



Office of the Auditor General of Ontario
Bureau de la vérificatrice générale de l'Ontario

Understanding Legislation and E-Laws

Kristy May & Benjamin Wiles
September 20, 2021

Session Overview

Part 1: The Legislative Process

- The Legislative Assembly of Ontario
- How a Bill becomes Law
- Acts vs. Regulations

Part 2: Navigating Current Bills & Using E-Laws

- Monitoring a Bill's Progression
- Using E-Laws
- Understanding Proclamations



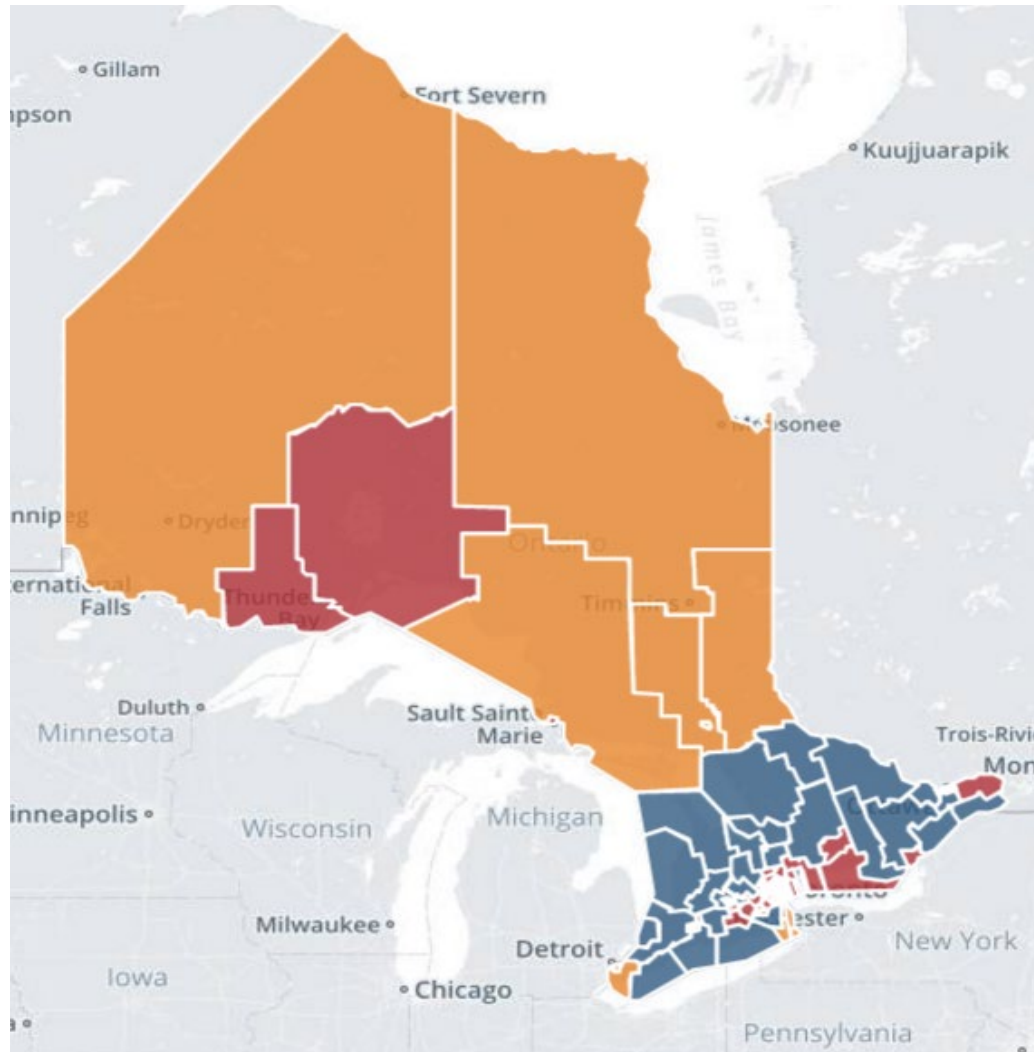
Part One: The Legislative Process



The Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Ontario Ridings



124 ridings
(geographic
electoral districts)

Electoral
boundaries were
last adjusted for
the 2018 provincial
election,
increasing from
107 seats to 124.

The next provincial
election will be
held on or before
June 2, 2022.



Seating Arrangement in the House

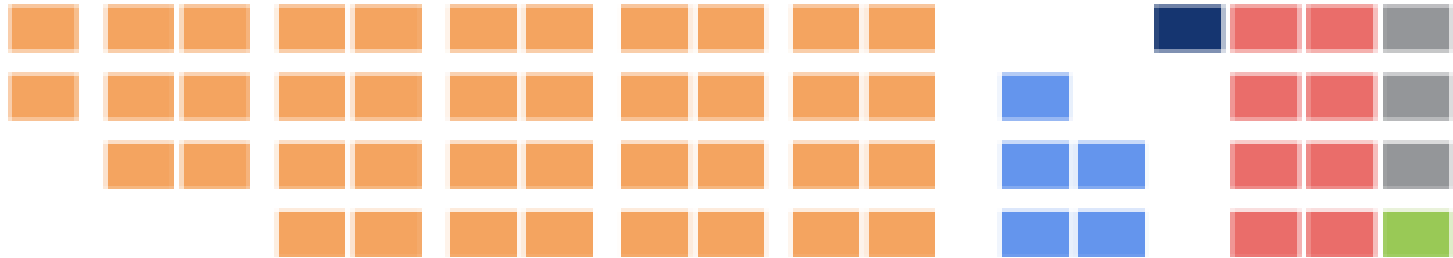


Official Opposition (40 seats):
New Democratic Party

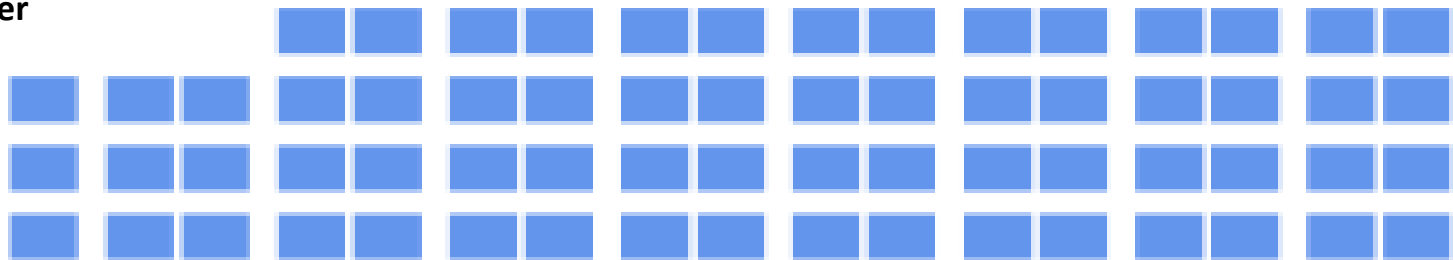


Other Parties:

