



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 995

**An Act to establish a framework
for monitoring and regulating forever
chemicals**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Madam Virginie Dufour
Member for Mille-Îles**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The ultimate purpose of this bill is to establish a framework to regulate the detection, monitoring and control of perfluoroalkylated and polyfluoroalkylated substances, commonly called “forever chemicals”.

To this end, the bill entrusts the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks with the responsibility of conducting a preliminary assessment of the situation to obtain an overview of the presence of forever chemicals in drinking water, sludge resulting from wastewater treatment and leachates resulting from engineered landfill sites.

The bill provides that every person, including municipalities and other operators of drinking water systems or engineered landfill sites, is required to take part in the assessment, among other things, by having samples tested in an accredited laboratory.

Lastly, the bill requires the Government to establish regulatory standards following the assessment, in particular by setting maximum concentration thresholds for forever chemicals, imposing periodic monitoring tests and determining applicable penalties.

Bill 995

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR MONITORING AND REGULATING FOREVER CHEMICALS

AS the persistent presence of perfluoroalkylated and polyfluoroalkylated substances, commonly called “forever chemicals”, threatens ecosystems, drinking water quality and public health;

AS the adoption of a regulatory framework is necessary to mitigate the risks associated with forever chemicals;

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I

OBJECT

1. The purpose of this Act is to guide the Government in planning and implementing actions to document the presence of forever chemicals in drinking water, sludge resulting from wastewater treatment and leachates resulting from engineered landfill sites in Québec, and to provide a framework for their detection, monitoring and control.

To this end, the bill provides, in particular, that the Minister must conduct a preliminary assessment of the situation and that the Government must adopt regulatory standards.

For the purposes of this Act, “forever chemicals” means perfluoroalkylated and polyfluoroalkylated substances recognized for their persistence and health risks.

CHAPTER II

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION

2. The Minister implements measures to obtain on overall, updated picture of the presence of forever chemicals throughout Québec, in particular in drinking water systems, sludge resulting from wastewater treatment and leachates resulting from engineered landfill sites.

These measures are implemented in collaboration with the departments and bodies concerned, in particular the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and the Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

The Minister may entrust a public body with the mandate to compile and analyze the data collected.

3. Every person, including every municipality and every operator of a drinking water system or an engineered landfill site, is required to take part in the preliminary assessment, in particular by having samples of drinking water sources, sludge resulting from wastewater treatment and leachates resulting from engineered landfill sites tested in a laboratory accredited by the Minister under section 118.6 of the Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2).

4. At the end of the assessment process provided for in this chapter, the Minister must send a report to the Government on the situation regarding the presence of forever chemicals in Québec.

The report includes the data collected, the findings drawn from its analysis and any recommendations deemed relevant to the adoption of regulatory standards.

The report is tabled in the National Assembly within 30 days or, if the Assembly is not sitting, within 30 days of resumption.

The report is updated at least every five years.

CHAPTER III

ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

5. Subsequent to the preliminary assessment, the Government must regulate the detection, monitoring and control of forever chemicals, in particular under sections 45.5.2, 46 and 95.1 of the Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2) and sections 30 and 45 of the Act respecting certain measures enabling the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation (chapter M-11.6).

6. Regulatory standards must, in particular,

(1) set maximum concentration thresholds for forever chemicals in drinking water, sludge resulting from wastewater treatment and leachates resulting from engineered landfill sites;

(2) impose periodic monitoring tests on all municipalities and operators of drinking water systems and engineered landfill sites;

(3) provide for remediation measures where established thresholds are exceeded; and

(4) determine applicable penalties.

7. In addition to the other regulatory powers provided for in an Act and subject to those conferred on other regulatory authorities, the Government may, by regulation, prescribe any measure useful or necessary for carrying out this Act.

8. Regulatory measures must be reviewed every five years, taking into consideration advances in science and the recommendations of recognized agencies such as Health Canada.

CHAPTER IV

MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

9. The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is responsible for the administration of this Act.

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

