



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 491

**An Act amending the Public
Infrastructure Act to submit projects
included in the Québec infrastructure
plan to a climate test**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Etienne Grandmont
Member for Taschereau**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill makes several amendments to the Public Infrastructure Act to modernize the Québec infrastructure plan to better take into consideration the issues related to climate change and to promote the achievement of Québec's greenhouse gas reduction targets.

For those purposes, the bill provides for a new ministerial authorization scheme applicable to infrastructure projects added to the Québec infrastructure plan. The Government determines, by regulation, after retaining the assistance of environmental experts, the procedures for and criteria to be considered when assessing a project's impacts on achieving Québec's greenhouse gas reduction targets.

For that purpose, the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks must, when analyzing an authorization application, take into account the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to an infrastructure project and prescribe measures to reduce the project's greenhouse gas emissions and impacts on the climate.

The bill specifies that the Minister must refuse to issue an authorization if the infrastructure project jeopardizes the achievement of Québec's greenhouse gas reduction targets.

In addition, the bill provides that a report assessing the infrastructure projects' greenhouse gas emissions and impact on the climate must accompany the Québec infrastructure plan.

Lastly, the bill provides that government bodies must provide the Minister with the information necessary to assess the infrastructure projects' greenhouse gas emissions and impact on the climate.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

- Public Infrastructure Act (chapter I-8.3).

Bill 491

AN ACT AMENDING THE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE ACT TO SUBMIT PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE QUÉBEC INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN TO A CLIMATE TEST

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

1. Section 6 of the Public Infrastructure Act (chapter I-8.3) is amended by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“The plan is accompanied by a report on how the amounts allocated in the previous fiscal year were used, a forecast of how allocated amounts will be used in the current fiscal year and an assessment of infrastructure projects’ greenhouse gas emissions and impact on the climate.”

2. The Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 6:

“6.1. No project may be added to the Québec infrastructure plan without first obtaining an authorization from the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks.

The Minister must refuse to issue an authorization if the project jeopardizes the achievement of Québec’s greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The Government determines, by regulation, the procedures for and criteria to be considered when assessing a project’s impacts on achieving Québec’s greenhouse gas reduction targets. To that end, the Government must retain the assistance of environmental experts.

“6.2. When issuing an authorization, the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks may prescribe any condition, restriction or prohibition the Minister deems advisable to limit greenhouse gas emissions and impacts on the climate.

The Minister may modify any condition, restriction or prohibition prescribed for an activity previously authorized in the context of the project, or impose further conditions, restrictions or prohibitions if that is necessary to take into account the impact of the change being sought and to protect the environment.”

3. Section 10 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“Such a body must provide the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks, within the time and in the manner and form the Minister determines, with the information required to assess infrastructure projects’ greenhouse gas emissions and impact on the climate.”

FINAL PROVISION

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