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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 596

**An Act to modernize Québec's democratic  
institutions**

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**Introduction**

**Introduced by  
Mr. Jean-Martin Aussant  
Member for Nicolet-Yamaska**

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**Québec Official Publisher  
2012**

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

*This bill abolishes the offices of Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator of Québec and transfers their powers to an Administrator General appointed by two thirds of the Members of the National Assembly.*

*Fixed-date elections are established based on five-year terms of office. However, as an exceptional measure, an election may be called on the date the Assembly is dissolved by the Administrator General.*

*The Chief Electoral Officer is mandated to establish a public financing system for political parties, independent Members, independent candidates and political party leadership campaigns. Personal contributions are prohibited. Although based mainly on election results, the new system will provide for minimum financing for new political parties created between two general elections and independent candidates.*

*The Chief Electoral Officer is also mandated to establish a new voting system in which the method used to allocate seats in the National Assembly includes a proportionality component.*

*The Chief Electoral Officer must hold consultations before setting up the new systems.*

*Lastly, an elector may at any time refer a popular initiative to a committee of the National Assembly if the elector obtains, by way of a petition, the support of at least 5% of the electors whose names are on the permanent list of electors.*

## **LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:**

- Act respecting the National Assembly (R.S.Q., chapter A-23.1).

## **Bill 596**

### **AN ACT TO MODERNIZE QUÉBEC'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS**

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

**1.** An Administrator General is appointed by a resolution of the National Assembly approved by not less than two thirds of its Members.

The Administrator General replaces the Lieutenant-Governor and the Administrator of Québec, and exercises their functions.

**2.** The general election following the dissolution of the thirty-ninth Legislature must be held on 12 May 2013, and every general election after that must be held on the second Sunday of the month of May that is five years after the month in which the polling day for the last general election fell.

**3.** It is the responsibility of the Premier of Québec to request the Administrator General to dissolve the National Assembly in sufficient time to permit the holding of a general election in accordance with section 2.

**4.** Nothing in this Act affects the power of the Administrator General to dissolve the National Assembly whenever the Administrator General sees fit.

**5.** As of 12 May 2013, no person may finance a political party, an independent Member, an independent candidate or a political party leadership campaign by means of a gift, contribution or other benefit.

The Chief Electoral Officer establishes, for that date, an entirely public financing system for political parties and for independent Members and independent candidates.

The funds granted to a party or an independent Member must be proportional to the results of the last general election. However, the Chief Electoral Officer provides for minimum financing for political parties created between two general elections and independent candidates.

**6.** The Chief Electoral Officer establishes, for the general election to be held on follows 12 May 2013, a new voting system in which the method used to allocate seats in the National Assembly includes a proportionality component.

**7.** The Chief Electoral Officer must hold consultations before establishing an entirely public financing system.

Consultations must also be held with respect to the new voting system that includes a proportionality component.

**8.** An elector may ask the Members of the National Assembly to consider a popular initiative. The request must be initiated by a petition in conformity with the rules of the National Assembly, with the necessary modifications.

The competent parliamentary committee of the National Assembly is seized of the popular initiative once the petition has been signed by 5% of the electors whose names are on the permanent list of electors.

If the Assembly is dissolved, consideration of the popular initiative continues during the following legislature.

**9.** The rules adopted by the Chief Electoral Officer under this Act have the same effect as an order in council adopted under section 9 of the Executive Power Act (R.S.Q., chapter E-18).

**10.** Section 6 of the Act respecting the National Assembly (R.S.Q., chapter A-23.1) is replaced by the following section:

**“6.** A Legislature begins when the Secretary General receives from the Chief Electoral Officer, acting under section 380 of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3), the list of candidates declared elected following a general election.”

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