



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTIETH LEGISLATURE

Bill 23
(2013, chapter 14)

**An Act to amend the Education Act
concerning certain educational services
for four-year-old students from
underprivileged backgrounds**

**Introduced 14 March 2013
Passed in principle 7 May 2013
Passed 14 June 2013
Assented to 14 June 2013**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Act amends the Education Act to give the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports the power to permit the organization, by school boards, of preschool educational services intended for four-year-old students from underprivileged backgrounds. To that end, the Minister is to establish the conditions and procedures for the organization of those services, specifying in particular the activities or services intended for the students' parents.

The Act specifies the responsibilities of the Minister, the school board and the school.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS ACT:

- Education Act (chapter I-13.3).

Bill 23

AN ACT TO AMEND THE EDUCATION ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLD STUDENTS FROM UNDERPRIVILEGED BACKGROUNDS

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Education Act (chapter I-13.3) is amended by inserting the following section after section 37.1:

“37.2. At the request of the school board and after consultation with the school’s governing board, the school shall provide preschool educational services to students enrolled in accordance with section 224.1.”

2. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 224:

“224.1. In accordance with the conditions and procedures established by the Minister under section 461.1, a school board referred to in that section shall organize preschool educational services, admit students to them, enrol the students in a school and organize activities or services intended for the students’ parents in order to help achieve the educational services objectives.

The school board may however be exempted from the objectives set by the Minister under the fourth paragraph of section 461.1 if it proves, to the satisfaction of the Minister, that it is unable to achieve them.”

3. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 461:

“461.1. The Minister may permit the organization, by the school boards, of preschool educational services intended for students from underprivileged backgrounds having reached the age of four in the 12 months preceding the date prescribed by the third paragraph of section 1 for admission to preschool education.

In such a case, the Minister shall, after consultation with the Minister of Families, Seniors and the Status of Women establish conditions and procedures for the organization of such services. The Minister shall define the expression “from underprivileged backgrounds” in those conditions and procedures and specify the activities or services for the students’ parents that a school board must organize to help achieve the educational services objectives.

The conditions and procedures established under the second paragraph may be different from those determined by the basic school regulation and may, in

particular, specify the responsibilities of the various participants from the educational sector. The conditions and procedures may be general or specific or they may be applicable only to one or to certain school boards.

In addition, the Minister may set objectives for and limits to the organization of the educational services by the school boards.

The aim of the consultation referred to in the second paragraph is to ensure complementarity between the preschool educational services organized under this section and the childcare services governed by the Educational Childcare Act (chapter S-4.1.1).”

4. Section 472 of the Act is amended by replacing “section 468” in the second paragraph by “sections 461.1 and 468”.

5. The Minister must, on or before 14 June 2015, report to the Government on the implementation of the provisions of the Education Act enacted or amended by this Act and on the advisability of maintaining or amending them. The report must include an account of the assignment in the classroom of staff, other than the teacher, to services organized in accordance with section 461.1.

The report must be tabled before the National Assembly within 30 days or, if the Assembly is not sitting, within 30 days of resumption. The report is examined by the competent committee of the National Assembly.

6. This Act comes into force on 14 June 2013.