

March 2010 Legislative Updates

JURISDICTION	PARLIAMENT	BILL #	TITLE	GOVERNMENT/MEMBERS BILL	STATUS	EXPLANATORY NOTE
Alberta	27th Legislature -3rd Session	4	<i>Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Amendment Act, 2010</i>	Government - Olsen	Royal Assent - March 17, 2010	This Bill makes some administrative changes in order to harmonize provincial legislation related to the transport of dangerous goods with recently amended federal legislation.
		7	<i>Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2010</i>	Government - Redford	Second Reading - March 16, 2010	This Bill updates and streamline provincial election preparations and operations. The Chief Electoral Officer would appoint the returning officers, eliminating the step of requiring the government to confirm their appointments. The Bill also changes the process for hiring enumerators, eliminating the requirement to obtain recommendations from constituency associations. The Bill increases safeguards regarding the list of electors and the type of information that must be presented at polling stations. The Bill clarifies who can vote in advance polls, and gives Albertans who are prisoners the right to vote (as required by a recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling.) The Bill regulates third-party legislation, ensuring that those who sponsor political advertising are identifiable. Finally, the Bill also gives broader investigative powers to the Chief Electoral Officer, and allows the Chief Electoral Officer to explore the use of new voting technologies.
		12	<i>Body Armour Control Act, 2010</i>	Government - Quest	<u>Second Reading – April 13, 2010</u>	This Bill would require individuals to acquire a permit in order to use body armour. Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission inspectors, licensed private security guards, and others who need to wear body armour to do their jobs will be exempt from the requirement to get a permit. Individuals holding a valid firearms permit will also be exempt. Other individuals may be issued a permit on the basis that they have legitimate occupational or personal safety reasons to wear body armour.
		16	<u>Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving) Amendment Act, 2010</u>	Government – Johnston	<u>First Reading – April 14, 2010</u>	<u>This Bill prohibits the use of cellular telephones and/or electronic devices while driving unless they are in the “hands-free” mode.</u>
		201	<i>Workers’ Compensation (Firefighters) Amendment Act, 2010</i>	Member - Rogers	<u>Third Reading – April 12, 2010</u>	The Bill seeks to include primary site esophageal cancer and primary site testicular cancer in the presumptive list of cancers that firefighters make claim for under workers’ compensation.
		204	<i>Fiscal Responsibility (Spending Limit) Amendment Act, 2010</i>	Member - Anderson	First Reading - February 24, 2010	This Bill would limit year-over-year increases in government spending to the rate of inflation plus population growth or the average spending of Canada's remaining nine provinces, whichever number is higher.