- Liberal Party (8 seats)
- Independent (3 seats)
- Green Party (1 Seat)
- New Blue Party (1 Seat)



Speaker



Government (71 seats):
Progressive Conservative Party



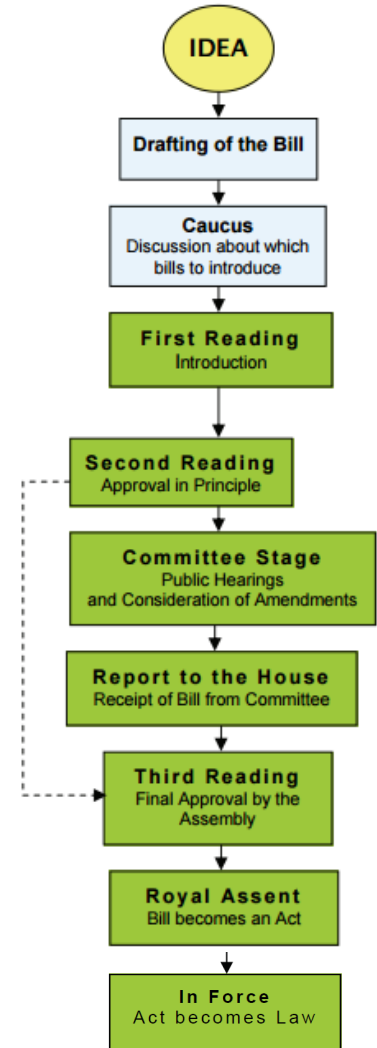
Parliaments and Sessions

- A **parliament** is marked by an election and can be divided into one or more sessions, usually consisting of a number of separate sittings.
- A **session** begins with a Speech from the Throne and ends with the prorogation or dissolution of the Parliament. A Parliament can rise for a break without starting a new session (e.g. summer adjournment).
- **Prorogation** ends the current legislative session and terminates all business; **Dissolution** terminates Parliament and is followed by a general election.
- When a parliament is dissolved or prorogued, all Bills under consideration “die on the order paper” and must be reintroduced in the next parliament.
- This 42nd Parliament (1st Session) (June 29, 2018 – September 12, 2021) just ended with prorogation and a **42nd Parliament (2nd Session)** is scheduled to begin on October 4, 2021.
- 41st Parliament: Session 1 (July 2, 2014 – September 8, 2016); Session 2 (September 12, 2016 – March 15, 2018); Session 3 (March 19, 2018 – May 8, 2018); Dissolution (May 8, 2018); Election (June 2, 2018).



The Legislative Process

- The process of passing bills into law is one of the main tasks of the Legislative Assembly.
- A **Bill** is an idea written in legal language and presented for consideration to the Legislative Assembly by a Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP).
- Bills are a proposal to either *make a new law* or to *change one or more existing laws*.
- Must pass through the legislative stages and achieve *Royal Assent* to become Ontario law (an “**Act**”).

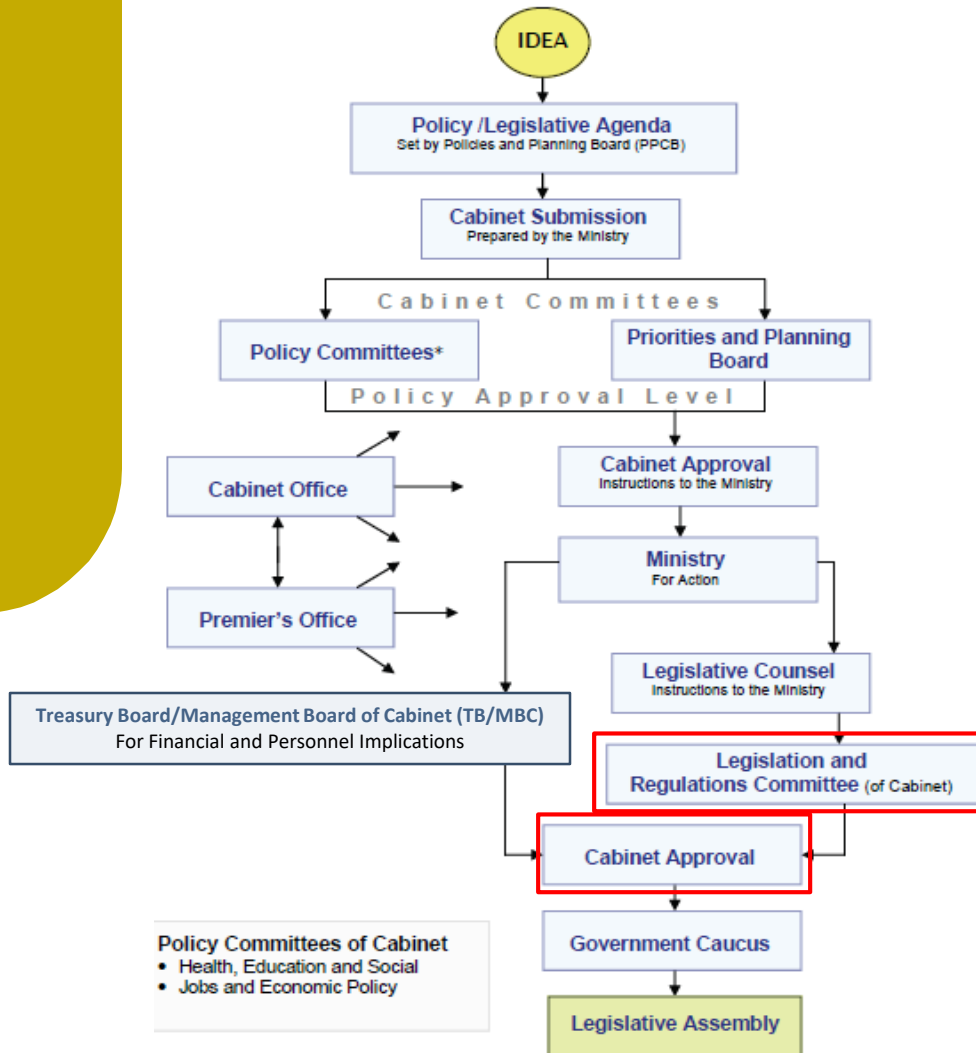


Types of Bills

- **Public bills** relates matters of public policy and are generally initiated by elected officials. There are three kinds of public Bills in Ontario:
 - Government Bills – introduced by Cabinet Ministers.
 - Private Members' Bills (PMBs) – introduced by any MPP who is not a Cabinet Minister (both government and opposition MPPs).
 - Committee Bills – introduced by the Chairs of certain Standing Committees of the Legislature (Justice Policy, Social Policy, General Government).
- **Private bills** are proposed laws that seek special powers or exemptions for a particular person, group or corporation. Members of the public must file an application with the Clerk and have an MPP sponsor the bill.
- Bills are numbered in the order they are introduced in that session. Private bills have their own numbering (PR1, PR2, etc.).



