

2007 Bill 213

Third Session, 26th Legislature, 56 Elizabeth II

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 213

REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

MR. BACKS

First Reading

Second Reading

Committee of the Whole

Third Reading

Royal Assent

BILL 213

2007

REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

(Assented to _____, 2007)

Preamble

WHEREAS regulatory requirements are wide-ranging and encompass any compulsion, obligation, demand or prohibition placed on an individual, entity or activity by or under the authority of a statute, regulation or related policy;

WHEREAS unnecessary red tape and regulation creates additional costs for businesses, non-profit organizations and private citizens in their dealings with the Government;

WHEREAS the reduction of non-essential or redundant forms and regulations will streamline existing processes and enhance Government's effectiveness;

WHEREAS public reporting of regulatory requirements is necessary to ensure accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS there is a need to modernize Alberta's regulatory regime through the regulatory reform initiative set forth below;

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

Definitions

1 In this Act,

- (a) "ministry" has the meaning given to it in section 1(1) of the *Government Accountability Act*;

- (b) “sunset clause” means a provision in an enactment that provides for the expiry of that enactment on a specified date.

Regulatory review

2 Within 3 months of the coming into force of this Act, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General must

- (a) establish a baseline measurement of the current number of regulations against which progress toward regulatory reform can be measured;
- (b) develop a policy which mandates that all proposals for new regulations include the following:
 - (i) an assessment of the need for the proposed regulation with a view to avoid duplication;
 - (ii) an analysis of alternatives;
 - (iii) a study of the economic impact of the proposed regulation, including an analysis of its effect on provincial competitiveness and how compliance costs can be minimized;
 - (iv) confirmation that public consultation has occurred;
 - (v) an estimate of the time and cost required for implementation;
 - (vi) ongoing review for relevancy of the proposed regulation through the inclusion of a sunset clause;
- (c) make public the items referred to in clauses (a) and (b).

Regulatory reform plans and progress reports

3(1) Within 6 months of the coming into force of this Act, a Minister must develop and make public a 3-year regulatory reform plan for his or her ministry that

- (a) establishes regulatory reform targets, and
- (b) provides for a comprehensive review of existing regulations that will ensure ongoing relevancy and minimize unnecessary regulatory burden.

(2) A Minister must provide annual progress reports on regulatory reform as part of the ministry's business plan required under section 13 of the *Government Accountability Act*.

Public documents

4 In this Act, if a Minister is required to make a document public, the Minister must

- (a) lay the document before the Legislative Assembly if it is sitting at the time the document is required to be made public or, if it is not then sitting, within 15 days after the commencement of the next sitting, and
- (b) make the document available to the general public in a reasonable manner at the time required under this Act, whether or not the document has been laid before the Legislative Assembly.

Record of Debate

STAGE	DATE	MEMBER	FROM	TO	TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL