

Implementation Fact Sheet

Municipal Government Act (MGA)

General Streamlining Amendments 2020

Relevant MGA sections

Section numbers:

616	623	630	638	648.01	657(6)	683.01(11)
618	624	632	639	653	677.01	686
619	625	633	642	653.01	679	690
622	627	634	642	655 (1)(a)	680	693

And, unproclaimed sections of the *Modernized Municipal Government Act* s.640, and s.687.

Previous MGA requirements

Certain provisions in Part 17 of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* are repeated or overly detailed which can hamper readability, lead to administrative burden and result in a lengthier piece of the legislation than necessary.

What is changing?

Changes to the *MGA* ensure that land-use planning and development requirements are streamlined, efficient and effective for municipal governments, businesses, industry and Albertans. General streamlining and consolidation reduces duplication, general administrative burden, and the overall size of the *MGA*. The changes also improve readability and provide for greater alignment with other legislation and requirements, without changing the general intent of the legislation.

What do municipalities need to know?

The *MGA* is amended to streamline provisions and reduce red tape. General streamlining measures in Bill 48 include the following:

Consolidations for Definitions and Authorizations:

- The definition of “adjacent lands” has been added as a definition, s.616(a).

- All *Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA)* provisions have been moved to s.618.3.
- Exemption for confined feeding operation or manure storage facility within the meaning of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* are now in s.618(2.1.).
- All Provincial Land Use Policy provisions formerly in s.622 are now located in s.618.4.

Consolidations for Planning Authorities:

- Provisions for Subdivision and Development Authorities are located in s.623.
- Provisions for Municipal Planning Commissions, Intermunicipal Planning Commissions and Regional Service Commissions are now located in s.625.

Consolidations for Statutory Plans and Land Use Bylaws:

- All Statutory Plan preparation provisions have been moved into s.636.
- All requirements for consistency between Statutory Plans are now in s.638.
- Streamlined language for Land Use Bylaw provisions in s.640 regarding what a municipality may include in a land use bylaw.
- Municipalities may, without limitation, impose design standards, determine population density, regulate the development of buildings, provide for the protection of agricultural land, and provide for any other matter council considers necessary to regulate land use within the municipality. s.640(1.1).
- Municipalities continue to have the same ability to determine relevant content in a Land Use Bylaw, as under the previous provisions.

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

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Changes to Subdivision Applications:

- Subdivision application provisions have been streamlined in s.653.
- Clarifies council's ability to extend subdivision approvals and endorsements more than once in s.657.

Consolidations for Subdivision and Development Appeals:

- Consolidated requirements for a Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) bylaw in section s.677.1.

Changes to Regulation-Making Powers:

- A number of regulations will now be authorized by the Minister, including:
 - Subdivision and Development Regulation;
 - Airport Vicinity Protection Area Regulations; and
 - Alternative timelines for subdivision and development applications.
- Other regulation making powers have been consolidated into section s.694.

Other Changes:

- Appeals to the Court of Appeal have been clarified in section s.688.
- Removes unproclaimed provisions for inclusionary housing, including the ability to create an inclusionary housing regulation.

When do the changes take effect?

These 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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