Justice, Public Safety and Information Statutes Amendment Act, 2026

Fall 2026

The *Justice, Public Safety and Information Statutes Amendment Act, 2026*, amends several pieces of Alberta legislation.

Election Act and Election Finances and *Contributions Disclosures Act*

Adding requirements for registered political parties, MLAs and candidates to access the list of electors

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Allow the Chief Electoral Officer to provide the list of electors only to registered political parties that meet at least one of the following criteria: • endorsed at least one candidate who was elected to the legislative assembly in the most recent election or by-election; • endorsed a candidate in at least 50 per cent of the electoral divisions in the most recent general election; • following the issuance of a writ for election, endorses an official candidate in at least 50 per cent of the electoral divisions.	The Chief Electoral Officer is required to provide the list of electors to every registered political party.
Require registered political parties, MLAs and candidates to pay a refundable security deposit to receive a copy of the list of electors (this requires amendments to both the *Election Act* and *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*).	There is no requirement for registered political parties, MLAs or candidates to pay a refundable security deposit to receive a copy of the list of electors.

Increasing penalties and consequences for misusing or failing to protect the personal information in the list of electors

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Increase the maximum penalty for unauthorized use or failure to protect the list of electors to a fine of not more than $1,000,000, imprisonment for a term of not more than two years, or both.	The penalty for unauthorized use or failure to protect the list of electors is a fine of not more than $100,000, imprisonment for a term of not more than one year, or both.
Clarify that the following activities are prohibited: • selling the list of electors;	It is an offence to use the list of electors for any unauthorized purpose.

• using the list of electors for commercial purposes; • using or disclosing information from the list of electors for any purpose other than what is expressly authorized in the *Election Act*; • storing the list of electors outside of Alberta, including any digital methods of storage.	
Prohibit the Chief Electoral Officer from providing the list of electors to any person or registered political party that is charged with or under investigation for unauthorized use or failure to protect the list of electors.	There is no mechanism under the *Election Act* by which Elections Alberta can withhold the list of electors from registered political parties, MLAs, or candidates, including those that are charged with or under investigation for unauthorized use or failure to protect the list of electors.
Enable the Election Commissioner to order a person or registered political party to notify each person on that person's or party's copy of the list of electors if the Election Commissioner believes that copy has been compromised.	There is no requirement in democratic process legislation to notify electors of unauthorized use or failure to protect the list of electors.
Make a person or party liable for damages in cases of unauthorized disclosure of the list of electors that result from negligence, recklessness, willful blindness, intentional conduct or that contravene the *Election Act* in relation to the list of electors.	There is nothing in election legislation that makes a person or party liable for damages arising from misuse of the list of electors.
Disqualify a person from voting, running for or holding public office, or (if other amendments pass) registering as a third party advertiser for eight years if they are convicted of unauthorized use or failure to protect the list of electors.	The penalty for unauthorized use or failure to protect the list of electors is a fine of not more than $100,000, imprisonment for a term of not more than one year, or both.

Corrupt practices

Description of Proposed Changes	**Current Status without Amendments**
Unauthorized use or failure to protect the list of electors would be a corrupt practice under the *Election Act*. Impersonating an election official would also be a corrupt practice under the *Election Act*.	The *Election Act* designates certain offences that undermine election integrity as corrupt practices. Examples of existing corrupt practices include fraudulent voting, tampering with voting equipment, betting on election results, voting multiple times and voter intimidation.
For consistency, amendments would designate obstructing an investigation or providing false or misleading information to the Election Commissioner as corrupt practices under the *Election Act*.	Obstructing an investigation or providing false or misleading information to the Election Commissioner are already designated as corrupt practices under the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*.

Proposed changes to the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* would disqualify a person from registering as a third party advertiser or continuing to hold a key position in an organization that is registered as a third party advertiser if they are convicted of any activity that is a corrupt practice. The penalties would continue to exist as drafted.	The penalty upon conviction for a corrupt practice is a fine of not more than $50,000, imprisonment for not more than two years, or both. Individuals found to have committed a corrupt practice may be disqualified for eight years from voting, or from running for or holding public office.

Access to voting data

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Allow eligible registered political parties and candidates to find out which electors voted by special ballot or in advance voting.	There is no requirement in election legislation for registered political parties or candidates to view which electors have requested special ballots, voted by special ballot, or in advance voting. Previously all political parties were able to view a record of which electors had voted in advance.
Allow scrutineers to access unique identifier numbers of electors who have voted at a voting station on election day at least once per hour.	Although not expressly established by legislation, scrutineers are already able to observe, on behalf of the candidate, and in a manner that does not compromise the secrecy of voting, each element of the election procedures. Amendments would codify existing practice.

