First Act (Consumer Protection Statute Law Amendment), 2017

(Introduced November 3, 2016)

Establishes mandatory licensing requirements for home inspectors in Ontario, increases confidence in real estate transactions and reduces consumer risk when making this important financial decision. The bill restricts unsolicited door-to-door contracts for prescribed sectors, including contracts for sectors that receive complaints. For example, the government may look at water heater, furnace and air conditioner contracts. The bill also strengthens and expands the authority to make rules for alternative financial services, such as payday loan providers, giving customers better financial protections when using these services. Finally, it strengthens rules governing debt collection agencies by expanding their scope to include purchasers of overdue debt and permitting the use of administrative monetary penalties to promote compliance in future.

Bill 65, Safer School Zones Act, 2017

(Introduced November 15, 2016)

Makes roads safer for vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists, by giving municipalities more tools to address speeding. These tools include the ability to set reduced default speed limits and use automated speed-enforcement systems on roads with speed limits below 80 km/h that are designated as community safety zones or in school zones.

Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017

(Introduced November 16, 2016)

Empowers local governments to be more open, flexible and accountable in responding to the needs of residents. For example, broadening municipal investment powers could help finance repairs and replacements of local infrastructure. This legislation responds to feedback received during public consultations in 2015 by amending the Municipal Act, the City of Toronto Act and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Bill 84, Medical Assistance in Dying Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017

(Introduced December 7, 2016)

Provides more protection and greater clarity regarding medical assistance in dying for patients, their families and health care providers. It aligns with federal legislation and ensures appropriate oversight of medical assistance in dying cases.

Bill 87, Protecting Patients Act, 2017

(Introduced December 8, 2016)

Protects patients and keeps them healthy by making a number of improvements to health care, including upholding and reinforcing the zero-tolerance policy on patient sexual abuse by any regulated health professional. This aligns with the government's Patients First Action Plan for Health Care.

Bill 89, Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act, 2017

(Introduced December 8, 2016)

Strengthens the child welfare system by placing a focus on prevention and protection — including raising the age of protection to 18 so that all eligible 16- and 17-year-olds can access services to help them successfully transition to adulthood and reduce their risk of homelessness and other poor outcomes.

Bill 92, School Boards Collective Bargaining Amendment Act, 2017

(Introduced February 21, 2017)

Strengthens the successful model for collective bargaining in the education sector by making it more flexible, transparent and consistent. The bill allows collective agreements to be extended, gives students and parents more notice of labour disruptions and ensures all education workers' unions participate in central bargaining.

Bill 95, Protecting Vulnerable Energy Consumers Act, 2017

(Introduced February 22, 2017)

Gives the Ontario Energy Board the power to order gas and electrical utility companies to stop disconnecting customers for non-payment of utility bills.

Bill 96, Anti-Human Trafficking Act, 2017

(Introduced February 22, 2017)

Enables victims of human trafficking to apply for a restraining order to protect themselves or their children from traffickers. It also makes it possible for survivors to sue their traffickers for compensation through civil court in order to help survivors restore and rebuild their lives. The bill also proclaims February 22 of each year as Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Bill 111, Supply Act, 2017

(Introduced March 23, 2017)

Provides statutory authority for the spending by government ministries and legislative offices during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, in accordance with the main and supplementary expenditures estimates for that fiscal year that were approved by the Legislative Assembly.

Bill 114, Anti-Racism Act, 2017

(Introduced March 29, 2017)

Embeds Ontario's Anti-Racism Directorate in law, creating a framework for continued work to promote equity for racialized groups across the province. The bill would also enable the government to mandate race data collection and an anti-racism impact assessment framework to inform public sector policies and programs. Additionally, it would require a review of the anti-racism strategy at least every five years, in consultation with the public.

Bill 124, Rental Fairness Act, 2017

(Introduced April 24, 2017)

Addresses rising rental costs faced by people in Ontario by expanding rent control to all private rental units, including those occupied on or after November 1, 1991. The Act also strengthens protections for tenants across Ontario.

Bill 127, Stronger, Healthier Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2017

(Introduced April 27, 2017)

Ontario's first balanced budget since the global recession introduces free prescription drug coverage for everyone aged 24 and younger, makes important investments to reduce wait times and improve access to care, helps students, and makes life more affordable for Ontario families.

Bill 132, Fair Hydro Act, 2017

(Introduced May 11, 2017)

Lowers electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms. These measures include the eight-per-cent rebate that came into effect in January 2017, and build on previously announced initiatives to deliver broad-based hydro rate relief.

Bill 134, Budget Measures Act (Housing Price Stability and Ontario Seniors' Public Transit Tax Credit), 2017

(Introduced May 17, 2017)

Increases housing affordability for people in the Greater Golden Horseshoe by implementing a Non-Resident Speculation Tax on residential properties purchased or acquired by non-Canadian citizens, non-permanent residents, non-Canadian corporations and taxable trustees. The bill would also enact a new Ontario Seniors' Public Transit Tax Credit to make public transit more affordable for seniors throughout the province.

Bills Introduced:**Bill 139, Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017**

(Introduced May 30, 2017)

Would change the Planning Act to give communities a stronger voice in land use planning. The bill would also create the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal and the Local Planning Appeal Support Centre, modernize the Conservation Authorities Act and conserve Ontario's watersheds.

Bill 142, Construction Lien Amendment Act

(Introduced May 31, 2017)

Would modernize construction laws to update the lien and holdback process, ensure construction workers are paid promptly for the work they do, and create a fast and simple dispute resolution process. These changes would boost competitiveness in the construction industry, as well as support the largest infrastructure investment in the province's history — more than \$190 billion over 13 years starting in 2014-15.

Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act

(Introduced June 1, 2017)

Would create more opportunity and security for workers by increasing the minimum wage, ensuring part-time workers are paid the same hourly wage as full-time workers who do the same work, introducing paid sick days for every worker, and stepping up education and enforcement of employment laws.

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