



## Committee Report

**To:** Warden Mitch Twolan  
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

**From:** Kara Van Myall  
Director of Planning and Development

**Date:** June 20, 2019

**Re:** Ontario Legislation: Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act  
Overview

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### Recommendation:

The "Ontario Legislation: Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act Overview" Report is for information.

### Background:

The Ontario government passed the *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act* (Bill 66) on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to help provincial businesses become more competitive and attract new investment. Along with regulatory changes, the Act will reduce specific regulatory burdens in 12 sectors as outlined in this report for information.

The aim of this legislation is to increase prosperity and job creation, and the government is reducing the regulatory burden facing employers with the goal of growing jobs and the economy in the long run. Through this legislation to cut red tape, the government is trying to accomplish the following:

- reduce the high cost of doing business
- match regulatory requirements with other provinces
- end duplication
- reduce barriers to investment

### Proposed Legislative Changes:

In order to create a job friendly, flexible labour market, the government is creating an environment where businesses can grow and hire more workers by making the following changes:

- Increasing the number of spaces for home-based childcare providers.
- Lowering the age of children that authorized recreation programs can serve from six to four.
- Ending the requirement to get government approval whenever businesses and non-profits merge single-employer pension plans into jointly sponsored pension plans.

- Director of Employment Standards approval no longer required for excess hours of work and overtime averaging.
- Ending the requirement for employers to post the Employment Standards Act poster in the workplace.

### **Reducing the regulatory burden in 12 sectors:**

The *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act* will reduce regulatory burdens in 12 sectors to help job creators thrive, create and keep good jobs. The regulation reduces the high cost of doing business in the Province in order to make Ontario companies more competitive and be able to attract new investments.

These sectors are as follows:

1. Agriculture and food processing
2. Auto
3. Construction
4. Electricity services
5. Financial services
6. Industrial and commercial facilities
7. Long-term care homes
8. Manufacturing
9. Private career colleges
10. Second-hand market
11. Telecommunications
12. Trucking

From the Planning and Development perspective, of interest is the Agriculture and Food Processing proposed changes. These proposed changes will positively impact the agri-producers in the area and livestock owners. Changes to the Milk Act and Abattoirs are two areas that have been raised locally as regulatory burdens. These proposed changes eliminate costly and prescriptive standards under the Milk Act. Previous standards were outdated and costly. This helps to reduce regulatory burden for existing, new and expanding dairy processors, small foodservice and retail operations while protecting food safety at the same time. Changes made under the Food Safety and Quality Act reduces paperwork and fees. It encourages additional business opportunities for provincially licensed meat processors. This helps to reduce regulatory burden for existing, new and expanding provincially licensed meat plants, such as small abattoirs, allowing them to focus on food safety and economic growth.

All 12 sectors' changes and the regulatory changes proposed are outlined in detail in Appendix 'A'. The Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act aims to save Ontario companies \$400 million per year by reducing the regulatory requirements by at least 25% by 2020.

### **Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

**Interdepartmental Consultation:**

None

**Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

Goal #7 Stimulate and reward innovation and economic development

Written by: Manpreet Kaur Sangha, Economic Development Officer, Planning and Development

**Approved by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Clarke', is positioned above the printed name.

Murray Clarke  
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

## Appendix A: Changes made in 12 sectors to reduce regulatory burden

Agriculture and Food Processing	The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs removes outdated and time-consuming reporting requirements under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Act, including ones required for loan guarantee programs. The Ministry eliminates costly and prescriptive standards under the Milk Act. Changes under the Food Safety and Quality Act encourage additional business opportunities for provincially licensed meat processors. Amendments to the Agricultural Employees Protection Act (AEPA) has been made to cover ornamental horticultural workers. The Ministry streamlines the regulation under the Nutrient Management Act to remove the requirement to update the strategy every five years, if nothing has changed thereby increasing flexibility to deal with nutrients from farm-like animals. The Ministry enables amendments under the Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act to simplify delivery of programs and enhance responsiveness.
Auto	The Industrial Establishments regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act has been amended to add a new, targeted exemption from guardrail requirements for vehicle conveyors and similar systems, and associated raised platforms used with vehicle conveyors or similar systems. The Ministry of Transportation expands testing of connected and autonomous vehicles in Ontario. Changes to the Highway Traffic Act allow electric motorcycles on major highways, because of advancements in technology and in response to requests from the motorcycle industry. This expands options for customers and provides an economic boost to the industry.
Construction	The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks expands new Environmental Activity and Sector Registries for permits to take water. This will allow businesses to begin operations faster. The Ministry of Labour amends the Labour Relations Act, 1995 to explicitly deem public bodies, including municipalities, school boards, hospitals, colleges and universities, as "non-construction employers". This change is expected to increase competitiveness for broader public-sector construction projects.
Electricity Services	The Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines repeals the authority of the Ontario Energy Board to set rates for Unit Sub Metering Providers. The repeal reduces a barrier to investment by giving investors greater confidence in the competitiveness of this market.
Financial Services	The Ministry of Finance amends regulations so that the credit unions are no longer restricted from participating in bank-led loan syndications. This helps them to better manage risk and compete, while expanding access to financing for their small-business customers.
Industrial and Commercial Facilities	The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services simplifies and updates rules for operating engineers by making amendments to the Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000. This reduces regulatory burden without

	compromising public safety. This will cut business costs by up to \$5 million annually and allow companies to adopt newer technologies.
Long-term care homes	The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care modernizes and streamlines administrative requirements for the operators of long-term care homes. This make it easier for businesses in this sector to operate by reducing red tape and administrative burdens and will also address business concerns of long-term care licensees that are looking forward to the development of new beds.
Manufacturing	The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services eliminates regulatory and licensing requirements for upholstered and stuffed articles reducing a long-standing burden on business and eliminating trade barriers. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks repeals the Toxics Reduction Act by 2021, to rely on the robust and science-based federal Chemicals Management Plan. These changes will allow businesses to have greater operational flexibility, such as the ability to implement changes to their production processes, so they can focus on being more innovative and competitive. The Ministry of Labour amends the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to allow updated labels to be placed on existing chemical containers. Without this change, existing chemicals would have needed to be disposed of, and new chemicals would have needed to be purchased.
Private Career Colleges	The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities amends the Private Career Colleges Act, 2005 to reduce administrative burdens. The private career colleges sector will see annual savings in their business costs and less paperwork. This will permit them to invest in quality programs, instructors and infrastructure to support a vocational training sector that provides the skilled workforce that employers need.
Second Hand Market	The Ministry of the Attorney General repeals the Pawnbrokers Act that is over 100 years old, outdated and duplicates municipalities' existing bylaw-making and licensing authority. This change removes a layer of red tape and makes pawnbroker businesses subject to local bylaws, just like any other business.
Telecommunications	In Telecommunications sector, the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services repeals the Wireless Services Agreements Act, 2013 and harmonizes with the federal government's national wireless code. This eliminates unnecessary duplication with federal law, making it easier and faster for consumers and businesses to understand their rights and obligations.
Trucking	The Ministry of Transportation allows electronic documentation for International Registration Plans. These changes to the Highway Traffic Act allow commercial truck drivers the option of an electronic cab card, making it easier to confirm driver credentials and reduce paperwork. As

	well as reducing red tape, this change allows truck drivers and IRP jurisdictions increased flexibility in issuing and presenting a cab card.
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\*Source: <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2019/04/creating-jobs-and-reducing-regulatory-burdens-in-12-sectors-across-ontario.html>