SafeRoads Alberta (*Traffic Safety Act* and *Provincial Administrative Penalties Act*)

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Strengthen the sample process by requiring two breath samples taken at least 15 minutes apart, using the lower result, to improve the reliability of the result.	Currently a second test is provided through a voluntary roadside appeal after a notice of administrative penalty has been issued. Peace officers must advise eligible drivers of their right to this additional testing.
Allow extensions to drivers for compassionate or humanitarian reasons.	The Director may extend statutory timelines only in exceptional circumstances prescribed in regulations under the Provincial Administrative Penalties Act. There is no separate authority to grant an extension on compassionate or humanitarian grounds where those circumstances do not apply.
Increase the review timeline from 30 days to 45 days and the mandatory hearing timeline from 21 days to 31 days.	Subject to an extension under section 23 of PAPA, a review must be held within 21 days of issuance of the notice of administrative penalty, and a copy of the decision must be provided within 30 days of issuance. These timelines leave limited time to review and, where necessary, redact audio and video evidence.

Clarify evidentiary rules for SafeRoads reviews so it is clear what information can be used and how it is weighed.	Evidentiary rules rely in part on common law, which can leave uncertainty about how evidence is treated in reviews. The Act already deems an officer's report, notes or other document to have been made under oath when confirmed in accordance with regulations, but it does not expressly set out the proposed presumptions for photographs, video and audio recordings.
Add statutory protection from legal action for the SafeRoads Director and adjudicators when performing their quasi-judicial role.	Existing protection from legal action is not codified for the SafeRoads Director and adjudicators when performing their quasi-judicial role. The Act does not expressly protect them against actions or proceedings for acts or omissions undertaken in good faith in carrying out their statutory duties.

Fatality Inquiries Act

Description of Proposed Changes	**Current Status without Amendments**
Enable the Chief Medical Examiner to request information, including personal and health information, relevant to a death investigation.	The Chief Medical Examiner does not currently have authority to require the full range of information that may be relevant to a death investigation. This can limit the information available to accurately determine the cause, manner and circumstances of death.
Establish factors in regulation to guide the Chief Medical Examiner in determining which deaths should be referred to the Fatality Review Board.	Current legislation prescribes a list of circumstances that require automatic notification to the Fatality Review Board that may not warrant further review through a public fatality inquiry.
Eliminate the requirement for mandatory public fatality inquiries, allowing inquiries to be held where they would best serve the public interest.	Public fatality inquiries are mandatory for deaths of persons incarcerated or under police custody, regardless of whether further review would provide new death prevention recommendations.
Clarify and expand the role of nurse practitioners under the *Fatality Inquiries Act*, in alignment with their scope of practice.	Physicians must notify the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of a death where the physician has not attended to the patient within 14-days of death. This results in a high number of natural deaths notified to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner that do not require death investigation by the office.
Clarify the role of nurse practitioners under the *Fatality Inquiries Act*.	Nurse practitioners do not have the authority to certify deaths or provide health information for patients for whom they were the primary care provider.
Require the notification of deaths from compassionate intervention facilities.	No requirement to notify the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of a death from compassionate intervention facilities.

Provincial Offences Procedure Act

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Move the specified penalty threshold that determines how tickets are enforced from the act to the Procedures Regulation to allow more flexibility to adjust the threshold amount, enhancing public safety.	The threshold for determining how tickets are enforced is $1,000 set by sections 22(2)(b) and 40 of POPA.
Raise from $2,000 to $5,000 the maximum fine a court can impose where no penalty has otherwise been provided for.	The maximum fine that can be imposed where no penalty has otherwise been provided for is $2,000 pursuant to section 7(1) of POPA.
Update provisions regarding the recording of fine payments to reflect that most payments are automatically recorded, and to account for modern payment methods such as credit and debit cards.	Sections 26(2) and 36(2) of POPA provide when a clerk records receipt of a fine payment in cash or by cheque that constitutes acceptance of a guilty plea, conviction, and imposition of the fine.
Ensure fines imposed for contravening a First Nation bylaw can be collected in the same manner as other fines.	Section 13 of POPA provides that an overdue fine for a provincial or municipal bylaw offence can be filed with the Court of King's Bench of Alberta and collected as if it were a civil judgement but does not allow overdue fines for First Nation bylaw offences to be collected this way.

Office of Statistics and Information Act

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Statistics and Information and further enable data sharing across government and provincial health agencies and corporations.	The Office's current mandate is primarily focused on provincial statistics. Government and health organizations currently share and analyze data under separate rules, agreements and approvals, rather than one coordinated system.
Help government use the information it already has more effectively, with a focus on identifying improvements to, and evaluating the effectiveness of, government programs and services.	Linking information across programs can require separate ad hoc arrangements and approvals, making cross-program evaluation more complex and less secure.
Support better policy and planning by securely linking and de-identifying information within the Office of Statistics and Information. Departments would receive trends, insights and reports rather than Albertans' identifiable information.	Privacy and security rules still apply, but the Act has no specific rules for managing and overseeing data analysis across government.

