



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Bill 690

**An Act to amend the Police Act to
minimize the cost of police services
without compromising public safety and
to facilitate service-sharing among police
forces**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Mario Laframboise
Member for Blainville**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill amends the Police Act, in particular to modify municipalities' obligations in relation to the police services provided in their territory. More specifically, it is no longer necessary for the Minister of Public Security to determine which support services or emergency measures can be shared by municipalities. Municipalities may enter into agreements with each other to share support services or emergency measures.

A municipality served by the Sûreté du Québec, and with a population of 50,000 or more, may decide to be served by a municipal police force without the Minister's prior authorization if the municipality was served by a municipal police force in the past. The municipality must then substantiate its decision in a report that it makes public, particularly in relation to statistics on crime in its territory.

Under the bill, the Minister of Public Security may, at the municipality's request, authorize a municipality to offer police services that differ from those provided by law. In examining the municipality's request, the Minister must take into account the crime rate in the territory to be served, the cost of the police services and any other data on the socio-demographic profile of the population to be served that the Minister considers relevant.

In addition, the Minister must render the decision as to whether to authorize the abolition of a municipal police force in writing. If the decision is unfavourable, the municipality must be informed of the grounds on which the decision is based.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

– Police Act (chapter P-13.1).

Bill 690

AN ACT TO AMEND THE POLICE ACT TO MINIMIZE THE COST OF POLICE SERVICES WITHOUT COMPROMISING PUBLIC SAFETY AND TO FACILITATE SERVICE-SHARING AMONG POLICE FORCES

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Section 70 of the Police Act (chapter P-13.1) is amended by replacing subparagraph 3 of the sixth paragraph by the following subparagraphs:

“(3) the sharing of support services, such as the services of a technical equipment and use of force instructor, breath analysis expert, crime scene and criminal identification expert, fire scene expert and collision investigation reconstructionist; or

“(4) the sharing of emergency measures.”

2. Section 72 of the Act is amended by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“A municipality that is served by the Sûreté du Québec and whose population reaches 50,000 inhabitants or more continues to be served by the Sûreté du Québec, unless it is authorized by the Minister, on the conditions determined by the Minister, to be served by a municipal police force. The Minister’s authorization is not necessary if the municipality was served by a municipal police force in the past. However, the municipality must substantiate its decision in a report that it makes public, particularly in relation to statistics on crime in its territory.”

3. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 72:

“**72.1.** Despite the second paragraph of section 70, the second paragraph of section 71 and the first paragraph of section 72, at the request of a municipality served by the Sûreté du Québec or required to provide level 1 or level 2 services, the Minister may authorize

- (1) the municipality to be served by the Sûreté du Québec;
- (2) the municipality to have its own police force;
- (3) the municipality to be served by an intermunicipal board;

(4) the municipality to be provided police services by another municipality's police force; or

(5) the level of service required from the municipality's police force to be modified.

In addition to the size of the population to be served and the municipality's regional affiliation, the Minister must take the following criteria into account in examining the municipality's request:

(1) the crime rate in the territory to be served;

(2) the cost of the police services; and

(3) any other data on the socio-demographic profile of the population to be served that the Minister considers relevant.

The Minister shall render the decision in writing. If the decision is unfavourable, the Minister shall substantiate the decision on the grounds listed in the second paragraph."

4. Section 73 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

"The Minister shall render the decision in writing. If the decision is unfavourable, the municipality must be informed of the grounds on which the decision is based."

5. This Act comes into force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*).