The Legislative Role of Cabinet (*Government Bills*)



- The **Cabinet (Executive Council) of Ontario** is comprised of the Premier and the Ministers they appoint.
- Collectively responsible for advising in the setting of public policy and for directing government activities.
- The **Legislation and Regulations Committee (LRC)** of Cabinet evaluates proposals for new (or to amend existing) legislation and regulations.
- Government Bills are submitted to the Assembly following pre-legislative stages that conclude with *Cabinet Approval*.



LRC Submissions - Relevance to Audits

Tracking #: (e.g. REG-10733, OICNA-12556, DLEG-488)
E-Track #: (e.g. SUB-REG-2009-334)

Ministry of [X]

Title, in bold 14-pt Arial, no more than two lines
Type of instrument(s) (i.e. Legislation, Regulation, OIC)

Profile at a Glance

ERASE instructions when complete: If there are new costs for business, the ministry should ensure it meets all requirements under the *Reducing Regulatory Costs for Business Act, 2017*.

Priority: Choose from: Key to Commitment/Consequential to Commitment/Key regular business/Other regular business

Public Interest: Choose from: Very High/High/Moderate/Low/None

Key Stakeholder Interest: Choose from: Very high/High/Moderate/Low/None

New Costs/Burdens: Choose from for each: Yes/No for Ontarians; Yes/No for Business; Yes/No for Government

New Savings/Opportunities: Choose from for each: Yes/No for Ontarians; Yes/No for Business; Yes/No for Government

Target Dates: Regulation Filing - [date] or N/A; Announcement - [date] or N/A

Proposed Items for Review

ERASE instructions when complete: Use a numbered list, Arial 11, indicating Act and regulation titles (and regulation number as needed, e.g. O. Reg. 99/01) for each item. If needed, continue on back of this page or use an appendix. Use following examples for structure:

1. New legislation titled the *New Legislation Act, 2009*
2. Order in Council to Proclaim sections of the *Legislation Act, 2006*
3. New regulation under the *Legislation Act, 2006*, titled "General"
4. Amending the Fees regulation under the *Legislation Act, O. Reg. 522/12*
5. Order in Council under the *Legislation Act, 2006*

Approvals required prior to LRC

ERASE instructions when complete: Include the committee name and date in the relevant box, or enter "No approval needed". Note: For any dates below, a variance memo may be required.

Policy	Committee and date	Cabinet Date
TB/MBC		

[signatures must remain on first page]

Deputy Minister _____ Date _____

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Minister _____ Date _____

S. 1. Proposal Context

ERASE these guidelines and questions after completing the form.

Key questions - Be brief (this section should run less than a quarter page):

- What is the problem/issue?
- Briefly and generally, what are you proposing to do about it?

S. 2. Direction and Urgency Note appendices here, or ERASE, e.g. See Appendix X, Variance Memo

ERASE these guidelines and questions after completing the form. Provide only key information here – if you need to provide details, do so in an appendix.

Key questions - Address any that apply to your proposal:

- What is the source of direction for this proposal? State the relevant direction, for example:
 - o Cabinet policy minute – Paraphrase or summarize the direction - do not quote actual Cabinet minutes. Cabinet Office will provide members with copies of actual minutes as needed.
 - o Throne speech
 - o Budget or commitment
 - o Public commitment
 - o Other direction
- If there is a Cabinet policy minute, clearly indicate either a) that the proposal does not vary from the direction, or b) that it does vary, and include a Variance Memo as an appendix. If your item is legislation, you must include a Variance Memo, even if it indicates that there is no variance from policy.
- Why should it be done now, can it wait? Are there consequences to not acting now?
- If there is a specific date by which this proposal must be in place, provide that date. This includes information on whether a regulation needs to be filed by a certain date, whether an announcement is tracking for a certain date, and the effective date.

S. 3. Approach and Intended Outcomes Note appendices here, or ERASE, e.g. See Appendix X, [Title]

ERASE these guidelines and questions after completing the form. Provide only key information here – if you need to provide details, do so in an appendix.

Key questions - Address any that apply to your proposal:

- What regulatory or legislative changes are you making, or what does your OIC do?
- What are the changes meant to achieve?
- Why is this legislation/regulation/OIC the most appropriate approach?
- How will this proposal affect Ontarians?

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S. 4. Impact Assessment and Costs Note appendices here, or ERASE, e.g. See Appendix X, [Title]

ERASE these guidelines and questions after completing the form. Provide only key information here – if you need to provide details, do so in an appendix.
Note: If your proposal has impacts to business, the ministry should ensure it has met all the requirements under the *Reducing Regulatory Costs for Business Act, 2017* before drafting this section. See guidance materials on the [Regulatory Centre of Excellence](#) intranet page.

Key questions, to assess impact and costs to both Ontarians (external) and government (internal):

- Who will be affected by the regulatory proposal, and what type of impact will the proposal have on them (e.g., compliance costs, social or environmental impacts, impacts on the economy)?
- Are there any impacts that may be distributed across various stakeholders, sectors or regions?
- Are there other impacts, such as potential impacts on the economy, competitiveness and innovation, competition, consumers, and trade?
- What have stakeholders said about potential impacts and costs of the proposal?
- How does the proposal align with or support the government's overall economic objectives?

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3 of 7

S. 5. Implementation Note appendices here, or ERASE, e.g. See Appendix X, [Title]

ERASE these guidelines and questions after completing the form. Provide only key information here – if you need to provide details, do so in an appendix.

Key questions - Address any that apply to your proposal:

- How will the proposal be implemented? Who will be responsible for implementation (third party, operations)?
- If your proposal requires businesses to submit documents to government, is an electronic submission option provided to businesses? If not, why?
- What are the timelines?
- When is the ministry targeting filing regulations and why? When will the regulation come into force, and when will its provisions come into force?

S. 6. Risks Note appendices here, or ERASE, e.g. See Appendix X, [Title]

Confidential Cabinet Document
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Legislation “Coming into Force” and Proclamation

- Although a Bill becomes law (an Act) on the day that it receives Royal Assent, it may not always come into force on the same date.
- An Act’s **in force date** (=when it has legal effect and is enforceable):
 - Is always denoted within the legislation’s *Commencement* clause.
 - May be the date that the authorizing Bill receives Royal Assent.
 - May not be specified for a given date, but may come into force “on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor” or concurrent with the Royal Assent date of another named legislation.
 - May be the same for the entire legislation, or may differ for different parts of a Bill (*schedules*) and for different parts of an Act (*sections, clauses*).
- Proclamations dates for legislation are decided by the government and published online (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/proclamations>).
- The [Ontario Gazette](#) is the official publication for legislative decisions, Cabinet orders (Orders in Council (OICs)), proclamations of new statutes, all regulations made under Ontario statutes, and notices that must be made public.



