



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Bill 597

**An Act to improve support offered to
entrepreneurs and farmers in relation
to mental health**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Monsef Derraji
Member for Nelligan**

**Québec Official Publisher
2020**

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The purpose of this bill is to improve support to entrepreneurs and farmers in relation to mental health.

To that end, the bill amends the Act respecting Investissement Québec in order to, in particular, ensure that Investissement Québec offers guidance services at each of its offices for the available mental health resources.

Furthermore, the bill provides for the establishment of a committee responsible for advising the Minister of Economy and Innovation and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the support measures to be offered to entrepreneurs and farmers to promote their mental health. It also provides for the creation of such committees for every administrative region of Québec, to study the mental health needs of entrepreneurs and farmers in those regions.

The bill also establishes the Fund to Promote Farmers' Well-Being and the Fund to Promote Entrepreneurs' Well-Being, dedicated to financing the implementation and management of measures and programs to promote the well-being of farmers and entrepreneurs respectively. The bill also provides that these funds may be used to grant financial assistance to a person or body that promotes the development of mental health support services for entrepreneurs and farmers.

Lastly, the bill amends the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation so that its mission includes seeing that farmers obtain adequate mental health support. In addition, the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation is amended so that its mission is also to implement measures to promote entrepreneurs' physical and psychological well-being.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

- Act respecting Investissement Québec (chapter I-16.0.1);
- Act respecting the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (chapter M-14);

– Act respecting the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation (chapter M-14.1).

Bill 597

AN ACT TO IMPROVE SUPPORT OFFERED TO ENTREPRENEURS AND FARMERS IN RELATION TO MENTAL HEALTH

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

ACT RESPECTING INVESTISSEMENT QUÉBEC

1. Section 5 of the Act respecting Investissement Québec (chapter I-16.0.1) is amended by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph 0.1:

“(0.2) develops a range of guidance services for the mental health resources available;”.

2. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 8.1:

“**8.1.1.** In order to provide entrepreneurs with mental health support, the Company determines guidance services at each of its offices for the mental health resources available.”

ACT RESPECTING THE MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DES PÊCHERIES ET DE L'ALIMENTATION

3. Section 2 of the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (chapter M-14) is amended by adding the following subparagraph after subparagraph 8 of the first paragraph:

“(9) he shall see that farmers obtain adequate mental health support.”

4. The Act is amended by inserting the following division after section 21.12:

“DIVISION IV.2

“FUND TO PROMOTE FARMERS' WELL-BEING

“**21.13.** The Fund to Promote Farmers' Well-Being is established within the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation.

The Fund is dedicated to financing the implementation and management of measures and programs to promote the well-being of farmers.

“21.14. The following are credited to the Fund:

(1) the sums transferred to the Fund by a minister out of the appropriations allocated for that purpose by Parliament;

(2) the sums transferred to the Fund by the Minister of Finance under section 54 of the Financial Administration Act (chapter A-6.001); and

(3) the gifts, legacies and other contributions paid into the Fund to further the achievement of its objects.

“21.15. The Minister may, out of the sums credited to the Fund, grant financial assistance to any person or body that meets the conditions determined by regulation, to promote the development of mental health support services for farmers.

The Minister may also grant financial assistance to any person or body that meets the conditions determined by regulation, to promote research on any question related to the mental health of farmers, as well as the creation and dissemination of information, awareness and training programs.”

ACT RESPECTING THE MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE ET DE L'INNOVATION

5. Section 2 of the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation (chapter M-14.1) is amended by inserting “and measures to promote the well-being of entrepreneurs” at the end of the first paragraph.

6. Section 4 of the Act is amended by replacing “assistance for entrepreneurs and financial or technical support for the carrying out of actions or projects” in the second paragraph by “financial or technical support for the carrying out of actions or projects and assistance for entrepreneurs not only in their business activities, but also to ensure their physical and psychological well-being”.

7. The Act is amended by inserting the following chapter after section 14:

“CHAPTER I.1

“ADVISORY COMMITTEES

“14.1. The Minister establishes a committee for every administrative region of Québec to support the well-being of entrepreneurs and farmers. Each committee is composed of at least five members who must have knowledge and experience relevant to the issue of the mental health of entrepreneurs and farmers.

Such a committee, which plays an advisory role, must give opinions to the Minister in relation to the mental health needs of entrepreneurs and the mental health services offered. The committee must also give its opinion to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to the issue for farmers.

The opinions of the regional committees are sent to the advisory committee established under section 14.2.

“14.2. The Minister establishes an advisory committee composed of 12 members responsible for advising him or her on the support measures to be offered to entrepreneurs to promote their mental health. The committee must also give its opinion to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to the issue for farmers.

The members appointed by the Minister must be as follows:

(1) one member representing the Ministère de l’Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale;

(2) one member representing the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux;

(3) one member representing the Ministère de l’Économie et de l’Innovation;

(4) one member representing the Ministère de l’Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l’Alimentation;

(5) four members from the management sector, including at least one who represents self-employed workers and at least one who represents entrepreneurs whose business is an employer;

(6) two members who are mental health experts, including one who is a member of the Ordre professionnel des psychologues du Québec and one who is a member of the Association des psychothérapeutes du Québec; and

(7) two members from the agricultural sector, including one who represents Union des producteurs agricoles and one who represents farm or forest producers.

The committee may commission studies and research on the mental health of entrepreneurs and farmers, and solicit and receive comments and suggestions from individuals or groups.”

8. The Act is amended by inserting the following chapter after section 22:

“CHAPTER II.1

“FUND TO PROMOTE ENTREPRENEURS’ WELL-BEING

“22.1. The Fund to Promote Entrepreneurs’ Well-Being is established within the Ministère de l’Économie et de l’Innovation.

The Fund is dedicated to financing the implementation and management of measures and programs to promote the well-being of entrepreneurs.

“22.2. The following are credited to the Fund:

(1) the sums transferred to the Fund by a minister out of the appropriations allocated for that purpose by Parliament;

(2) the sums transferred to the Fund by the Minister of Finance under section 54 of the Financial Administration Act (chapter A-6.001); and

(3) the gifts, legacies and other contributions paid into the Fund to further the achievement of its objects.

“22.3. The Minister may, out of the sums credited to the Fund, grant financial assistance to any person or body that meets the conditions determined by regulation, to promote the development of mental health support services for entrepreneurs.

The Minister may also grant financial assistance to any person or body that meets the conditions determined by regulation to promote research on any question related to the mental health of entrepreneurs, as well as the creation and dissemination of information, awareness and training programs.”

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