Police Act

Alberta Sheriffs Police Service (ASPS) organizational structure change

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Change the ASPS' organizational form from a Crown corporation to a non-corporate Crown model. This would simplify ongoing work to operationalize the ASPS. Bringing the ASPS into government allows it to use systems the government already has instead of creating or contracting for separate versions of the same functions. ASPS staff would become Crown employees, but the service would still be led by police officers and overseen by civilians through the Independent Agency Police Service Oversight Board. Legislated protections for operational police independence would also remain in place.	Legislation currently states that the ASPS is a Crown corporation, meaning it is a separate legal entity from the government. In order to become operational as a Crown corporation, the ASPS would need to continue building separate administrative infrastructure (i.e., systems for hiring and paying employees, managing finances, providing technology and handling corporate administration). In 2025, the government amended the *Police Act* to put safeguards on the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services' authority over the new police service. The government's new amendments do not change any of those checks and balances.

Clarifying police oversight and reporting requirements

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Proposed amendments would clarify that conduct arising from a single incident may meet the criteria for more than one complaint level and provide flexibility in how those matters are managed. Changes would also clarify the specific circumstances in which a complainant may appeal a Level 3 complaint to the Law Enforcement Review Board, including where a complaint is dismissed following an investigation or following a disciplinary hearing. Additional amendments would correct legislative cross-references and remove a redundant provision relating to Level 2 complaints. Together, these changes would support the effective operation of the PRC without changing the government's overall approach to independent police oversight.	The PRC became operational on Dec. 1, 2025, establishing a centralized, independent system for handling police complaints and investigating serious and sensitive matters involving police. The *Police Act* outlines several levels of complaint: • Level 1 complaints are incidents involving a serious injury or death, or a matter of a serious or sensitive nature. • Level 2 complaints involve allegations that a police officer committed a criminal or other provincial or federal statutory offence that does not meet the criteria for a Level 1 complaint. • Level 3 complaints involve alleged misconduct by a police officer related to non-criminal conduct. • Level 4 complaints involve concerns about an officer's performance. • Level 5 complaints concern the policies of, or services provided by, a police service. The PRC assesses and categorizes complaints and handles each according to the process established in the *Police Act*.

Public Service Act

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Recognize the ASPS Chief as the head of ASPS and provide the Chief the authorities of a department head and deputy head.	The *Public Service Act* does not recognize a department head or deputy head of the ASPS. The Chief is not referenced in the *Public Service Act* as the ASPS is a Crown corporation separate from the public service.

Peace Officer Act

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Clarify that the requirement to refer a matter to the PRC for independent investigation applies specifically to incidents and complaints reported under section 19(1.1). These include incidents where a person suffers serious injury or dies and a peace officer's actions may have contributed, as well as other serious or sensitive matters related to a peace officer's actions. The amendment would help distinguish these matters from other incidents that authorized peace officer employers are required to report to the Director of Law Enforcement and align the legislation with current practice.	Section 19 stipulates the mandatory reporting and independent investigation framework for serious incidents involving peace officers.

Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Update the definition of a police officer to include members of the ASPS so they can carry out responsibilities under the act.	The act's definition of police officer does not include members of the ASPS, which means ASPS officers do not have the same authority to enforce the act as other police officers.

Wildlife Act

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Update the definition of an appointed officer to reflect the proposed ASPS structure and recognize ASPS officers as wildlife officers where appropriately appointed. These changes would ensure fish and wildlife officers could continue performing their existing duties as members of the ASPS.	The act's definition of appointed officer does not include members of the ASPS, which means ASPS officers do not have the same authority to enforce the act as other officers.

Fisheries (Alberta) Act

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Allow appropriately appointed ASPS officers to exercise fisheries enforcement authorities, consistent with changes to the *Wildlife Act.*	ASPS officers do not have the same authority to enforce the act as other officers.

Innkeepers Act

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Update legislative references to ensure members of the ASPS retain the legal authorities that members of the Alberta Sheriffs have currently.	ASPS officers do not have the same authority to enforce the act as other officers.

Civil Enforcement Act

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Clarify that the minister designates the civil enforcement sheriff in writing, and the designated sheriff would be permitted to delegate specified powers, duties or functions to another Government of Alberta employee, subject to established conditions. The authority to delegate could not itself be delegated. This would reduce the risk of service disruptions or administrative backlogs when the designated sheriff is unavailable.	The *Civil Enforcement Act* governs civil enforcement actions, including seizures and garnishments. The civil enforcement sheriff under this act is a separate role from officers in the Alberta Sheriffs Branch or ASPS. The civil enforcement sheriff helps administrate Alberta's civil enforcement industry by licensing agencies and bailiffs, setting operational procedures, investigating public complaints and enforcing disciplinary compliance. The civil enforcement sheriff cannot delegate their legislated powers, duties or functions.

Security Services and Investigators Act

Description of Proposed Changes	Current Status without Amendments
Allow the registrar to delegate specified powers, duties or functions to another Government of Alberta employee, subject to established conditions. The authority to delegate could not itself be delegated. This would reduce the risk of service disruptions or administrative backlogs when the registrar is unavailable.	The *Security Services and Investigators Act* governs licensing and oversight of security services, private investigators, locksmiths and automotive lock-bypass workers and businesses. The registrar licenses businesses and workers, sets operational standards, reviews incident and complaint reports, and suspends or revokes credentials for non-compliance. The registrar cannot delegate their legislated powers, duties or functions.