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*During the spring session of the Legislature, which concluded May 27<sup>th</sup> 2008, 21 government bills and 10 private members' bills were passed. The following is a summary of the bills that were of importance to business in Halifax.*

#### **PASSED LEGISLATION**

**No. 79 Elections Act**

**No. 107 Nova Scotia Agricultural College Act**

**No. 117 Securities Act:** This makes a number of changes to the Securities Act that are necessary to continue fulfilling commitments of the Province under Passport MOU signed in March 2005. The changes made contribute to the goals of implementing a harmonized securities regulatory framework and enhancing investor protection.

**No. 120 Public Service Act (Environment)**

**No. 123 Public Service Act (Seniors)**

**No. 124 Justice Administration Amendment (2008) Act**

**No. 125 Public Service Act (Labour & Workforce Development):** Amends the *Public Service Act* to confirm the establishment of the Department of Labour and Workforce Development.

**No. 127 Health Professions Disciplinary Proceedings Protection (2008) Act**

**No. 130 Emergency Health Services Act**

**No. 131 North American Labour Co-operation Agreement Implementation Act**

**No. 133 Land Surveyors Act**

**No. 135 Municipal Elections Act:** Clauses 2 to 4 amend clarify provisions of the Act dealing with new methods of voting and provide a municipality with the authority to create offences for violations of election by-laws, including the imposition of fines and periods of imprisonment.

**No. 138 Municipal Government Act:** Amendments to assist local governments to appoint a municipal auditor general and to control tree-cutting before development.

**No. 144 Nova Scotia Film Development Corporation Act**

**No. 146 Motor Vehicle Act**

**No. 156 Land Registration Act:** Amendments to make the Land Registration Act easier to use.

**No. 157 Financial Measures Act:** Clause 3 implements the terms of a memorandum of understanding with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to phase out municipal funding to corrections over the next seven years. Clause 4 implements the terms of a MOU with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to restrict the increase in the minimum municipal contribution to education costs to no greater than the increase in CPI.

**No. 163 Personal Directives Act**

**No. 167 Technical Safety Act:** The purpose of this Act is to educate and encourage persons and the community to apply the principles of technical safety to prevent incidents that could cause injury, death or unwarranted property damage.

**No. 176 Engineering Profession Act**

**No. 178 Children and Family Services Act**

**No. 168 House of Assembly Act**

**No. 177 Naturopathic Doctors Act**

**No. 184 Provincial Soil Act**

**No. 3 Public Utilities Act** : Established a small business advocate to participate in all aspects of a hearing before the Utility and Review Board and represent the interests of small business as a full intervener.

**No. 29 House of Assembly Act**

**No. 100 Health Services and Insurance Act**

**No. 121 Assessment Act**

**No. 150 Motor Vehicle Act**

**No. 162 Municipal Government Act**

**No. 170 Motor Vehicle Act**

#### **DELAYED LEGISLATION**

Several bills introduced this spring and are awaiting further consideration. These include:

**Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act:** The purpose of this Act is to steam line and clearly define the certification process for professionals (such as doctors).

**Repeal of the Tourist Accommodations Act:** This Bill repeals the Tourist Accommodations Act and makes consequential amendments to the Assessment Act, the Halifax Regional Municipality Marketing Levy Act, the Occupiers' Liability Act and the Yarmouth Marketing and Promotions Levy Act. The intent of repealing this Act is to ensure a quality experience for visitors while reducing the regulatory burden for tourism operators. Instead of licensing, operators who want to be promoted by the province must participate in a recognized quality program. Until the act is repealed, the department is granting short-term tourist accommodation licenses to operators. Once the bill is proclaimed, accommodation licensing will end.

#### **Heritage Property Act**

**Act Respecting the Halifax Regional Municipality:** the intent of this legislation is to Establish a Charter for Halifax Regional Municipality.

#### **An Act to Implement HRMbyDesign**

For access to Provincial Legislation: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc//bills.htm>

For access to the Hansards: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/han60-2/>

