



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW SUMMARY

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SPRING 2024

31ST LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW SUMMARY

Spring 2024 | 31st Legislature, First Session

Highlights

The 2024 spring session of the Legislature resulted in the passage of the following Acts:

1. *Financial Statutes Amendment Act*, SA 2024 c4
2. *Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act*, SA 2024 c6
3. *Consumer Protection (Life Leases) Amendment Act*, SA 2024 c3
4. *Real Property Governance Act*, SA 2024 cR-5.3
5. *Appropriation Act*, SA 2024 c1
6. *Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act*, SA 2024 c2
7. *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act*, SA 2024 c7
8. *Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence Act*, SA 2024 cC-1.5
9. *Provincial Priorities Act*, SA 2024 cP-35.5
10. *Utilities Affordability Statutes Amendment Act*, SA 2024 c8
11. *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act*, SA 2024 c11
12. *Emergency Statutes Amendment Act*, SA 2024 c9
13. *Health Statutes Amendment Act*, SA 2024 c10

Amended Legislation

- *Alberta Corporate Tax Act*, RSA 2000, c A-15
- *Alberta Evidence Act*, RSA 2000, c A-18
- *Alberta Health Act*, SA 2010, c A-19.5
- *Alberta Health Care Insurance Act*, RSA 2000, c A-20
- *Alberta Investment Attraction Act*, SA 2020, c A-26.4
- *Alberta Personal Income Tax Act*, RSA 2000, c A-30
- *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act*, SA 2009, c A-31.5
- *Alberta Senate Election Act*, SA 2019, c A-33.5
- *Alberta Sovereignty within a United Canada Act*, SA 2022, c A-33.8
- *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, SA 2007, c A-37.2
- *Animal Health Act*, SA 2007, c A-40.2
- *Auditor General Act*, RSA 2000, c A-46
- *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, SA 2011, c C-11.5
- *Commercial Tenancies Protection Act*, SA 2020, c C-19.5
- *Conflicts of Interest Act*, RSA 2000, c C-23
- *Consumer Protection Act*, RSA 2000, c C-26.3
- *Continuing Care Act*, SA 2022, c C-26.7

- *Corrections Act*, RSA 2000, c C-29
- *COVID-19 Related Measures Act*, SA 2021, c C-31.3
- *Election Act*, RSA 2000, c E-1
- *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, RSA 2000, c E-2
- *Electric Utilities Act*, SA 2003, c E-5.1
- *Emergency Health Services Act*, SA 2008, c E-6.6
- *Emergency Management Act*, RSA 2000, c E-6.8
- *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, RSA 2000, c E-12
- *Family and Community Support Services Act*, RSA 2000, c F-3
- *Film and Television Tax Credit Act*, SA 2019, c F-11.3
- *Financial Administration Act*, RSA 2000, c F-12
- *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*, RSA 2000, c F-19
- *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSA 2000, c F-25
- *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*, RSA 2000, c G-1
- *Gas Utilities Act*, RSA 2000, c G-5
- *Government Organization Act*, RSA 2000, c G-10
- *Health Facilities Act*, RSA 2000, c H-2.7
- *Health Information Act*, RSA 2000, c H-5
- *Health Professions Act*, RSA 2000, c H-7
- *Health Quality Council of Alberta Act*, SA 2011, c H-7.2
- *Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2)*, SA 2020 c35
- *Hospitals Act*, RSA 2000, c H-12
- *Human Tissue and Organ Donation Act*, SA 2006, c H-14.5
- *Income and Employment Supports Act*, SA 2003, c I-0.5
- *Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act*, SA 2016, c I-10.5
- *Labour Relations Code*, RSA 2000, c L-1
- *Land Titles Act*, RSA 2000, c L-4
- *Libraries Act*, RSA 2000, c L-11
- *Loan and Trust Corporations Act*, RSA 2000, c L-20
- *Local Authorities Capital Financing Act*, SA 2019, c L-20.8
- *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000, c L-21
- *Mandatory Testing and Disclosure Act*, SA 2006, c M-3.5
- *Mental Health Act*, RSA 2000, c M-13
- *Mental Health Services Protection Act*, SA 2018, c M-13.2
- *Metis Settlements Act*, RSA 2000, c M-14
- *Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act*, RSA 2000, c M-22
- *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26
- *Ombudsman Act*, RSA 2000, c O-8
- *Pharmacy and Drug Act*, RSA 2000, c P-13
- *Police Act*, RSA 2000, c P-17
- *Police Amendment Act*, SA 2022 c22
- *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, RSA 2000, c P-34
- *Public Health Act*, RSA 2000, c P-37
- *Public Inquiries Act*, RSA 2000, c P-39
- *Public Lands Act*, RSA 2000, c P-40
- *Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act*, SA 2015, c P-40.5
- *Public Sector Employers Act*, SA 2019, c P-40.7
- *Public Service Act*, RSA 2000, c P-42
- *Public Utilities Act*, RSA 2000, c P-45

