

BREAKING CASE LAW

Bill 11 *Fair Registration Practices Act*



This Issue

Bill 11 – Its Purpose and What it Means for Regulated Professionals

On June 19, 2019, Bill 11 was introduced in the Alberta Legislature by Jason Copping, Alberta's Minister of Labour and Immigration, for the purpose of:

"Introduc(ing) measures to ensure that regulated professions are governed by registration practices that are transparent, objective, impartial, and fair."

Mr. Copping stated that Bill 11 was drafted in response to discussions he has had with newcomers to Alberta who are currently forced to wait months or years for their credentials to be recognized. Mr. Copping stated that as a result of being unable to contribute to Alberta's economy at the skill level they were employed at in previous jurisdictions, many newcomers to Alberta are underemployed and unable to meet their personal, professional and economic potential. He hopes Bill 11 will correct this.

What does this mean for self-regulated professions?

If enacted, the Legislature intends to work with self-regulated professions to remove unfair barriers to entry to practice while maintaining high professional standards. One way Bill 11 aims to do this is to accelerate the verification process by ensuring that regulatory bodies will deliver an interim decision to newcomers within six months.

If Bill 11 is passed, it will introduce the Fair Registration Practices Office. The Fair Registration Practices Office will work with self-regulated professions to ensure regulatory bodies employ timely and fair registration processes. This office will also be available for complaints; however it will not work on individual cases.

The rest of the provisions and safety checks provided in Bill 11 are mostly covered by the existing statutes governing self-regulated professions, for example, the Health Professions Act.

Nevertheless, Bill 11 is a reminder to all self-regulated professions to review their registration requirements and make sure they are fair and transparent.

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