



FOCUS ON QUEEN'S PARK



House Resumes Sitting

MPPs returned to Queen's Park on February 13 to begin a three-week sitting designed to clean up bills left from the previous sitting.

Status of Bills

The following was the status of Bills when the House rose for the Christmas break.

First Reading

Eleven Government Bills were introduced for First Reading during the Fall sitting:

Bill 11 - **Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act** (deals with the management of provincial parks and conservation areas).

Bill 14 - **Access to Justice Act** (deals with judges, court administration and paralegals).

Bill 28 - **Mandatory Blood Testing Act** (applying to officer of health to order mandatory blood testing).

Bill 41 - **Securities Transfer Act** (establishes a system of rules for the transfer of investment securities).

Bill 43 - **Clean Water Act** (protects sources of drinking water).

Bill 50 - **Traditional Chinese Medicine Act** (regulates profession of traditional Chinese medicine).

Bill 51 - **Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act** (deals with land use planning).

Bill 52 - **Education Statute Amendment Act** (prohibits persons under 18 not in school from obtaining drivers' licenses).

Bill 53 - **Stronger City of Toronto for a Stronger Ontario Act** (gives powers to City of Toronto).

Bill 56 - **Emergency Management Statute Law Amendment Act** (powers of Premier to act in emergencies).

Bill 190 - **Good Government Act** (amends acts governing ministries).

Twenty-eight Private Members' Bills were also introduced in this sitting.

Second Reading

Five Government Bills were passed at Second Reading and sent to committee before the break. All except Bill 210 have been ordered back for Third Reading, and one had been passed at time of publication.

Bill 21 - **Energy Conservation Responsibility Act** (establishes smart meter initiative and requires public agencies to establish energy conservation plans).

Bill 27 - **Family Statute Law Amendment Act** (private arbitration of family law). Passed Third Reading February 14.

Bill 36 - **Local Health System Integration Act** (integrated local health service delivery).

Bill 206 - **Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act** (changes to OMERS pension fund).

Bill 210 - **Child and Family Services Statute Law Amendment Act** (custody orders for children needing protection).

Fifteen Private Members' Bills were also passed at Second Reading and sent to committee. Three of these (one Conservative and two Liberal) have been called for Third Reading. They are:

Bill 7 - **VQA Wine Stores Act** (LCBO power to authorize some Ontario winemakers to sell VQA wine).

Bill 123 - **Transparency in Public Matters** (requires meetings of public bodies to be open to the public).

Bill 153 - **Jay Lawrence and Bart MacKey Memorial Act** (prohibits cab of commercial vehicle being occupied while towed).

Third Reading

Ten Government Bills passed Third Reading and received Royal Assent before the break:

Bill 16 - **Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act** (protection of land for agricultural purposes).

Bill 18 - **Budget Measures Act** (implements 2005 Ontario Budget).

Bill 37 - **Respect for Municipalities Act** (municipal authority to levy taxes).

Bill 128 - **Law Enforcement and Forfeited Property Act** (enforcement powers and penalties re organized crime and grow-ops).

Bill 159 - **Private Security and Investigative Services Act** (licensing and code of conduct for security guards and private investigators).

Bill 169 - **Transportation Statute and Amendment Law Act** (amends *Highway Traffic Act* and

other statutes in respect to transportation-related matters).

Bill 183 - **Adoption Information Disclosure Act** (disclosure of information and records to adopted persons and birth parents).

Bill 197 - **Budget Measures Act** (implements measures from the budget).

Bill 211 - **Ending Mandatory Retirement Act** (ends mandatory retirement).

Bill 214 - **Election Statute Law Amendment Act** (sets fixed dates for elections, changes electoral boundaries, deals with disclosure of contributions).

One Private Member's Bill (Liberal) also passed Third Reading and received Royal Assent:

Bill 58 - **Safe Streets Statute Law Amendment Act** (recognizes fundraising activities of charities and non-profit organizations).

The full text of all Bills can be viewed at www.ontla.on.ca

Waiting for McGuinty!

As of the date of publication, we await Premier McGuinty's calling of the by-elections to replace three MPPs who stepped down to run in the federal election.

The resignations of Marilyn Churley (NDP), Jim Flaherty (PC) and John Baird (PC), left vacancies in the ridings of Toronto-Danforth, Whitby-Ajax, and Nepean-Carleton respectively.



In Toronto-Danforth the NDP chose Peter Tabuns as their candidate at a contested nomination meeting on February 15. Peter is a former Toronto city counsellor and former Director of Greenpeace. Also running for the nomination was Barbara Warner, a long-time party activist and community lawyer.

The Liberals acclaimed Ben Chin as their candidate for Toronto-Danforth at a nomination meeting on February 16. Ben is a former TV announcer and assistant to Premier McGuinty.

The Conservatives have yet to nominate a candidate for their riding.

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