

Implementation Fact Sheet

Municipal Government Act (MGA)

Golden Girls Amendments 2020

Relevant *MGA* sections

s.640(8), s.640(9)

Previous *MGA* requirements

Prior to the recent *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* amendments, the legislation allowed a land use bylaw to prohibit or regulate and control the use and development of land and buildings in a municipality. The *MGA* did not specifically prohibit a land use bylaw from regulating residential users of a parcel of land or a building.

What is changing?

The amended *MGA* clarifies that land use bylaws cannot regulate residential users of land or buildings and cannot treat residential users differently based on their relationship to one another. It also provides the Minister of Municipal Affairs with authority to create a regulation directing a municipality to amend its land use bylaw if it prohibits unrelated seniors' home sharing arrangements. These amendments strengthen the legislation and ensure flexible and affordable housing options are accessible to everyone, including unrelated seniors living together.

What do municipalities need to know?

- The amended legislation clarifies that planning authorities are not permitted to pass a land use bylaw that regulates residential users. s.640(8)
- The Minister of Municipal Affairs may, by order, direct a municipality to amend its land use bylaw if it regulates senior citizens' living arrangements based on whether they are related or unrelated to each other. s.640(9)

When does this change take effect?

The amendments came into force December 9, 2020.

What resources are available to assist?

To learn more, visit:

[Bill 48, the Red Tape Implementation Act, 2020 \(No. 2\)](#)

Questions:

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For more information, visit: alberta.ca/red-tape-reduction-implementation-act.aspx

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