



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 590

**An Act to abolish the requirement of
legal representation before the
Commission d'accès à l'information**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Bertrand St-Arnaud
Member for Chambly**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The purpose of this bill is to abolish the requirement of legal representation before the Commission d'accès à l'information by adding the Commission to the exceptions already set out in the Act respecting the Barreau du Québec.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

- Act respecting the Barreau du Québec (R.S.Q., chapter B-1).

Bill 590

AN ACT TO ABOLISH THE REQUIREMENT OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION BEFORE THE COMMISSION D'ACCÈS À L'INFORMATION

AS nearly 30 years ago, Québec enacted the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information (R.S.Q., chapter A-2.1), which guarantees every person a right of access to the documents held by a public body, subject to the conditions set out in the Act;

AS there cannot be two categories of persons before the Commission d'accès à l'information;

AS the legislator's intent has always been to allow every person to apply to the Commission for a review of any decision of a public body;

AS the legislator's intent has always been to allow every person to self-represent;

AS the legislator's intent has always been to avoid costs that would result in denying the applicant the right to information;

AS the Commission, in its 1997 five-year report, requested that section 128 of the Act respecting the Barreau du Québec (R.S.Q., chapter B-1) be amended to provide that it is not the exclusive prerogative of advocates to plead or act before the Commission;

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Section 128 of the Act respecting the Barreau du Québec (R.S.Q., chapter B-1) is amended by adding the following subparagraph at the end of paragraph *a* of subsection 2:

“(8) the Commission d'accès à l'information.”

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

