

THIRD SESSION

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

Bill 195

An Act respecting voluntary public service

First reading	3
Second reading	
Third reading	

M. GUY BISAILLON

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The object of this bill is to establish a program of voluntary public service in Québec, through projects capable of creating employment while meeting regional needs.

Although the program is intended for all the unemployed, priority will be given to persons between eighteen and twenty-five years of age.

In addition to establishing a Secrétariat au service civil volontaire, responsible for coordinating the program, the bill will entrust regional authorities with the implementation of projects approved within the scope of the program.

Bill 195

An Act respecting voluntary public service

HER MAJESTY, with the advice and consent of the National Assembly of Québec, enacts as follows:

CHAPTER I

VOLUNTARY PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM

1. The Government shall determine the objectives and establish the framework of a voluntary public service program in the territory of Québec, the object of which shall be the implementation of projects capable of creating employment while meeting regional needs.

The program is aimed particularly at

(1) carrying out community projects that would otherwise be left undone;

(2) initiating new activities capable of generating new employment;

(3) giving unemployed persons an opportunity to take industrial training courses for periods of up to six months;

(4) giving persons aspiring to the practise of a profession the opportunity to undergo a period of training.

2. The voluntary public service program may

(1) divide the territory of Québec into regions;

(2) establish criteria for the approval of projects;

(3) determine the categories of persons for whom the program is intended, giving, in particular, priority of employment to persons between eighteen and twenty-five years of age;

(4) determine the total number of persons who may be assigned to public service;

(5) give priority of employment to persons registered with the Unemployment Insurance Commission of Canada as persons seeking employment, and to recipients within the meaning of the Social Aid Act (R.S.Q., chapter A-16); and

(6) provide ways and means by which the population of each region may make voluntary financial contributions toward the carrying out of voluntary public service projects.

3. Where the Government considers it necessary for the success of the voluntary public service program, it may, on the recommendation of the secretariat hereinafter established, exempt the carrying out of voluntary public service projects from the application of any provisions of law that it indicates.

Every draft order to that effect shall be published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* with notice that at the expiry of thirty days, it will be referred to the Government for consideration.

The order must specify what provisions are to apply instead of those from which the voluntary public service projects are exempt.

CHAPTER II

SECRÉTARIAT AU SERVICE CIVIL VOLONTAIRE

4. A secretariat called the Secrétariat au service civil volontaire is hereby established at the Ministère du Conseil exécutif.

5. The secretariat shall comprise not less than five nor more than nine members, including a chairman, designated by the Government from among the personnel of the civil service.

Four of the members must belong to the Ministère de la Main-d'oeuvre et de la sécurité du revenu, the Ministère des Affaires sociales, the Ministère de l'Éducation and the Ministère de l'Industrie, du commerce et du tourisme, respectively.

6. The Government shall determine the conditions of secondment and assignment of the members of the personnel of the civil service whom it designates as members of the secretariat.

Every act, writing or document relating to the voluntary public service program and signed by a member of the secretariat binds the department or body to which the member belongs, to such extent as the Government determines.

7. The functions of the secretariat are to establish a voluntary public service scheme and to coordinate its activities, in accordance with the program adopted by the Government.

To that end, the secretariat must, in particular,

(1) itself or through the regional authorities, hold consultations in order to identify the priority needs of the regions and the projects capable of meeting them;

(2) approve the projects recommended by the regional authorities according to their conformity with the objectives and scope of the voluntary public service program;

(3) assign the authorized persons to the various regions;

(4) further and, if necessary, ensure the implementation of the projects in the regions;

(5) coordinate the activities of the departments and agencies involved in the planning or execution of the projects; and

(6) make recommendations to the Government on the implementation of the programs, on the total number of persons to be assigned to them, or on changes that should be made in them.

The secretariat shall also perform any other duty conferred on it by the Government in carrying out this Act.

CHAPTER III

REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

8. The chairman of the Secrétariat au service civil volontaire shall designate regional voluntary public service officers from among the personnel of the civil service. The designation requires the approval of the Government.

9. A regional officer shall organize a round table consisting of representatives of the population of the region and representatives of the participants in the program.

The round table shall be responsible for consulting the population of the region on the identification of their needs and projects and on the execution of the projects.

To consult the public, the round table may call public meetings. It must maintain consulting mechanisms with the councils of regional county municipalities and of urban communities, with town councils, chambers of commerce, unions, and with the representative organizations and associations of the region.

10. After consulting the round table, the regional officer shall recommend approval of the projects decided on to the secretariat.

11. Every unemployed person over eighteen years of age may register with the regional officer as a participant in the voluntary public service program.

12. The regional officer shall assign the participants to the carrying out of an approved project, taking into account their age, their economic situation, the date on which they registered and, as the case may be, their field of experience.

Not fewer than sixty per cent of the participants assigned to a project must be under twenty-five years of age.

13. The regional officer shall engage the participants he assigns to a voluntary public service project.

Engagements are for a term of one year, but may be extended by the regional officer in the case of a participant taking a required vocational training course during his public service, in a case where termination of the assignment would impede the carrying out of the project, or in any other case provided for in the program adopted by the Government.

14. The remuneration of participants in a voluntary public service project is the minimum wage increased by ten per cent.

However, the Government may fix a higher remuneration.

In the case of an industrial training course, where the remuneration payable in a firm for an occupation held by a participant is higher than that provided for in the first paragraph, the firm shall pay the difference to the participant.

CHAPTER IV

FINAL PROVISIONS

15. The secretariat may, with the authorization of the Government, enter into an agreement with any body or person to facilitate the carrying out of this Act, particularly, by allowing the body or person to participate in setting up and carrying out projects corresponding to the objectives and scope of the voluntary public service program adopted by the Government.

16. The secretariat must see that, as far as possible, vocational guidance and employment counselling services are made available to the participants in the voluntary public service program, as well

as any other service that may serve their needs and the objectives of the program.

17. The governmental departments and agencies shall put at the disposal of the secretariat the information, services and resources required for the carrying out of the voluntary public service program, to such extent and in such manner as the Government may determine.

18. The Prime Minister is responsible for the administration of this Act.

19. This Act comes into force on the day of its sanction.