Regulations

- A **Regulation** is always associated with and filed under an Act, which provides the enabling authority for that Regulation.
- Regulations often provide additional details and specific requirements for a regulatory regime authorized under an Act.
- Can be filed, amended or repealed by a Minister or designated authority/agency without needing to go through the legislative process.
- Allow the Minister or designated authority to modify requirements under the regime more easily and as needed to keep them current.
- *Environmental Protection Act, RSO 1990*, Part X: Spills, s. 91.1: requires entities **prescribed by regulation** to develop and implement spill prevention and contingency plans to prevent and reduce the risk of spills of pollutants they handle.
 - *O. Reg. 224/07 – Spill Prevention and Contingency Plans*: describes who is subject to this planning requirement and specifies content and submission requirements for those planning documents.



Part Two: Navigating Current Bills & Using E-Laws



Searching for Bills

The legislative status of current Bills can be found on the OLA Website:

<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current>



Bills listed by number (decreasing)

Bill sponsor(s)

Legislative status and dates

Search Bill title by keyword

Current bills

Bill title search Bill type - Any - APPLY

[Bill 307, Protecting Elections and Defending Democracy Act, 2021](#)

Downey, Hon. Doug *Attorney General*

Date	Bill stage	Activity	Committee
June 14, 2021	Royal Assent	Royal Assent received	-
June 14, 2021	Third Reading	Carried on division	-
June 14, 2021	Third Reading	Debate	-
June 14, 2021	-	Ordered for Third Reading pursuant to the Order of the House	-
June 14, 2021	Second Reading	Carried on division	-
June 14, 2021	Second Reading	Question put	-
June 14, 2021	-	Time allocated	-
June 12	Second	Debate	-

- [Legislative business](#)
- [Bills](#)
- [Current](#)
- [Private bills procedures](#)
- [House documents](#)
- [Parliamentary calendars](#)
- [Standing orders](#)
- [Status of business](#)
- [Video](#)
- [House Hansard index](#)
- [Committees](#)

Bill short title



Bill Versions, Status, and Debates



Bill sponsor(s)

View text of Bill

Bill text versions (at each stage)

Provides detailed chart of legislative stages and dates

PDF copy of selected version

Bill 269, Protecting the People of Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2021

[Bethlenfalvy, Hon. Peter](#), Minister of Finance

Current status: Royal Assent received. Statutes of Ontario 2021, chapter 8

[View bill](#) [Status](#) [Debates](#) [Acts affected](#)

Versions

[Royal Assent](#)
[As Amended by Standing Committee](#)
[Original](#)

[Bill 269 Royal Assent \(PDF\)](#)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Explanatory Note was written as a reader's aid to Bill 269 and does not form part of the law. Bill 269 has been enacted as Chapter 8 of the Statutes of Ontario, 2021.

Schedule 1
CREDIT UNIONS AND CAISSES POPULAIRES ACT, 1994

Subsection 276 (2) of the *Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 1994* is amended to provide that the Deposit Insurance Reserve Fund may be used to pay for fees in respect of credit agreements entered into by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario to provide financial assistance to the credit union sector.

Schedule 2
CREDIT UNIONS AND CAISSES POPULAIRES ACT, 2020

Subsection 224 (2) of the *Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 2020* is amended to provide that the Deposit Insurance Reserve Fund may be used to pay for fees in respect of credit agreements entered into by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario to provide financial assistance to the credit union sector.

Schedule 3
electricity act, 1998

Bill number and short title


Current legislative status

Lists existing Acts affected by the Bill

Links to Hansard record of all Bill debates (Assembly and Committee)



Navigating current Bills

Legislative Assembly of Ontario  Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

1st SESSION, 42ND LEGISLATURE, ONTARIO
70 ELIZABETH II, 2021

Bill 269

(Chapter 8 of the Statutes of Ontario, 2021)

An Act to implement Budget measures and to enact and amend various statutes

The Hon. P. Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance

1st Reading March 24, 2021
2nd Reading April 1, 2021
3rd Reading April 26, 2021
Royal Assent April 27, 2021

Parliamentary Session

Bill Number

Bill Long Title
**Short title: Protecting the People of Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2021*

Bill Sponsor(s)
**As this is a Minister, this Bill was a Government Bill when introduced in the Legislature*

Reading and Royal Assent Dates



Navigating current Bills – notes, list of schedules

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SCHEDULE 1

CREDIT UNIONS AND CAISSES POPULAIRES ACT, 1994

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SCHEDULE 2

CREDIT UNIONS AND CAISSES POPULAIRES ACT, 2020

Subsection 224 (2) of the *Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 2020* is amended to provide that the Deposit Insurance Reserve Fund may be used to pay for fees in respect of credit agreements entered into by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario to provide financial assistance to the credit union sector.

SCHEDULE 3

ELECTRICITY ACT, 1998

The Schedule repeals subsection 50 (5) of the *Electricity Act, 1998*. Currently, subsection 50 (5) of the Act provides that if an agent of Her Majesty in right of Ontario is paid dividends from Hydro One Limited shares, the agent must pay the dividends to the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation less any amount of payment obligations assumed by the agent or Her Majesty in right of Ontario under clause 122 (1) (a) of the Act.

SCHEDULE 4

FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS TITLE PROTECTION ACT, 2019

- **Explanatory Note** – provides a reader's aid (brief summary) for each schedule of the Bill.
 - Will summarize the intent of the schedule and the main legal effects of its provisions or amendments.

Bill 269

2021

An Act to implement Budget measures and to enact and amend various statutes

CONTENTS

1.	Contents of this Act
2.	Commencement
3.	Short title
Schedule 1	Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 1994
Schedule 2	Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 2020
Schedule 3	Electricity Act, 1998
Schedule 4	Financial Professionals Title Protection Act, 2019
Schedule 5	Insurance Act
Schedule 6	Invest Ontario Act, 2021
Schedule 7	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade Act
Schedule 8	Ontario Loan Act, 2021
Schedule 9	Securities Commission Act, 2021
Schedule 10	Taxation Act, 2007

- **List of Schedules** – Bills contain a separate schedule for each proposed new law and for each existing law being amended.
 - Sch. 8: Ontario Loan Act, 2021 (new)
 - Sch. 10: Taxation Act, 2007 (amended)



Navigating current Bills – in force dates

Bill 229 – Contents of the Act

Contents of this Act

1 This Act consists of this section, sections 2 and 3 and the Schedules to this Act.

Commencement

2 (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), this Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

(2) The Schedules to this Act come into force as provided in each Schedule.

(3) If a Schedule to this Act provides that any provisions are to come into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, a proclamation may apply to one or more of those provisions, and proclamations may be issued at different times with respect to any of those provisions.

Short title

3 The short title of this Act is the *Protecting the People of Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2021*.

Schedule 1

Commencement

2 This Schedule comes into force on the day the *Protecting the People of Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2021* receives Royal Assent.

