



PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATION

Bill 171, Health System Improvements Act, 2006

On December 12, 2006, the Honourable George Smitherman introduced Bill 171. It is an omnibus Bill that proposes changes to several Acts like the *Ambulance Act* and the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and most notably the *Regulated Health Professions*

Act (RHPA). Bill 171 also introduces new Acts to regulate additional health professions. Here are highlights of the changes related to health professions regulation that would occur should Bill 171 be passed by the Provincial Legislature.

■ Psychotherapy would become a new controlled act and a new College of Psychotherapists would be created to regulate psychotherapists. The *Medicine Act*, *Nursing Act*, *Psychology Act* and the *Occupational Therapy Act* would be amended to give these professions the authority to perform the controlled act of psychotherapy. All other persons would have to be members of the new *College of Psychotherapists* to perform psychotherapy.

■ Naturopathy and Homeopathy would be regulated under the *RHPA* through a single College.

■ Kinesiology would become a regulated profession under the *RHPA*.

Note: The *Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Act* was passed in the Fall 2006 to create the first new college since the *RHPA* was enacted in 1993.

The *RHPA* would be amended in many ways, including:

■ Colleges would have three new objects:

1. public relations to enhance relations with members, other colleges, the public and other stakeholders;
2. inter-professional collaboration;
3. support members to deal with

practice environment changes.

■ **New Inquiries Complaints and Reports Committee:** Combining the College functions of handling complaints and reports into a single committee, the Inquiries Complaints and Reports Committee would have the authority to assess a member's competence, deal with issues through *Alternative Dispute Resolution*, and direct an investigation into member-specific matters based on complaints and reports. It would also have the authority to require a member to do education and remediation as well as impose terms, conditions and limitations on a member's certificate of registration. Currently, the Complaints Committee must refer matters to either the Quality Assurance Committee or to a Discipline Hearing to require remediation or to direct the Registrar to place a term, condition or limitation on a member's *Certificate of Registration*. The new Committee would be compelled to consider past history of complaints and reports whether relevant to the matter before them or not.

■ **The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care would have greater control of colleges** by requiring

specific reports, requiring Colleges to collect and provide data to support health human resources planning and specifying content for College websites and member registers. The public register would have to include member undertakings to resign and never reapply if this is the resolution of a complaint or report.

■ **The College Quality Assurance Program** would have to include "self, peer and practice assessments" and ongoing professional development that covers, among other things, change in practice environments, advances in technology and continuing quality improvement.

For more information:

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Also see:

Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Bill 171, *Health System Improvements Act*, 2006:
Schedule M, *Regulated Health Professions Act*, 1991

http://www.ontla.on.ca/documents/Bills/38_Parliament/session2/b171_e.htm