- *Red Tape Reduction Act*, SA 2019, c R-8.2
- *Referendum Act*, RSA 2000, c R-8.4
- *Regional Health Authorities Act*, RSA 2000, c R-10
- *Regulated Rate Option Stability Act*, SA 2017, c R-13.5
- *Rural Electrification Loan Act*, RSA 2000, c R-19
- *Rural Electrification Long Term-Financing Act*, RSA 2000, c R-20
- *Surface Rights Act*, RSA 2000, c S-24
- *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act*, SA 2015, c S-29
- *Tobacco Tax Act*, RSA 2000, c T-4
- *Traffic Safety Act*, RSA 2000, c T-6
- *Water Act*, RSA 2000, c W-3
- *Youth Justice Act*, RSA 2000, c Y-1

Repealed Legislation

- *Commercial Tenancies Protection Act*, RSA 2020 cC-19.5 2
- *Rural Electrification Loan Act*, RSA 2000 cR-19 13
- *Rural Electrification Long-term Financing Act*, RSA 2000 cR-20 14

Detailed Listing of Bills

BILL 10 — *Financial Statutes Amendment Act, SA 2024 c4*

- Amended:**
- *Alberta Corporate Tax Act*, RSA 2000, c A-15
 - *Alberta Personal Income Tax Act*, RSA 2000, c A-30
 - *Film and Television Tax Credit Act*, SA 2019, c F-11.3
 - *Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act*, SA 2016, c I-10.5
 - *Land Titles Act*, RSA 2000, c L-4
 - *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act*, SA 2015, c S-29
 - *Tobacco Tax Act*, RSA 2000, c T-4

Summary: The *Financial Statutes Amendment Act* amends the following acts:

- The *Alberta Corporate Tax Act* by repealing the requirement that Film and Television Tax Credit must not have been deducted or applied or paid.
- The *Alberta Personal Income Tax Act* by outlining the various criteria to qualify for an attraction bonus of \$5,000 refundable tax credit. To qualify, an individual must be:
 - a Canadian citizen; or
 - an adult permanent resident who is resident in Alberta, was resident in Alberta throughout the immediately preceding 365 days, became resident in Alberta on or after a prescribed date, has filed a return of income for the 2024 taxation year and, in respect of that taxation year was an employed or self-employed resident in Alberta who has received a notice of assessment.

The Act also allows the Government to apply any payment to the Crown in right of Alberta may apply the overpayment or any portion thereof to a debt owed the Government by that individual.

- The *Film & Television Tax Credit Act* to ensure the changes made in the *Alberta Corporate Tax Act* are applied. The Act also allows a corporation to apply to the Minister for an authorization letter to receive a single tax credit certificate at the completion of production or project or for a tax credit certificate for one or more taxation years.
- The *Land Titles Act* by increasing land title transfer and mortgage registration fees to \$50 plus \$5 per \$5,000 of value for each transfer type. The fees are refundable if the property or interest is not accepted for registration.
- The *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act* by exempting the Alberta Fund and the Alberta Carbon Capture Incentive Program from in-year expense limitation rules in Alberta's fiscal framework.
The Act requires the government to provide a fiscal update only for the current fiscal year in its mid-year reporting, instead of the previously mandated three-year fiscal plan.
- The *Tobacco Tax Act* by increasing the tobacco tax rate on cigarettes to 30 cents from 27.5 cents per cigarette, and smokeless tobacco to 35 cents from 27.5 cents per gram.
- The *Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Amendment Act* by allowing registered partnerships to apply to the Agri-processing Investment Tax Credit program for a non-refundable 12% tax credit when they invest at least \$10 million to build or expand an agri-processing facility in Alberta. The Act also allows registered partnerships to apply using a single application and single investment plan for a combined investment of at least \$10 million.