Schedule 2

Commencement

2 This Schedule comes into force on the later of the day the *Protecting the People of Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2021* receives Royal Assent and the day subsection 224 (2) of Schedule 7 to the *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020* comes into force.

Schedule 4

Commencement

4 This Schedule comes into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor.

Schedule 5

Commencement

14 (1) Subject to subsection (2), this Schedule comes into force on the day the *Protecting the People of Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2021* receives Royal Assent.

(2) Sections 1 to 12 come into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor.



Using E-Laws - Overview

- Once a Bill achieves Royal Assent, it is posted on **E-Laws** regardless if in force or awaiting proclamation.
- E-laws provides a record of all consolidated statues of Ontario from 1990 onwards in a searchable database.
- Includes all regulations filed under Acts, both in force and revoked/spent.
- *Note:* provisions awaiting proclamation (to be put into force or repealed) are block highlighted **in grey**.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws>

The screenshot shows the Ontario E-Laws website. At the top, there is a dark green header with the Ontario logo, a 'contact us | français' link, and a 'Topics +' menu. Below the header, the page title is 'e-Laws'. A grey box contains a disclaimer: 'Our staff can't provide legal advice, interpret the law or conduct research. You may be able to obtain assistance from a lawyer or paralegal.' The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, there is a 'Browse' section with a grid of letters (A-Z) and a 'Search' button. Below the grid, there is a 'Filter results:' section with radio buttons for 'Consolidated law' (selected) and 'Source law'. Under 'Consolidated law', there are checkboxes for 'Current' (checked) and 'Repealed/Revoked/Spent'. A 'Results for:' dropdown menu is set to 'Statutes'. On the right, there is a 'Consolidated laws' section showing '800 results found'. A 'Sort by:' dropdown menu is set to 'Newest'. Below this, a list of laws is displayed, with the first three items highlighted in grey: 'Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.33', 'Alcohol, Cannabis and Gaming Regulation and Public Protection Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 26, Sched.', and 'Gaming Control Act, 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 24'. The fourth item, 'Business Corporations Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. B.16', is not highlighted. The fifth item, 'Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006, S.O. 2006, c. 12', is also not highlighted.



Searching for Laws

Ontario contact us | français

Topics +

Browse Search

A B C D E F G H
I J K L M N O P Q
R S T U V W X Y Z

How to browse e-Laws

Filter results:

- Consolidated law
 - Current
 - Repealed/Revoked/Spent
- Results for:
 - Statutes
 - Statutes and regulations**
 - Regulations

Browse reset

Recommended for you

- About e-Laws
- e-Laws definitions
- Legislative tables

Consolidated laws
800 results found

Sort by: Newest

Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.33
current statute July 21, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

Alcohol, Cannabis and Gaming Regulation and Public Protection Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 26, Sched.
current statute July 6, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

Gaming Control Act, 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 24
current statute July 6, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

Business Corporations Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. B.16
current statute July 5, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006, S.O. 2006, c. 12
current statute July 2, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

Ontario Highway Transport Board Repeal Act, 2020, S.O. 2020, c. 34, Sched. 15
current statute July 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020, S.O. 2020, c. 18, Sched. 11
current statute July 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

New Home Construction Licensing Act, 2017, S.O. 2017, c. 33, Sched. 1
current statute July 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

Retirement Homes Act, 2010, S.O. 2010, c. 11
current statute July 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

Metrolinx Act, 2006, S.O. 2006, c. 16
current statute July 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

Jump to Act title
(alphabetical)

Search within Acts
and/or Regulations
and for current or
repealed legislation

Search by
keyword

Browse Acts by
category
(newest, oldest,
title)

Ontario contact us | français

Topics +

Browse Search

keyword

Use exact search
Advanced search help

Filter results:

- Consolidated law
 - Current
 - Repealed/Revoked/Spent
- Results for:
 - Statutes
- Source law
- Period in time law

Search reset

Recommended for you

- About e-Laws
- e-Laws definitions
- Legislative tables

Consolidated laws
800 results found

Sort by: Newest

Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.33
current statute July 21, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

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current statute July 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

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current statute July 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

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current statute July 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)


Retirement Homes Act, 2010, S.O. 2010, c. 11
current statute July 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

Metrolinx Act, 2006, S.O. 2006, c. 16
current statute July 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)

City of Toronto Act, 2006, S.O. 2006, c. 11, Sched. A



Searching for Laws – Boolean Operators

Ontario  How can we help you? Search

Search operators
Use these search operators to perform more specific searches and narrow down your results.

Operator	Function	Example
AND	Searches for documents containing all of your specified search terms. Results containing only 1 of your search terms will not be displayed. You must use all capital letters when using this operator.	Ontario AND police
OR	Searches for multiple terms at the same time. The example provided will display results that contain "engineer," "architect" or both. You must use all capital letters when using this operator.	engineer OR architect
NOT	Excludes a word from your search results. You can use this to eliminate specific terms that are cluttering your search results. The example provided will display results containing the word "insurance". Documents that also include the word "fund" will not be included in the search results. You must use all capital letters when using this operator.	insurance NOT fund
"x y z"	Searches for a multiple-word phrase. Your search results will contain all of the terms you specified inside the quotation marks. Similar terms will also be included in your search results. To search for an exact phrase, select "Use exact search" in addition to using quotation marks. Note that operators should not be used within quotation marks.	"Lieutenant Governor in Council"
#	Performs a proximity search, which lets you specify how far apart 2 words can appear in the search results. The number you enter determines exactly how far apart your 2 search terms can appear in your search results. If you enter a 4, this displays the search results where your search terms always appear within 4 words of each other. The order in which you enter the terms does not affect your search results.	fishing /4 hunting
?	Searches for terms with an interchangeable character. Replace the interchangeable character in your search with a question mark. The example provided will display results containing "licence" and "license".	licen?e
(x y)	Combines multiple search operators at once to perform a specific search. The example provided will display results covering fishing licences, hunting licences or both.	(fishing OR hunting) AND licences
No operator	If you search for a multiple-word phrase without using any search operators, it is equivalent to using the AND operator.	Ontario police

- Operative words used to connect keywords together to either narrow or broaden search results.
- Four basic Boolean operators:
 - **AND** – only results with all of the keywords
 - **OR** – only results with any of the keywords
 - **NOT** – only results without a keyword
 - **"Phrase"** – only results with specific phrase
- Use these Boolean operators to:
 - Focus a search, particularly when the topic contains multiple search terms.
 - Narrow search results to exactly what you are looking for.
 - Find only those laws which reference a given phrase, entity, etc.



Navigating a Law

The screenshot shows the Ontario e-Laws website for the Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19. The page features a search bar at the top, a breadcrumb trail, and a main content area with tabs for 'Versions', 'Regulations under this Act', and 'Revoked/spent regulations under this Act'. A 'current' version is highlighted with a date range from June 1, 2021, to the e-Laws currency date. Below this, there are 'Print' and 'Download' buttons. A 'Consolidation Period' is noted as being from June 1, 2021, to the e-Laws currency date. The 'Last amendment' is listed as 2021, c. 4, Sched. 10, s. 1. A 'Legislative History' link is also present. At the bottom, there is a 'CONTENTS' section with a table of contents listing 'Interpretation' and 'Secondary discharge within building'.

