



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

SECOND SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 14

**An Act to strengthen the integrity
of voting in political parties'
leadership campaigns
and nomination contests**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Jean-François Roberge
Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill amends the Election Act and the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities to create an offence for any undue influence on the vote of a person in the context of a political party leadership campaign or of a procedure for the designation of a political party candidate. For the purposes of the Election Act, the bill specifies that any campaign to designate a person who acts, alone or jointly with other persons, as leader or spokesperson of a party is considered a leadership campaign.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

- Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2);
- Election Act (chapter E-3.3).

Bill 14

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE INTEGRITY OF VOTING IN POLITICAL PARTIES' LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGNS AND NOMINATION CONTESTS

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I

AMENDING PROVISIONS

ACT RESPECTING ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS IN MUNICIPALITIES

1. The Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2) is amended by inserting the following section after section 591:

“591.1. Every person is guilty of an offence who,

(1) personally or through another person, in order to influence the vote of a person in the context of a political party leadership campaign or of a procedure for the designation of a political party candidate, obtains or attempts to obtain his vote, or incites him to abstain from voting by promising or granting him any gift, loan, office, employment or other benefit or by the use of threats; or who,

(2) in order to obtain or because he has obtained a gift, loan, office, employment or other benefit, agrees, in the context of a political party leadership campaign or of a procedure for the designation of a political party candidate, to abstain from voting or to vote for a candidate, abstains from voting or votes for a candidate, or incites a person to abstain from voting or to vote for a candidate.

The first paragraph does not apply

(1) to a financial representative who provides, as campaign expenses, food or beverages at a private assembly of persons held to promote the election of a candidate in a political party leadership campaign;

(2) to a person other than a financial representative who, at his own expense, provides food or beverages at such an assembly in the context of a political party leadership campaign or of a procedure for the designation of a political party candidate; or

(3) to a person who accepts any food or beverages provided in accordance with subparagraph 1 or 2.”

ELECTION ACT

2. Section 127.1 of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3) is amended by replacing “of this chapter” in the second paragraph by “of this Act”.

3. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 558:

“558.1. The following persons are liable to a fine of \$5,000 to \$20,000 for a first offence, and of \$10,000 to \$30,000 for any subsequent offence within 10 years:

(1) every person who, personally or through another person, in order to influence the vote of a person in the context of a political party leadership campaign or of a procedure for the designation of a political party candidate, incites or attempts to incite him to vote for a candidate or to refrain from voting by promising or granting him any gift, loan, office, employment or other benefit or by the use of threats; or

(2) every person who, in order to obtain or because he has obtained a gift, loan, office, employment or other benefit, agrees, in the context of a political party leadership campaign or of a procedure for the designation of a political party candidate, to refrain from voting or to vote for a candidate, or incites a person to refrain from voting or to vote for a candidate.

The first paragraph does not apply

(1) to a financial representative who provides, as campaign expenses, food or beverages at an assembly of persons or to any person working to promote the election of a candidate in the context of a political party leadership campaign;

(2) to any person other than a financial representative who, at his own expense, provides food or beverages at a private meeting of persons held to promote the election of a candidate in the context of a leadership campaign or of a procedure for the designation of a political party candidate; or

(3) to any person who accepts food or beverages.”

4. Section 569 of the Act is amended by replacing “or 558” in the second paragraph by “, 558 or 558.1”.

CHAPTER II
FINAL PROVISION

5. The provisions of this Act come into force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*).