In Force: Various dates

BILL 11 — *Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act, SA 2024 c6*

- Amended:**
- *Corrections Act, RSA 2000, c C-29*
 - *Police Act, RSA 2000, c P-17*
 - *Police Amendment Act, SA 2022 c22*

Summary: The Public Safety Statutes Amendment mandates individuals subject to a court-ordered electronic monitoring condition to wear an electronic tracking device on their ankles. The device will be monitored by the Minister to supervise and monitor the location, movements, activity, communication, specific behaviour or biometrics of such an individual.

The Act also amends the Police Act to enable the creation of independent agency police services which will be subject to a civilian oversight board.

Every police officer of an independent agency police service is subject to the jurisdiction of the chief of that independent agency police service and the Oversight Board and must obey the directions of the chief of that independent agency police service and the Oversight Board.

The powers of the chiefs of the independent agency police services are broad and include the:

- preservation and maintenance of the public peace and the prevention of crime as specified in the regulations;
- maintenance of discipline and the performance of duty within the independent agency police service;
- day-to-day administration of the independent agency police service;
- the application of professional police procedures; and
- the enforcement of policies made by the Minister with respect to the independent agency police service.

Also, the Chief of Police will now be known as the Chief of a police service.

In Force: May 16, 2024 (except Section 1, on proclamation)

BILL 12 — *Consumer Protection (Life Leases) Amendment Act, SA 2024 c3*

Amended: • *Consumer Protection Act, RSA 2000, c C-26.3*

Summary: The *Consumer Protection (Life Leases) Amendment Act* sets out minimum requirements of life lease contracts which include;

- mandatory refund of entrance fees within 180 days of termination of the lease;
- the ability to create interest penalties for entrance fees not repaid within the required 180 days
- a mandatory ten-day cancellation period by the leaseholder after contracts are signed;
- broad regulation-making authority to further regulate the life lease industry; and
- creation of offences of non-compliance with new requirements enforceable under the Consumer Protection Act's framework.

In Force: May 16, 2024

BILL 13 — *Real Property Governance Act, SA 2024 cR-5.3*

Summary: The *Real Property Governance Act*:

- establishes a centralized inventory system for all real property in Alberta;
- develops a consolidated inventory records management system involving departments and consolidated entities; and
- allows input of government asset data in a consistent and comprehensive manner.

The *Real Property Governance Act* prevails in the event of any inconsistency or conflict with one or more provisions of any other enactment except the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

In Force: On May 16, 2024, with some sections deemed to have come into force on March 21, 2024

BILL 14 — *Appropriation Act, SA 2024 c1*

Summary: The *Appropriation Act* addresses charges and expenses of the Public Service (not otherwise provided for) during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

In Force: March 28, 2024

BILL 15 — *Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, SA 2024 c2*

Summary: The *Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act* addresses charges and expenses of the Public Service (not otherwise provided for) during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

In Force: March 28, 2024

BILL 16 — *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, SA 2024 c7*

Amended:

- *Alberta Investment Attraction Act, SA 2020, c A-26.4*
- *Commercial Tenancies Protection Act, SA 2020, c C-19.5*
- *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSA 2000, cF-25*
- *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act, RSA 2000, c G-1*
- *Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2), SA 2020 c35*
- *Income and Employment Supports Act, SA 2003, c I-0.5*
- *Libraries Act, RSA 2000, c L-11*
- *Mental Health Services Protection Act, SA 2018, c M-13.2*
- *Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act, RSA 2000, c M-22*
- *Provincial Offences Procedure Act, RSA 2000, c P-34*
- *Public Lands Act, RSA 2000, c P-40*
- *Red Tape Reduction Act, SA 2019, c R-8.2*
- *Rural Electrification Loan Act, RSA 2000, c R-19*
- *Rural Electrification Long Term-Financing Act, RSA 2000, c R-20*
- *Surface Rights Act, RSA 2000, c S-24*
- *Traffic Safety Act, RSA 2000, c T-6*
- *Youth Justice Act, RSA 2000, c Y-1*

Repealed:

- *Commercial Tenancies Protection Act, RSA 2020 cC-19.5 2*
- *Rural Electrification Loan Act, RSA 2000 cR-19 13*
- *Rural Electrification Long-term Financing Act, RSA 2000 cR-20 14*

Summary: The *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act* repeals the *Rural Electrification Loan Act* and regulation, *Rural Electrification Long-term Financing Act* and *Commercial Tenancies Protection Act*.

