



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTIETH LEGISLATURE

Bill 394

**An Act to amend the Act respecting
immigration to Québec and other
legislative provisions in order to
facilitate the integration of immigrants
into the labour market**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Madam Filomena Rotiroti
Member for Jeanne-Mance–Viger**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill amends the Act respecting immigration to Québec and the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale and the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail to ensure that the needs of the labour market in Québec are taken into consideration in the selection of foreign nationals.

It is provided that the Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, upon the issue of a selection certificate, is to send foreign nationals a comparative assessment of the studies they pursued outside Québec or an assessment for the purposes of the recognition of their professional competence prior to the issue of a licence to practise by a professional order.

A new provision is added to make it possible for a foreign national to apply for a selection certificate as entrepreneur using Québec venture capital funds to start a business.

An amendment is made to the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles to provide that the Minister must foster concerted action among regional economic organizations.

Lastly, it is provided that the Minister is to make adjustments to the selection grid and the weighting of the factors and criteria prescribed in various regulations with respect to validated employment offers and jobs in regions.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

- Act respecting immigration to Québec (chapter I-0.2);
- Act respecting the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale and the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail (chapter M-15.001);
- Act respecting the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (chapter M-16.1).

Bill 394

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACT RESPECTING IMMIGRATION TO QUÉBEC AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS INTO THE LABOUR MARKET

AS the Québec immigration program must ensure that the selection of foreign nationals is centred on employment opportunities in each region and must favour skilled and competent workers;

AS measures must be implemented to accelerate the integration of immigrants, in particular by giving them information on the steps to take to be authorized to practise certain professions or trades in Québec;

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Section 3 of the Act respecting immigration to Québec (chapter I-0.2) is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“Changing needs reported in the labour market information sent to the Minister by the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity must be taken into consideration in that selection.”

2. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 3.2.2.1:

“3.2.2.2. Foreign nationals with a postsecondary education who do not intend to practise a profession which in Québec is regulated by a professional order shall receive, upon the issue of their selection certificate, a comparative assessment of the studies they pursued outside Québec.

Foreign nationals who apply for a selection certificate and intend to practise a profession which in Québec is a regulated profession by a professional order may consent to their personal information being communicated by the Minister to the professional order concerned. If a foreign national has consented to such communication, the professional order issues an assessment for the purposes of the recognition of the person’s professional competence prior to the issue of a licence to practise and sends the assessment to the Minister so that it may be sent to the foreign national upon the issue of a selection certificate. If a foreign national has not consented to such communication, the first paragraph applies, with the necessary modifications.

The Minister determines, by regulation, what personal information is to be communicated under the second paragraph and the amount of fees payable for the preparation and sending of the assessments.”

3. Section 3.3 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by replacing subparagraph *a* by the following subparagraph:

“(a) determining classes of foreign nationals who have filed an application for a selection certificate referred to in section 3.1. Those classes include foreign nationals belonging to the economic class as entrepreneurs using Québec venture capital funds to start a business.”;

(2) by replacing subparagraph *g* by the following subparagraph:

“(g) prescribing an order of priorities for the processing of applications for a selection certificate referred to in section 3.1. The order of priorities must favour, in particular, as regards skilled workers, foreign nationals who wish to settle in a region or foreign nationals who submit a validated employment offer.”.

ACT RESPECTING THE MINISTÈRE DE L’EMPLOI ET DE LA SOLIDARITÉ SOCIALE AND THE COMMISSION DES PARTENAIRES DU MARCHÉ DU TRAVAIL

4. The Act respecting the Ministère de l’Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale and the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail (chapter M-15.001) is amended by inserting the following section after section 30:

“**30.0.1.** Each year, Emploi-Québec shall send an update of labour market information to the Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities.”

ACT RESPECTING THE MINISTÈRE DE L’IMMIGRATION ET DES COMMUNAUTÉS CULTURELLES

5. The Act respecting the Ministère de l’Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (chapter M-16.1) is amended by inserting the following section after section 7:

“**7.1.** In order to maximize the contribution of immigrant entrepreneurs to economic development throughout Québec, the Minister must foster concerted action among regional economic organizations. The purpose of that concerted action, in particular with the network of local development centres, is to ensure that the selection of immigrants is centred on the needs of each region, to allow the flexibility needed for various business profiles and to better support immigrant entrepreneurs through key partnerships.”

FINAL PROVISIONS

6. The Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities makes adjustments to the selection grid prescribed in the Regulation respecting the selection of foreign nationals (chapter I-0.2, r. 4) and to the weighting of the factors and criteria prescribed in the Regulation respecting the weighting applicable to the selection of foreign nationals (chapter I-0.2, r. 2) with respect to validated employment offers and jobs in regions.

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

