

December 2009 Legislative Update

JURISDICTION	PARLIAMENT	BILL #	TITLE	GOVERNMENT/MEMBERS BILL	STATUS	EXPLANATORY NOTE
<u>Manitoba</u>	<u>39th Legislature</u> <u>- 4th Session</u>	<u>4</u>	<u><i>The Workplace Safety and Health Amendment Act</i></u>	<u>Howard</u>	<u>First Reading –</u> <u>December 3, 2009</u>	<u>This Bill increases the maximum fines that may be imposed on a person who is found guilty of contravening <i>The Workplace Safety and Health Act</i>.</u>
		<u>7</u>	<u><i>The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Suspending Drivers' Licences of Drug Traffickers)</i></u>	<u>Swan</u>	<u>First Reading -</u> <u>December 8, 2009</u>	<u>A person convicted of a Category A offence listed in section 264 of <i>The Highway Traffic Act</i> now receives a driver's licence suspension of one year for a first offence and a longer suspension for any subsequent offence that occurs within ten years. This Bill adds drug trafficking to the list of Category A offences if the offender drives a motor vehicle in the course of committing the offence.</u>
		<u>8</u>	<u><i>The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Safety Precautions to Be Taken When Approaching Tow Trucks and Other Designated Vehicles)</i></u>	<u>Ashton</u>	<u>First Reading –</u> <u>December 9, 2009</u>	<u>This Bill requires drivers to take precautions when they approach certain vehicles, including tow trucks, roadside assistance vehicles and vehicles used by government enforcement officers, if the vehicles are using required lighting equipment and warning signs.</u>
		<u>10</u>	<u><i>The Proceedings Against the Crown Amendment Act</i></u>	<u>Bjornson</u>	<u>First Reading –</u> <u>December 14,</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>The Agreement on Internal Trade is an agreement intended to eliminate trade barriers and promote labour mobility in Canada. This Bill amends <i>The Proceedings Against the Crown Act</i> to enable various orders made against the Government of Manitoba under the Agreement on Internal Trade to be enforced as a court order.</u>
		<u>200</u>	<u><i>The Personal Information Protection and Identity Theft Prevention Act</i></u>	<u>Taillieu</u>	<u>First Reading –</u> <u>December 3, 2009</u>	<u>This Bill governs the collection, use, disclosure and destruction of personal information by organizations in the private sector. It also establishes a duty for those organizations to notify individuals who may be affected when the personal information the organization has collected is lost, stolen or compromised.</u>
		<u>205</u>	<u><i>The Crown Appointment Review Act (Various Acts Amended)</i></u>	<u>Gerrard</u>	<u>First Reading –</u> <u>December 3, 2009</u>	<u>This Bill requires a person to be publicly interviewed by a committee of the Legislative Assembly before being appointed to the board of Manitoba Hydro, the Liquor Control Commission, Manitoba Lotteries Corporation or Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.</u>
		<u>211</u>	<u><i>The Regulatory Accountability and Transparency Act</i></u>	<u>Taillieu</u>	<u>First Reading –</u> <u>December 4, 2009</u>	<u>This Bill requires the government to develop formal procedures to make the process for enacting regulations more transparent. It also requires government departments to develop regulatory reform plans to eliminate unnecessary regulations and encourage restraint in making new regulations. Both the government procedures and department plans must be made public.</u>

215	<u><i>The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Booster seats)</i></u>	<u>Lamoureux</u>	<u>First Reading – December 10, 2009</u>	<u>The Bill ensures that a child who is under 8 years of age is to be properly secured in a booster seat while riding in a vehicle. An exception is made for children who are at least 145 cm in height or 36 kg in weight.</u>
219	<u><i>The Workplace Safety and Health Amendment Act (Harassment and Violence in the Workplace)</i></u>	<u>Gerrard</u>	<u>First Reading – December 9, 2009</u>	<u>This Bill amends <i>The Workplace Safety and Health Act</i> by providing workers with the right to a workplace free of harassment and violence, and requiring employers to protect workers from workplace-related harassment and violence.</u>

The Bill includes provisions

defining workplace-related harassment and workplace violence, and requiring employers to prepare and annually review policies respecting workplace-related harassment and workplace violence;
requiring employers to take steps to prevent occurrences of workplace-related harassment and workplace violence;
requiring allegations of workplace-related harassment and workplace violence to be investigated; and
giving workers the right to refuse to work in certain circumstances after workplace-related harassment or workplace violence has occurred.

The Bill also requires employers to take reasonable precautions to protect workers if the employer is aware or ought to be aware that domestic violence is likely to expose a worker to harassment or physical injury in the workplace.