The Act also amends the *Alberta Investment Attraction Act* by making a director's resignation effective when it is received by the Minister instead of the chair as was previously required.

The Act amends the following:

- The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* by removing federation bodies from the definition of "local government body".
- The *Gaming Liquor and Cannabis Act* by:
 - authorizing the Minister of Service Alberta to, by order, determine categories of policies that the board must not establish or that the board must submit to the Minister for approval prior to being established;
 - authorizing the Minister of Service Alberta to approve the Commission's operating expenses, instead of the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance;
 - prohibiting an action against the Crown or its Ministers in addition to previously named offices, for anything done or not done, in good faith; and
 - prohibits minors from gaming or engaging in provincial lottery activities and from entering and remaining in a gaming facility unless that facility has a license allowing minors to enter and remain therein.
- The *Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020* (No. 2) by repealing section 122 on the provision of mental health services as a consequential amendment.
- The *Income and Employment Supports Act* by applying the "maximum monthly core essential payment that may be provided to a barrier to full employment household unit or an expected to work or working household unit" to an adult who lives in a hospital or a type A continuing care home or an institution similar to a hospital or a type A continuing care home that is designated by the Minister.
- The *Libraries Act* by:
 - increasing the total number of communities allowed to be included in an inter-municipal board from three to four; and
 - allowing municipalities within a municipal district or county to form an inter-municipal library board.
- The *Mental Health Services Protection Act* by consequentially repealing Section 29 of the legislation.
- The *Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act* by:
 - allowing victims injured by uninsured or unknown drivers to sue for damages and receive compensation from the General Revenue Fund;
 - authorizing the administrator to delegate duties to program area staff; and
 - allowing the administrator to delegate additional powers and duties under the Vehicle Seizure and Removal Regulation.

- The *Provincial Offences Procedure Act* by authorizing:
 - virtual court sessions;
 - the use of digital evidence;
 - authorizing electronic notifications to electronic addresses;
 - affirming the power of the court to cure a defect on a violation ticket; and
 - extending the statute of limitations for prosecution of offences under this Act from six months to twelve months.
- The *Public Lands Act* by defining an animal unit for the purpose of establishing the grazing capacity and any variations in the proportions of an animal unit due to age, weight and type of livestock as a cow weighing 1000 pounds with or without an unweaned calf up to six months of age.
- The *Traffic Safety Act* by authorizing the Minister to make regulations respecting projects to research, test or evaluate matters related to this Act or related to highway or vehicle use.

In Force: On various dates.

BILL 17 — *Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence Act, SA 2024 cC-1.5*

- Amended:**
- *Financial Administration Act, RSA 2000, c F-12*
 - *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSA 2000, cF-25*

Summary: The *Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence Act* establishes the Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence as a new crown corporation.

The Centre has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person and is for all purposes an agent of the Crown in right of Alberta.

The Centre has very wide-ranging powers. However, it may not without the prior written approval or order of the Minister:

- accept a gift, bequest or other funding, or accept payment for services rendered by the Centre or recover costs incurred by the Centre from any party other than the Government of Alberta;
- spend money where the expenditure was not accounted for in the Centre’s budget as approved by the Minister;
- acquire, lease, hold, lend or dispose of real property or immovable property;
- make a grant or contribution in support of the Centre’s mandate and activities which is not in accordance with a grant program established by the Centre in the Centre’s bylaws; or
- borrow money or give guarantees except in accordance with the regulations.

Since the Centre must protect the confidentiality of individually identifying health information and personal information that is in the Centre's custody or under the Centre's control, and the privacy of the individuals who are the subjects of that information, the Act amends the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to that end.

