

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION  
and  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION  
AND PARKS  
And  
MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING  
and  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

**COMPENDIUM FOR THE  
GET IT DONE ACT, 2024**

The Bill proposes measures that would,

- establish rules around carbon pricing programs in a new statute,
- enable an automated vehicle permit renewal process for eligible vehicles,
- set out fees for driver's licences and photo cards in legislation,
- prohibit new tolling on provincial highways,
- provide clarity as to when expropriations can occur in the environmental assessment process, and
- reinstate and implement municipally requested modifications across 13 official plan matters.

The Bill includes one new statute, the *Protecting Against Carbon Taxes Act, 2024*, and amends the following Acts:

1. *Environmental Assessment Act*
2. *Highway Traffic Act*
3. *Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023*
4. *Photo Card Act, 2008*
5. *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act*

A description of these measures is set out below.

### **Schedule 1 – Environmental Assessment Act**

The Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) authorizes acquisition of property and rights in property in connection with a project prior to a project being authorized to proceed under the Act.

The amendment to the EAA would clarify that expropriation is a form of acquisition of property or rights in property and therefore permitted in advance of a project being authorized to proceed under the Act.

### **Schedule 2 – Highway Traffic Act**

The amendments to the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) include:

1. Automated vehicle permit renewal

In March 2022, evidence of validation (valtag stickers) and vehicle permit renewal fees were eliminated for nearly 8 million owners of passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, motorcycles, and mopeds. However, vehicle permits must still be validated. The amendments proposed would enable an automated renewal process by the ministry rather than the vehicle owner, provided no compliance issues are identified (i.e., they have valid insurance and are not in plate denial for defaulted fines or outstanding tolls).

The amendments to the HTA to enable this process set out when the validation of a vehicle permit shall be refused and when the status, validation period or expiry date of a vehicle permit

may be changed, along with regulation-making powers. Amendments also provide that a contravention of the requirement to have a currently valid vehicle permit is an offence and that an expired, cancelled or suspended permit is not a currently valid vehicle permit.

## 2. Driver's licence fees

Currently, driver's licences fees are set out in a regulation under the HTA for each six-month period of validity or part thereof. An amendment to the regulation is required to change these fees.

The proposed amendments would instead set out driver's licence fees in legislation, requiring a legislative amendment to change the fees.

## 3. Housekeeping amendments

Housekeeping amendments are proposed to sections 41 and 42 of the HTA to remove outdated references to regulations that no longer exist.

As well, amendments are proposed to various subsections in the French version of the Act that reference a "conversion unit", and to the word "material" in clause 48(11)(d) of the HTA, to correct the translation of those words to more closely match the English.

## **Schedule 3 – Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023**

The *Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023* reversed previous decisions made on November 4, 2022 and April 11, 2023 by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on 13 official plan matters impacting 12 municipalities and legislatively approved those matters largely as adopted by municipal councils. Municipalities impacted by this legislation include the cities of Barrie, Belleville, Guelph, Hamilton, Ottawa and Peterborough and the regional municipalities of Halton, Niagara, Peel, York, and Waterloo as well as the County of Wellington.

The proposed amendments to the *Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023* would retroactively reinstate and implement modifications to a number of the official plans and amendments by:

1. Repealing and replacing the Table in Section 1; and
2. Repealing and replacing Section 2.

The re-enacted Table and section 2 would continue to apply retroactively.

## **Schedule 4 – Photo Card Act, 2008**

Currently, photo cards fees are determined by Ministerial order. A change to the Minister's Order is required to change these fees.

The proposed amendments would instead set out photo card fees in legislation, requiring a legislative amendment to change the fees.

### **Schedule 5 – *Protecting Against Carbon Taxes Act, 2024***

The Schedule would enact the *Protecting Against Carbon Taxes Act, 2024*. New rules would apply with respect to the establishment of a tax, fee, charge or other levy on greenhouse gas emissions. New rules would also apply when an authority to establish a tax, fee, charge or other levy on greenhouse gas emissions is to be given to another person or body. Before a tax, fee, charge or other levy on greenhouse gas emissions under a statute or regulation could be established and before the authority to establish a tax, fee, charge or other levy on greenhouse gas emissions could be given to another person or body, there would need to be a referendum authorizing it.

Provisions governing referendums and referendum campaigns are set out. Proposed referendum questions would be given to the Chief Electoral Officer for review. The Lieutenant Governor in Council would decide upon the wording of the referendum question and issue a writ of referendum. The referendum would be conducted in accordance with the *Election Act* and the campaign in accordance with the *Election Finances Act*, as modified by the new Act. Offences would be established with respect to referendum campaigns. The costs of the Chief Electoral Officer would be payable from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The referendum would authorize a proposed tax, fee, charge or other levy on greenhouse gas emissions or a proposal to give a person or body an authority to establish a tax, fee, charge or other levy on greenhouse gas emissions, as described in the referendum question, if more than 50 per cent of the votes are cast in favour of it.

Complementary amendments would be made with respect to the powers and duties of the Chief Electoral Officer under the *Election Act* and the *Election Finances Act*. The *Taxpayer Protection Act, 1999* would be amended to provide that it does not apply to a bill or regulation to which the *Protecting Against Carbon Taxes Act, 2024* applies.

### **Schedule 6 - *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act***

Currently, enabling legislation would be required for a new tolled provincial highway.

The proposed amendments would define “toll” and prohibit the imposition of tolls not already authorized by statute.