

Proposed revisions to the Act

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The B.C. government has proposed changes to the language and numbering of the *Workers Compensation Act*.

Proposed changes are intended to make the Act easier to read and understand.

What's changing?

The proposed changes include a reorganization of the Act's components, some new wording in various sections, and deletion of provisions that have been repealed or are no-longer needed.

The current Act has four parts with multiple divisions, sections, and subsections. To improve clarity, the proposed changes would rearrange the Act into eight parts. Complex provisions would be split up into individual components, creating more sections and subsections.

In some sections, the government has proposed minor wording revisions expected to modernize the language and help with clarity.

When will these changes take effect?

The proposed revised Act first needs a recommendation for approval and enforcement from a select standing committee of the B.C. legislature. If the recommendation is made, the Lieutenant Governor in Council will set a date to bring the revised Act into force. Until that date, the existing version of the Act remains in effect.

How will these changes affect you?

You may need to look in a new place in the Act to find the information you are looking for. For example, Occupational Health and Safety is Part 3 of the current Act. Under the proposed changes, all the provisions from Part 3 are captured by the newly defined term "OHS provisions" and will form a portion of Part 1 and all of Part 2. But don't worry; the Act is available online and is searchable on worksafebc.com, so you will always be able to search for keywords to help you find your way.



If the changes are approved, employers may need to update any training materials that make reference to numbered sections of the Act.

Employers will not need to make operational adjustments as no substantive changes will result to B.C.'s laws on workers' compensation, occupational health and safety, or employer assessment premiums. The current health and safety rights and obligations for employers and workers will remain in place.

Why are these changes happening?

The Act has been amended many times over the years. Each time new provisions are added or removed, it affects how the overall document is organized. Statute revisions are part of healthy legislative maintenance and the Act has not been comprehensively revised since 1996. The proposed changes seek to make specific laws easier to find and adjust wording to help employers and workers more easily read and understand the Act.

Where can you find more information?

You can review the proposed changes by searching for "Workers Compensation Act revision" on the B.C. government website at gov.bc.ca. Once you've opened the link to the page, you will have access to the proposed revisions and a table of concordance, which shows where sections of the current Act can be found in the proposed revised version. You can also review a version of the proposed changes that shows what words have been deleted and added. Go to leg.bc.ca and search for "Workers Compensation Act redline 2018." 🗨️