In Force: On proclamation

BILL 18 — *Provincial Priorities Act, SA 2024 cP-35.5*

Summary: The *Provincial Priorities Act* requires provincial entities to obtain prior approval from Alberta's government prior to entering, amending, extending or renewing an agreement with a "federal entity".

In Force: On proclamation

BILL 19 — *Utilities Affordability Statutes Amendment Act, SA 2024 c8*

Amended:

- *Alberta Utilities Commission Act, SA 2007, c A-37.2*
- *Electric Utilities Act, SA 2003, c E-5.1*
- *Gas Utilities Act, RSA 2000, c G-5*
- *Government Organization Act, RSA 2000, c G-10*
- *Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26*
- *Regulated Rate Option Stability Act, SA 2017, c R-13.5*

Summary: The *Utilities Affordability Statutes Amendment Act* prohibits the use of variable market rates when setting local access fees.

The Act amends sections 45, 75, and 360 of the *Municipal Government Act* to outline that the Alberta Utilities Commission has oversight over all agreements and how the fees can be calculated. A right to distribute electricity granted by a municipality to an owner of an electric distribution system has no effect unless the grant is approved by the Commission.

A prior privilege or franchise granted by a municipality to an owner of a gas utility continues in effect until the earliest of the approval by the Commission or in the absence of that, automatic termination after 270 days after the coming to force of sub-section 3(5) of the *Gas Utilities Act*.

The Act amends the *Government Organization Act, Regulated Rate Option Stability Act, Electric Utilities Act* and *Alberta Utilities Commission Act* to substitute "Regulated Rate Option" with "Rate of Last Resort".

Consequentially, the *Regulated Rate Option Stability Act* is renamed the *Rate of Last Resort Stability Act*.

In Force: On various dates

BILL 20 — *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, SA 2024 c11*

- Amended:**
- *Local Authorities Election Act, RSA 2000, c L-21*
 - *Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26*
 - *Referendum Act, RSA 2000, c R-8.4*

Summary: The *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act* amends the following legislation:

The *Local Authorities Election Act* by:

- aligning candidate eligibility criteria with councillor disqualification criteria in the *Municipal Government Act*;
- allowing municipalities to require criminal record checks for local candidates;
- limiting the amount of money third-party advertisers may accept in contributions from \$30,000 to \$5,000;
- requiring third party advertisers interested in plebiscites to register and report finances;
- enabling regulation-making authority to define local political parties;
- requiring municipalities to use the most current provincial register of electors from Elections Alberta;
- expanding the use of special ballots;
- limiting vouching to the ability to vouch for someone's address;
- repealing the ability for a candidate or returning officer to object to an elector;
- enabling regulation-making authority to postpone elections in emergencies;
- prohibiting automated voting equipment, such as electronic tabulators;
- requiring recounts if requested by a candidate when the margin is within 0.5% of total votes;
- allowing union and corporate donations to local candidates;
- allowing donations outside the local election year; and
- updating rules for scrutineers.

The *Municipal Government Act* by:

- requiring a councillor's seat to become vacant upon disqualification;
- requiring mandatory orientation training for councillors;
- allowing Cabinet to remove a councillor by ordering a vote of electors to determine whether the councillor should be removed. An elector vote to remove a councillor is limited to councillors who Cabinet consider to be unwilling, unable, or refusing to do the job for which they were elected, or if Cabinet considers such a vote to be in the public interest by taking into consideration illegal or unethical behaviour by a councillor;
- allowing elected officials to recuse themselves for real or perceived conflicts of interest and clarify that this choice is not subject to third-party review;
- making the Minister responsible for validating municipal recall petitions;
- enabling the Cabinet to require a municipality to amend or repeal a bylaw if one of the following specific requirements are met. Intervention may occur if a bylaw:
 - exceeds the scope of the *Municipal Government Act* or otherwise exceeds the authority granted to a municipality under the act or any other statute;
 - conflicts with the *Municipal Government Act* or any other statute;
 - is contrary to provincial policy; or
 - contravenes the Constitution of Canada.

- authorizing the Cabinet to direct a municipality to take specific action to protect public health and/or safety.

