



Bill G212

Attorney General General Chris Bentley tabled Bill 212 ("*Good Government Act, 2009*") for First Reading in the Legislature on October 27. It is scheduled to commence Second Reading later on today (Friday, October 30). It is a huge Bill (325 pages depending on printing format) of turgid and opaque legal language that amends legislation administered by 26 Ontario Ministries. Even though the Bill purports to include only technical amendments, it is noteworthy that the opposition parties and stakeholders were given only three days since it's tabling to study the Bill before Second Reading began.

With respect to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Bill 212 amends or revokes:

The Health Care Consent Act

The Health Insurance Act

The Health Protection and Promotion Act

The Independent Health Facilities Act

The Long Term Care Homes Act

The Local Health System Integration Act (the LHIN Act)

The Mental Hospitals Act (Act and regulations repealed and revoked)

The Ministry of Health Appeal and Review Board Act (plus incidental or flow-through amendments to other Acts to reflect the name change)

The Health Services Act

The Nursing Homes Act (definition of "nursing home" repealed)

The Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act

The Ontario Energy Board Act (amendments pertaining to health care facilities)

The Ontario Medical Association Dues Act

The Ontario Mental Health Foundation Act

The Pay Equity Act (amendment of schedules pertaining to public hospitals)

The Personal Health Information Protection Act



*The Public Hospitals Act
the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act*

The Bill has been represented by the government as including statutory and regulatory amendments that are entirely technical in nature (e.g. name changes from "Ministry of Health" to " Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care") and, to the extent that anyone can effectively examine the Bill since it was printed yesterday that does appear to be the case ----- at least as far as the legislation administered by MOHLTC is concerned. (I would not characterize some of the amendments to the *Juries Act*, for example, as technical.)

We will watch the Second Reading debate very closely to see if any "substantive" issues somehow crept in.

Unless the Bill is found to contain some kind of surprise, it is expected to move through the legislative process very quickly and to be proclaimed well before the end of this year.

DP Gracey
10/30/09