



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Bill 1191

**An Act to establish a budgetary shield to
protect education, child and youth
protection services**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Alexandre Cloutier
Member for Lac-Saint-Jean**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The purpose of this bill is to ensure that the budgetary estimates tabled in the National Assembly guarantee that service levels in the areas of education, families and youth protection are maintained.

The bill provides that, no later than 1 January each year, the Auditor General must prepare a report determining the appropriations required to maintain education, family and youth protection-related service levels.

If the appropriations allocated to education, families and youth protection fall short of those required to maintain service levels in these areas, the Minister of Finance must, at the time of the Budget Speech, report to the Assembly on the circumstances that justify not allocating more appropriations to these areas and submit a financial plan to restore service levels in them. The bill further requires that this report and financial plan be examined by the competent committee of the Assembly.

Bill 1191

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A BUDGETARY SHIELD TO PROTECT EDUCATION, CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION SERVICES

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I

PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

1. The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the budgetary estimates tabled in the National Assembly guarantee that service levels in the areas of education, families and youth protection are maintained.

2. In this Act,

“appropriations allocated to education” means the amounts allocated for the educational services provided for in the Education Act (chapter I-13.3), the fight against dropping out of school and higher education; and

“appropriations allocated to families” means the amounts allocated for educational childcare services and child development support.

CHAPTER II

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN SERVICE LEVELS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, FAMILIES AND YOUTH PROTECTION

3. The Auditor General must prepare a report determining the appropriations to be allocated to education, families and youth protection to maintain service levels in those areas throughout the next fiscal year.

The report must take into account the appropriations recommended in previous reports to maintain service levels.

4. No later than 1 January each year, the Auditor General must submit the report to the President of the National Assembly and the Minister of Finance.

The President of the National Assembly tables the report in the Assembly within three days after receiving it or, if the Assembly is not sitting, within three days of resumption.

CHAPTER III

MINISTER OF FINANCE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL PLAN

5. If the appropriations allocated to education, families and youth protection are less than the appropriations determined in the Auditor General's report referred to in section 3 as those required to maintain service levels in those areas, the Minister must

(1) report to the National Assembly on the circumstances justifying that the appropriations allocated to education, families and youth protection are insufficient to maintain service levels in those areas; and

(2) submit a financial plan to restore service levels for the next fiscal year.

The Minister of Finance must table the report and financial plan in the National Assembly at the time of the Budget Speech that follows the tabling, in the Assembly, of the Auditor General's report referred to in section 3. The competent committee of the Assembly must examine the report and financial plan tabled by the Minister of Finance.

CHAPTER IV

FINAL PROVISION

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