The Act also includes the following amendments:

- requires that municipalities offer electronic public hearings on planning and development and restrict them from holding extra hearings when not required by legislation;
- provides full exemption of non-profit subsidized affordable housing from property taxation;
- adds multi-year residential property tax incentives;
- expands the Community Revitalization Levy program; and
- limits the ability of municipalities to require non-statutory studies as requirements for building and development permits.

In Force: Comes into force on proclamation, except sub-sections 2(24) and (25), which come into force on January 1, 2025

BILL 21 — *Emergency Statutes Amendment Act, SA 2024 c9*

Amended:

- *Alberta Senate Election Act*, SA 2019, c A-33.5
- *Election Act*, RSA 2000, c E-1
- *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, RSA 2000, cE-2
- *Emergency Management Act*, RSA 2000, c E-6.8
- *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*, RSA 2000, c F-19
- *Water Act*, RSA 2000, c W-3

Summary: The *Emergency Statutes Amendment Act* adopts a new set election date and amends the following legislation:

The *Emergency Management Act*: following a state of local emergency, a disaster or emergency, emergency planning or any other activity regarding a municipality, it must report the following to the Minister:

- any information required by the Minister; and
- any information prescribed by the regulations prescribed by the regulations.
- critical infrastructure of the community and region, include situations where:
 - a municipality’s council or staff may no longer be able to adequately respond due to the overwhelming and sudden nature of the event; or
 - where the event spans several jurisdictions and requires enhanced provincial coordination of resources.

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the Minister is not deemed to be acting under section 19 the *Emergency Management Act* when they direct or authorize fire control activities by order during a state of emergency declared under the *Emergency Management Act*.

For the purpose of fighting a fire, or to prevent its occurrence or to combat its progress, the Minister and any person acting under the authorization or direction of the Minister are exempt from any requirement to apply for or obtain any permit, licence, registration, approval, authorization, disposition, certificate, allocation or instrument required or issued under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, *Forests Act*, *Provincial Parks Act*, *Public Lands Act*, *Water Act* or *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act*.

The Act also standardizes reporting requirements for municipalities.

The Act removes any obligation by the Minister to pay compensation in respect of real or personal property that is acquired, utilized, damaged or destroyed because of an action taken, or a decision to not act under the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*. A municipality remains responsible for such compensation unless the Minister decides to take over the responsibility.

The *Water Act* by authorizing the Minister to direct specific actions during a water emergency, such as:

- determining the priority of water use;
- allowing temporary low-risk, water transfers between major water basins;
- exempting certain drought or flood mitigation activities to speed up the process; and
- allowing temporary entrance, occupation and use of private property and land if specific actions are needed to mitigate the emergency.

Further, the Act expands the authority of the designated directors to make water available for priority uses in an emergency.

The following matters have been added to the matters immune from appeal:

- an approval of a transfer, made for a specified period, of an allocation of water under a licence in an area of the Province affected by a declaration;
- a water management order;
- if the Director issues a licence as authorized by a specific order; and
- if the Director decides with respect to an application that is included in the classes and types of applications specified in an order made under section

The *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* by authorizing the government to provide aid in a wildfire emergency response situation. The Act also:

- clarifies the discretionary authority of the government to conduct emergency wildfire response for provincial lands, both inside and out of the Forest Protection Area;
- clarifies the Province's authority to construct fireguards and allow the removal of buildings or structures in emergency situations when required by wildfire suppression efforts;
- includes Métis Settlements in the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*; and
- requires municipalities to report critical information to the province.

The *Election Act* by changing the next provincial election to the third Monday in October 2027;

The *Alberta Senate Election Amendment Act* by changing the time frame to the fourth Monday in August for authorizing a senate election when it coincides with a general election.

The *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Amendment Act* by changing the election advertising period that applies to third party advertisers to align with the proposed new set election date.

