

1995 BILL 224

Third Session, 23rd Legislature, 44 Elizabeth II

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 224

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM AND ELECTORAL
REVIEW COMMISSION ACT

MS. LEIBOVICI

First Reading

Second Reading

Committee of the Whole

Third Reading

Royal Assent

Bill 224
Ms. Leibovici

BILL 224

1995

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM AND ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMISSION ACT

(Assented to , 1995)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the
Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

Definitions

1 In this Act,

- (a) "Commission" means the Parliamentary Reform and Electoral Review Commission;
- (b) "Members' Services Committee" means the Special Select Standing Committee of the Assembly on Member's Services.

**Establishment of
Commission**

2(1) There is hereby established a Parliamentary Reform and Electoral Review Commission.

(2) The Commission shall consist of:

- (a) a chair appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who must be one of the following:
 - (i) the Ethics Commissioner;
 - (ii) the Auditor General;
 - (iii) the president of a post-secondary educational institution in Alberta;

- (iv) a judge or retired judge of any court in Alberta;
 - (v) a person whose stature and qualifications are, in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, similar to those of the persons referred to in subclauses (i) to (iv), and
- (b) seven persons appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), no person shall be appointed who is presently or has within the last five years been a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.
- (4) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the composition of the Commission shall reflect the geographical composition of the province including,
- (a) Calgary, Edmonton and other major centres, rural areas, and
 - (b) the southern, central and northern regions of the Province.
- (5) The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta shall sit as non-voting members of the Commission.

Function

- 3(1) The Commission shall prepare a report containing recommendations for parliamentary and electoral reform which shall address, but shall not be limited to, the following:
- (a) public service appointments,
 - (b) conflicts of interest legislation,
 - (c) the use of free votes,
 - (d) recall,
 - (e) fixed sittings of the Legislative Assembly,
 - (f) fixed terms and fixed election dates,

- (g) stricter time limits governing by-elections,
- (h) remuneration of members of the Legislative Assembly,
- (i) minority committee reports,
- (j) the use of constituent assemblies,
- (k) the use of citizen's initiatives, propositions, referenda and plebiscites,
- (l) the use of a rotating electoral system,
- (m) the use of a proportional representation system,
- (n) the use of a standing list of electors, and
- (o) the number of electoral divisions in the Province of Alberta.

Report to Speaker

4(1) The Commission appointed under this Act shall meet within twenty-one days of its appointment and shall deliver its recommendations to the Speaker no later than 6 months from the date of this first meeting.

(2) On receipt of a copy of the report from the Commission, the Speaker shall lay a copy of the report before the Legislative Assembly.

(3) The Legislative Assembly shall deal with the report of the Commission within 60 days after the tabling of the report or such other period determined by resolution of the Legislative Assembly.

Non-appropriation

5(1) No payment shall be made out of the General Revenue Fund to defray any expense necessary for the implementation of this Act without an appropriation made by the Assembly for such purpose.

(2) Provided funds are allocated by the Legislative Assembly for the purpose, members of the Commission shall be paid their reasonable travelling and living expenses while away from their ordinary place of residence in the course of their duties as

members at the rates prescribed by order of the Members' Services Committee.

Public hearings 6(1) During the course of preparing its report, the Commission may hold such public hearings as it thinks necessary, at such times and places as it sees fit and may consult with such other persons as it sees fit.

(2) The Commission shall give reasonable public notice of the time, place and purpose of any public hearings held by it.

Coming into force 7 This Act comes into force on Proclamation.