Act title and year
(*RSO 1990
consolidation*)

Regulations
issued under Act
(in force and
revoked/spent)

Currency date
(version currently
in force, last time
amended)

Versions (new
with every time
amended)

Most recent
amendment Bill

History of all prior
amendment Bills



Legislative History - Prior versions/amendments

- Once a Bill is passed and becomes an Act, in order to amend or repeal that Act a **new Bill** must be passed with those amendments or repeal order.

Environmental Protection Act

R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER E.19

Consolidation Period: From June 1, 2021 to the [e-Laws currency date](#)

Last amendment: 2021, c. 4, Sched. 10, s. 1.

Legislative History: 1992, c. 1, s. 22-35; 1993, c. 27, Sched.; 1994, c. 5; 1994, c. 23, s. 66; 1994, c. 27, s. 115; 1997, c. 6, s. 3; 1997, c. 7, s. 1-3; 1997, c. 19, s. 34; 1997, c. 30, Sched. B, s. 21-23; 1997, c. 37, s. 2; 1998, c. 15, Sched. E, s. 10; 1998, c. 35, s. 1-43 (But see [Table of Public Statute Provisions Repealed Under Section 10.1 of the Legislation Act, 2006](#)); 2000, c. 22, s. 1; 2000, c. 26, Sched. E, s. 3; 2000, c. 26, Sched. F, s. 12; 2001, c. 9, Sched. G, s. 5 (But see [Table of Public Statute Provisions Repealed Under Section 10.1 of the Legislation Act, 2006](#)); 2001, c. 17, s. 2; 2001, c. 25, s. 484; 2002, c. 4, s. 62; 2002, c. 17, Sched. C, s. 11; 2002, c. 17, Sched. F, Table; 2002, c. 24, Sched. B, s. 25, 35; 2004, c. 6, s. 7; 2004, c. 17, s. 32; 2005, c. 12, s. 1; 2006, c. 19, Sched. K, s. 2; 2006, c. 21, Sched. C, s. 108; 2006, c. 32, Sched. C, s. 19; 2006, c. 33, Sched. Z.3, s. 10; 2006, c. 35, Sched. C, s. 36; 2007, c. 4, s. 30; 2007, c. 7, Sched. 13 (But see [Table of Public Statute Provisions Repealed Under Section 10.1 of the Legislation Act, 2006](#)); 2009, c. 12, Sched. G; 2009, c. 12, Sched. L, s. 4; 2009, c. 19, s. 67; 2009, c. 27; 2009, c. 33, Sched. 2, s. 28; 2009, c. 33, Sched. 15, s. 5; 2010, c. 16, Sched. 7, s. 2 (But see [Table of Public Statute Provisions Repealed Under Section 10.1 of the Legislation Act, 2006](#)); SFS 20 SE 10 - 3; 2015, c. 25; 2016, c. 7, s. 80 (But see 2018, c. 13, s. 16); 2017, c. 2, Sched. 11, s. 2; 2017, c. 20, Sched. 5, s. 1; 2018, c. 3, Sched. 5, s. 20 (see: 2019, c. 1, Sched. 3, s. 5); 2018, c. 16, s. 4; 2019, c. 1, Sched. 4, s. 18; 2019, c. 7, Sched. 17, s. 68; 2019, c. 9, Sched. 7 (see 2019, c. 14, Sched. 8, s. 80); 2019, c. 14, Sched. 8, s. 1-24; 2020, c. 18, Sched. 6, s. 52; 2021, c. 4, Sched. 6, s. 45; 2021, c. 4, Sched. 10, s. 1. [-]

Most recent amendment Bill
(*Accelerating Access to Justice Act, 2021*)

Hyperlinks to all prior amendment Bills

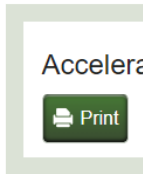
CONTENTS [-]

1.	Interpretation
2.	Secondary discharge within building
2.1	Interpretation, environmental compliance approval
	PART I ADMINISTRATION
3.	Purpose of Act
4.	Powers and duties of Minister
5.	Appointments
	PART II GENERAL PROVISIONS
6.	Prohibition, contamination generally
7.	Control orders
8.	Stop orders
9.	Approval, plant or production process
10.	Program for dealing with contamination
11.	Program approvals



Legislative History - Prior versions/amendments

Amendments
to the EPA



SCHEDULE 10 AMENDMENTS RESPECTING APPEALS TO A MINISTER

Environmental Protection Act

1 (1) Section 20.16 of the *Environmental Protection Act* is repealed and the following substituted:

Appeal from decision of Tribunal

20.16 A party to a proceeding under this Part before the Tribunal may appeal from its decision on a question of law to the Divisional Court.

Show explanation

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(2) Subsection 100.1 (17) of the Act is repealed.

(3) Subsection 100.1 (18) of the Act is amended by striking out “or to the Minister”.

(4) Subsection 100.1 (19) of the Act is amended by striking out the portion before clause (a) and substituting the following:

An Act to ame

Divisional Court may grant or set aside stay

(19) If a decision of the Tribunal is appealed to the Divisional Court under this section, the Divisional Court may,

New laws

(5) Subsection 145.6 (2) of the Act is repealed.

(6) Subsection 145.6 (3) of the Act is amended by striking out “or to the Minister”.

(7) Subsection 145.6 (4) of the Act is amended by striking out the portion before clause (a) and substituting the following:

Divisional Court may grant or set aside stay

(4) If a decision of the Tribunal is appealed to the Divisional Court under this section, the Divisional Court may,

(8) Subsection 175.1 (1) of the Act is amended by adding the following clause:

(k.1) providing for transitional matters that, in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, are necessary or desirable to facilitate the implementation of the amendments made to this Act by Schedule 10 to the *Accelerating Access to Justice Act, 2021*;

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- Schedule 1
- Schedule 2
- Schedule 3
- Schedule 4
- Schedule 5
- Schedule 6
- Schedule 7
- Schedule 8
- Schedule 9
- Schedule 10
- Schedule 11

Changes to
existing laws
(including
the EPA)



Historical Archives – When was a law first enacted?

Act title and year
(*RSO 1990
consolidation*)

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Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19

Versions Regulations under this Act Revoked/spent regulations under this Act

current June 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)
April 19, 2021 – May 31, 2021
December 31, 2020 – April 18, 2021
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Environmental Protection Act
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER E.19

Consolidation Period: From June 1, 2021 to the [e-Laws currency date](#)

Last amendment: 2021, c. 4, Sched. 10, s. 1.

