

2017 Bill 1

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Third Session, 29th Legislature, 66 Elizabeth II

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

# **BILL 1**

## **AN ACT TO REDUCE SCHOOL FEES**

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THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

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First Reading . . . . .

Second Reading . . . . .

Committee of the Whole . . . . .

Third Reading . . . . .

Royal Assent . . . . .

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*Bill 1*

## **BILL 1**

2017

### **AN ACT TO REDUCE SCHOOL FEES**

*(Assented to \_\_\_\_\_, 2017)*

#### **Preamble**

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is committed to reducing the financial burden that school and transportation fees place on Alberta families;

WHEREAS the public education system should be accessible to all students, and fees should not present a barrier to achieving core learning outcomes; and

WHEREAS by ensuring an accessible, high-quality education system, the Government of Alberta is providing students with the opportunity to obtain the skills they need to secure rewarding careers;

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

#### **Amends RSA 2000 cS-3**

**1 The *School Act* is amended by this Act.**

**2 Section 21(4) is amended by adding “, subject to the regulations,” after “the board may”.**

## Explanatory Notes

**1** Amends chapter S-3 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

**2** Section 21(4) presently reads:

*(4) If a parent enrolls a student in an alternative program, the*

**3 Section 30 is amended**

(a) in subsection (2) by striking out “or board”;

(b) by adding the following after subsection (2):

(2.1) A board that provides an early childhood services program may, subject to the regulations, charge fees in respect of the program from the parent of a child referred to in subsection (1)(a) who attends the program.

**4 Section 34(3) is repealed and the following is substituted:**

(3) A charter school may, subject to the regulations, charge a parent of a student fees and costs.

**5 The following is added after section 39:**

**Fees and costs**

**39.1(1)** Subject to the regulations, any fees or costs a parent is charged by a board may only be used for the purposes for which they are collected.

(2) The Minister may make regulations respecting fees or costs parents may be charged by boards, including but not limited to the following:

(a) authorizing the charging or use of fees or costs by boards;

(b) defining the types of fees or costs that may be charged by boards and the types of fees or costs that may not be charged by boards;

*board may charge that parent fees for the purpose of defraying all or a portion of any non-instructional costs that*

- (a) may be incurred by the board in offering the alternative program, and*
- (b) are in addition to the costs incurred by the board in providing its regular education program.*

**3** Section 30(2) presently reads:

*(2) A person or board that provides an early childhood services program may charge fees in respect of the program from the parent of a child referred to in subsection (1)(a) who attends the program.*

**4** Section 34(3) presently reads:

*(3) A charter school shall not charge a fee that may not be charged by a board under this Act.*

**5** Fees and costs.

- (c) limiting the amount of fees or costs that may be charged by boards;
- (d) respecting the refund of fees or costs;
- (e) respecting the waiver of fees or costs and the procedure for requesting a waiver;
- (f) respecting the establishment of policies and procedures by boards respecting the charging of fees and costs;
- (g) respecting the reporting by boards on fees and costs charged to parents;
- (h) respecting penalties or sanctions for a board's failure to comply with the regulations respecting fees or costs.

**6 Section 51(3) is repealed and the following is substituted:**

**(3)** A board shall not charge the parent of a student receiving transportation provided by the board transportation fees unless the transportation fees are authorized by the regulations.

**7 Section 60(2) is amended**

**(a) in clause (h)**

**(i) by striking out** "at its own expense or otherwise,";

**6** Section 51 presently reads in part:

*51(1) Subject to the regulations, a board shall provide for the transportation of a student to and from the site of the school in which the board has enrolled the student if the student resides*

*(a) at a distance from the site of that school to be determined by the regulations,*

*(b) within the attendance area established by the board under section 13, and*

*(c) within the boundaries of the district or division.*

*(3) Subject to the regulations, a board may charge the parent of a student receiving transportation provided by the board any fee determined by the board whether or not the transportation is provided under subsection (1).*

*(5) The Minister may make regulations respecting the transportation of students.*

**7** Section 60(2)(h) and (j) presently read:

(ii) **by adding** “and, subject to the regulations, charge a parent of a student fees or costs for those educational, cultural or recreational trips” **after** “division”;

(b) **by repealing clause (j).**

**8 Section 124 is amended**

(a) **in subsection (1) by adding “or” at the end of clause (c), by striking out “or” at the end of clause (d) and by repealing clause (e);**

(b) **by adding the following after subsection (1):**

**(1.1)** If a board makes a decision on an appeal to it or otherwise with respect to the amount and payment of fees or costs, the parent of a student affected by the decision or the student if the student is 16 years of age or older may, subject to the regulations, request in writing that the Minister review the decision of the board.

**9 This Act comes into force on Proclamation.**

- (h) at its own expense or otherwise, arrange, undertake or sponsor for its students educational, cultural or recreational trips inside or outside its district or division;*
- (j) charge a parent of a student fees with respect to instructional supplies or materials;*

**8** Section 124(1) presently reads:

*124(1) If a board makes a decision on an appeal to it or otherwise with respect to*

- (a) the placement of a student in a special education program,*
- (b) a matter referred to in section 10,*
- (c) a home education program,*
- (d) the expulsion of a student, or*
- (e) the amount and payment of fees or costs,*

*the parent of a student affected by the decision or the student if the student is 16 years of age or older may request in writing that the Minister review the decision of the board.*

**9** Coming into force.