In Force: On May 30, 2024

BILL 22 — Health Statutes Amendment Act, SA 2024 c10

- Amended:**
- *Alberta Evidence Act*, RSA 2000, c A-18
 - *Alberta Health Act*, SA 2010, c A-19.5
 - *Alberta Health Care Insurance Act*, RSA 2000, c A-20
 - *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act*, SA 2009, c A-31.5
 - *Alberta Sovereignty within a United Canada Act*, SA 2022, c A-33.8
 - *Animal Health Act*, SA 2007, c A-40.2
 - *Auditor General Act*, RSA 2000, c A-46
 - *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, SA 2011, c C-11.5
 - *Conflicts of Interest Act*, RSA 2000, c C-23
 - *Continuing Care Act*, SA 2022, c C-26.7
 - *COVID-19 Related Measures Act*, SA 2021, c C-31.3
 - *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, RSA 2000, cE-2
 - *Emergency Health Services Act*, SA 2008, c E-6.6
 - *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, RSA 2000, c E-12
 - *Family and Community Support Services Act*, RSA 2000, c F-3
 - *Financial Administration Act*, RSA 2000, c F-12
 - *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSA 2000, c F-25
 - *Government Organization Act*, RSA 2000, c G-10
 - *Health Facilities Act*, RSA 2000, c H-2.7
 - *Health Information Act*, RSA 2000, c H-5
 - *Health Professions Act*, RSA 2000, c H-7
 - *Health Quality Council of Alberta Act*, SA 2011, c H-7.2
 - *Hospitals Act*, RSA 2000, c H-12
 - *Human Tissue and Organ Donation Act*, SA 2006, c H-14.5
 - *Labour Relations Code*, RSA 2000, c L-1
 - *Loan and Trust Corporations Act*, RSA 2000, c L-20
 - *Local Authorities Capital Financing Act*, SA 2019, c L-20.8
 - *Mandatory Testing and Disclosure Act*, SA 2006, c M-3.5
 - *Mental Health Act*, RSA 2000, c M-13
 - *Métis Settlements Act*, RSA 2000, c M-14
 - *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26
 - *Ombudsman Act*, RSA 2000, c O-8
 - *Pharmacy and Drug Act*, RSA 2000, c P-13
 - *Public Health Act*, RSA 2000, c P-37
 - *Public Inquiries Act*, RSA 2000, c P-39
 - *Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act*, SA 2015, c P-40.5
 - *Public Sector Employers Act*, SA 2019, c P-40.7
 - *Public Service Act*, RSA 2000, c P-42
 - *Public Utilities Act*, RSA 2000, c P-45
 - *Regional Health Authorities Act*, RSA 2000, c R-10

Summary: The *Health Statutes Amendment Act* transforms one regional health authority to four provincial health agencies in the following areas:

1. Acute care health services sector;
2. Primary care health services sector;
3. Continuing care health services sector; and
4. Mental health and addiction health services.

The Act also amends the following legislation:

- *Regional Health Authorities Act* by:
 - outlining the authority of the Minister of Health;
 - outlining the roles and responsibilities of the provincial health agencies;
 - enabling the transfer of staff from Alberta Health Services to the new provincial health agencies; and
 - changing the name of the *Regional Health Authorities Act* to the *Provincial Health Agencies Act*.
- *Health Information Act* by establishing the Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence.

Most of the amendments in the Act to other legislation are consequential to the introduction and definition of “provincial health agency”, “provincial health board” and “regional health authority”. Practitioners are advised to review the *Health Statutes Amendment Act* to determine how it affects their practice.

In Force: On proclamation

2023-24 Legislative Review Committee

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The Canadian Bar Association - Alberta Branch Legislative Review Committee is partially funded by the Alberta Law Foundation. It has subcommittees in both Edmonton and Calgary and has filled a role in the legislative review process in Alberta for over 30 years. The Committee reviews all bills introduced in the Alberta Legislature and provides comments and assistance to both Government and the Bar on drafting and operative aspects of legislation and amending legislation. The Committee is often called upon confidentially to give legal practitioners' input on draft legislation and regulations. It played significant roles in the shaping of the Personal Property Security Act, the Civil Enforcement Act, the Builders' Lien Act and other Alberta statutes. Its chairperson sits as a member of various stakeholder committees consulted by Government, including the Registry Liaison Committee, which have helped shape statute law.

The Committee draws upon practitioners with a wide range of practical experience, some of whom have served for many years. It also, through its Legislative Liaison Officer, facilitates input by CBA sections, the Law Society, and business and community groups on the policy of legislation.



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