Legislative History: [+]

CONTENTS [-]

1.	Interpretation
2.	Secondary discharge within building

- The province consolidated and reorganized its statutes as the Revised Statutes of Ontario (R.S.O.) in 1990.
- Laws enacted prior to 1990 denoted as R.S.O. 1990, but this is not the year they were first enacted.
- Search for the law in the annually published [Historical Archives – Statutes of Ontario](#)



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Environmental Protection Act Search
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ISSN: 0709-227X



About This Collection

This is a collection of statutes of the Province of Ontario, from colonial times to 1999 inclusive, as officially published in the annual or sessional statute volumes for the year(s) when the legislation was passed. The collection includes both new and amending statutes (source law) as originally enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and the statutes are not consolidated.

The original statutes were published by the [Queen's Printer for Ontario](#) annually or at the end of legislative sessions and constitute the official record of legislation as passed and enacted by the [Legislative Assembly of Ontario](#). The printed volumes presented here were assembled from the collections of the [Osgoode Hall Law School Library](#) at [York University](#) and of the [Bora Laskin Law Library](#) at the [University of Toronto](#) and were digitized by the [Internet Archive](#) at the Internet Archive Canada facility located in the [Robarts Library at the University of Toronto](#). Funding for the project was provided by the [Ontario Council of University Libraries \(OCUL\)](#) as part of its [Ontario Digitization Initiative \(ODI\)](#). The digitized volumes of statutes were edited into their component parts, and metadata was collected and assembled by librarians and staff at the [Osgoode Hall Law School Library](#) with assistance from colleagues at the [Great Library of the Law Society of Upper Canada](#).

This collection of the annual (sessional) statutes of the Province of Ontario has been produced and is made available as a public service. It is a product of our commitment to making quality legal information available to the public free of charge, and

Search by Act name or year or keywords



Navigating the Historical Archives

[Osgoode Home](#) > [Osgoode Digital Commons](#) > [Library](#) > [Statutes](#) > [Ontario: Annual Statutes](#)



Search ?

(Environmental Protection Act)

Search

[Advanced](#)

Searching *Ontario: Annual Statutes*

Showing 8 out of 8 results. Starting at result 1.

[My saved searches](#)

[Save this search](#)

x 1972

[Table of Public Statutes and Amendments: R.S.O. 1970; 1971; 1971 \(2nd Session\); 1972](#)

Date: 01/1972

PUBLICATION

Author: Ontario

[Ontario: Annual Statutes \(8\)](#)

Publication: [Ontario: Annual Statutes](#)

[Download](#)

PUBLICATION TYPE

[Table of Contents \[1972\]](#)

Date: 01/1972

[Journal \(8\)](#)

Author: Ontario

Look for and download the oldest *Table of Public Statutes* search result



Navigating the Historical Archives

The *Historical Table of Public Statutes and Amendments* lists Statutes (and amendment Bills) in alphabetical order

TABLE OF PUBLIC STATUTES		1669
Title of Act	R.S.O. 1970 Chap.	Amendments in 1971, 1971 (2nd Sess.) and 1972
Energy Act.....	148	1971, c. 44, sup.; 1972, c. 1, s. 40.
Environmental Protection Act.....	149	1971, c. 86; 1972, c. 1, s. 69 and c. 106.
Escheats Act.....	149	
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Extra-Judicial Services Act.....	155	1971 (2nd Sess.), c. 15.
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Factors Act.....	156	
Family Benefits Act.....	157	1971, c. 92 and c. 50, s. 38; 1972, c. 151.
Farm Loans Act.....	158	
Farm Loans Adjustment Act.....	159	
Farm Products Containers Act.....	160	
Farm Products Grades and Sales Act.....	161	1972, c. 37.
Farm Products Marketing Act.....	162	1971, cc. 1, 42; 1972, c. 156.
Farm Products Payments Act.....	163	
Fatal Accidents Act.....	164	
Ferries Act.....	165	
Financial Administration Act.....	166	1971, c. 55; 1972, c. 1, s. 105.

Ontario's *Environmental Protection Act* first appeared in the Public Statues of Ontario (was first enacted) in **1971**



E-Laws and Proclamations

- Acts or provisions awaiting proclamation are block highlighted **in grey**; these can be awaiting proclamation to be *put into force* or *repealed*.

Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19

Versions | Regulations under this Act | Revoked/spent regulations under this Act

current June 1, 2021 – (e-Laws currency date)
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Environmental Protection Act
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER E.19

Consolidation Period: From June 1, 2021 to the [e-Laws currency date](#)

Last amendment: 2021, c. 4, Sched. 10, s. 1.

Legislative History: [+]

CONTENTS [-]

170.	Environmental Council established
171.	Duties of Council
	PART XVII
	MISCELLANEOUS
173.	Agreement by municipality
174.	Unjust dismissal, compliance with Act, etc.
175.	Evidence of documents
175.1	Regulations, general
176.	Regulations, additional
176.1	Regulations, market-based approaches, etc.
177.	Regulations, general rules
177.1	Bar of action
179.	Conflict with other legislation
179.1	Fees
180.	Protection from personal liability
181.	Service on commercial drivers of offence notice or summons
181.1	Service on various entities of offence notice or summons
182.	Service generally
182.1	Environmental penalties
182.1	Administrative penalties
182.2	Special purpose account
182.3	Administrative penalties
182.3	Annual report

Example: *Environmental Protection Act*, Part XVII, s. 182.1, 182.3

- New administrative monetary penalties regime for environmental contraventions.
- Passed by the Legislature and received Royal Assent in 2019
- Awaiting LG proclamation to be put into force

Note the **grey** highlighting in the table of contents



E-Laws and Proclamations

2. The amount of the penalty.
3. A description of the contravention.
4. An indication of whether an agreement was entered into under subsection (9) in respect of the order and, if an agreement was entered into, the effect of the agreement on the obligation to pay the penalty or on the amount of the penalty. 2005, c. 12, s. 1 (52).

Five-year review

(20) At least once every five years, the Minister shall cause a report to be prepared and published on the operation of this section, including the effect of this section on prosecutions under this Act and including recommendations on the contraventions to which and circumstances in which orders should be issued under subsection (1). 2005, c. 12, s. 1 (52).

Application

(21) This section does not apply to contraventions that occurred before this section came into force. 2005, c. 12, s. 1 (52).

Note: On a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, section 182.1 of the Act is repealed and the following substituted: (See: 2019, c. 14, Sched. 8, s. 16)

Administrative penalties

182.1 (1) The purpose of an administrative penalty issued under this Act is,

- (a) to ensure compliance with this Act; and
- (b) to prevent a person or entity from deriving, directly or indirectly, any economic benefit as a result of non-compliance with this Act. 2019, c. 14, Sched. 8, s. 16.

Order by Director, provincial officer

(2) If the Director or, in the circumstances prescribed by the regulations, a provincial officer, is of the opinion that a person has committed a contravention prescribed by the regulations, the Director or provincial officer, as the case may be, may issue an order requiring the person to pay an administrative penalty in respect of the contravention. 2019, c. 14, Sched. 8, s. 16.

Prescribed contraventions

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), a prescribed contravention may be in respect of,

- (a) a provision of this Act or the regulations;
- (b) a provision of an order under this Act;
- (c) a term or condition of an environmental compliance approval, certificate of property use, renewable energy approval, licence or permit under this Act; or
- (d) with respect to such programs under this Act relating to resource recovery or waste as the Minister may specify in a written direction under clause 24 (1) (c) of the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*, subsections 41 (5) and 50 (4) of

Provides the action that is to be effectuated upon proclamation (repeal, replace, amend)

Text of the amendment is also incorporated into the Act with **grey** highlighting

Notes the citation for the amending Act (accessible through the Legislative History hyperlinks at top)



Regulations – Found under their enabling Act

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Environmental Protection Act

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Environmental Protection Act

Versions | Regulations

- O. Reg. 663/20
- O. Reg. 457/19
- O. Reg. 406/19
- O. Reg. 241/19
- O. Reg. 237/19
- O. Reg. 208/19
- O. Reg. 530/18
- O. Reg. 390/18
- O. Reg. 229/18
- O. Reg. 1/17
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- O. Reg. 60/14
- O. Reg. 351/12
- O. Reg. 350/12
- O. Reg. 349/12
- O. Reg. 347/12
- O. Reg. 298/12
- O. Reg. 98/12
- O. Reg. 255/11
- O. Reg. 245/11

O. Reg. 224/07: SPILL PREVENTION AND CONTINGENCY PLANS
under *Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19*

Versions

current October 31, 2011 – (e-Laws currency date)
June 14, 2011 – October 30, 2011
September 1, 2008 – June 13, 2011
1 more

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Consolidation Period: From June 1, 2021 to the e-Laws currency date

Last amendment: 2021, c. 4, S. 1

Legislative History: [+]

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Environmental Protection Act

ONTARIO REGULATION 224/07

SPILL PREVENTION AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

Consolidation Period: From October 31, 2011 to the e-Laws currency date.

Last amendment: 260/11.

Legislative History: [+]

This is the English version of a bilingual regulation.



Navigating Regulations

- Once a Regulation is filed, in order to amend or revoke it a **new Regulation** must be filed containing that amendment or revocation order.

Regulation number and title

Enabling Act

Versions (new with every time amended)

Currency date (version currently in force and last time amended)

[Français](#)
Environmental Protection Act
 ONTARIO REGULATION 224/07
SPILL PREVENTION AND CONTINGENCY PLANS
Consolidation Period: From **October 31, 2011** to the [e-Laws currency date](#).
 Last amendment: [260/11](#).
 Legislative History: [260/11](#). [-]
This is the English version of a bilingual regulation.
Application
 1. (1) Persons who are or were members of the class of persons described in subsection 3 (1) of [Ontario Regulation 222/07](#) (Environmental Penalties) made under the Act are a prescribed class of persons for the purposes of section 91.1 of the Act. O. Reg. 224/07, s. 1 (1).


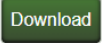
Most recent amending Regulation

History of all prior amending Regulations



Legislative History - Prior versions/amendments

O. Reg. 260/11: Spill Prevention and Contingency Plans
filed June 14, 2011 under *Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19*

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Amending Regulation number and title

Enabling Act

Français

Filing date (*date in force*)

ONTARIO REGULATION 260/11

made under the

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

Made: June 1, 2011

Filed: June 14, 2011

Published on e-Laws: June 16, 2011

Printed in The Ontario Gazette: July 2, 2011

AMENDING O. REG. 224/07

(SPILL PREVENTION AND CONTINGENCY PLANS)

1. Subsection 1 (3) of Ontario Regulation 224/07 is revoked and the following substituted:

(3) Despite subsection (1), if all environmental compliance approvals and permits required under the Act and all approvals and permits required under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* for the operation of a plant are revoked for the reason that the plant will no longer be involved in the activities for which they were required, this Regulation does not apply to the person who owns or operates the plant, on and after the day on which the last such environmental compliance approval, approval or permit is revoked.

Commencement

2. This Regulation comes into force on the later of the day subsection 2 (1) of Schedule 7 to the *Open for Business Act, 2010* comes into force and the day it is filed.

Amending provisions



Common Legal & Legislative Language

- ‘May’ (*suggestion*) vs. ‘Shall’ (*requirement*)

Endangered Species Act, 2007

s. 11(1) The Minister **may** consider social and economic factors in reaching his or her opinion on whether reintroduction of the species in Ontario is feasible when developing a species recovery strategy.

Endangered Species Act, 2007

s. 3(5) The members of COSSARO **shall** perform their functions in an independent manner, and not as representatives of their employers or of any other person or body.

- Lieutenant Governor (*LG*) vs. Lieutenant Governor in Council (*Cabinet*)

Lieutenant Governor Act, R.S.O. 1990

s. 1 In matters within the jurisdiction of the Legislature, all powers and functions...are vested in and exercisable by the **Lieutenant Governor** of Ontario in the name of Her Majesty.

Arts Council Act, R.S.O. 1990

s. 3 The **Lieutenant Governor in Council** shall appoint the chair, the vice-chair and other members of the Council, each of whom shall hold office for a term of three years.

- Responsible Minister and Ministry (*See Act’s definitions*)

Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act, 2011

s. 1 “**Minister**” means the Minister of Natural Resources or any other member of the Executive Council to whom responsibility may be assigned.

Local Food Act, 2013

s. 2 “**Ministry**” means, unless the context requires otherwise, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.



Legislation Web Resources

- Bills currently before the Legislature: <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current>
- Legislative Business and Calendar: <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business>
- Proclamation dates: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/proclamations>
- How a Bill Becomes Law (*Legislative Assembly Research Service*): <https://www.ola.org/sites/default/files/common/how-bills-become-law-en.pdf>
- In Force Dates and Proclamations (*Legislative Assembly Research Service*): <https://www.ola.org/sites/default/files/common/2018-when-do-acts-come-into-force-en.pdf>
- E-Laws (*Consolidated Statutes of Ontario*): <https://www.ontario.ca/laws>
- Ontario Gazette: <https://www.ontario.ca/search/ontario-gazette>
- Statutes of Ontario Historical Archives (*Osgoode Hall Law School*): https://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/ontario_statutes/about.html
- Public statutes and ministers responsible: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/public-statutes-and-ministers-responsible>



Questions??



Legislative Research & E-Laws Activity

- Multiple choice questions, each with one correct answer.
- You will need to rely on and navigate the following resources:
 - Ontario Legislative Assembly – Current Bills:
 - <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current>
 - E-Laws – Legislation and Regulations:
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/laws>
 - Statutes of Ontario – Historical Archives:
 - https://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/ontario_statutes/about.html

