

BC Healthcare Practitioners and Patients Alert

HPOA / Bill 36

The Government of BC passed Bill 36, as the new [Health Professions and Occupations Act](#) (HPOA)

Changes Now in Effect Due to Bill 36:

1. The government is now in a position to set health guidelines, which could prevent practitioners from making honest recommendations.
2. Healthcare professionals face up to \$200,000 in fines and 2 years of incarceration for ill-defined offenses against the Act, including even the sharing of information.¹
3. Anonymous complaints to the Colleges can result in summary suspension of licensure to practice before the complaint is investigated.^{2,3}
4. Appointees chosen by politicians may now enter a healthcare practice, seize patient records and restrict access to that facility without a warrant or court order.⁴
5. Refusal to accept all Ministry mandated vaccines and therapies will likely result in delicensure.⁵
6. Healthcare professions, previously independently regulated by members of the profession with the relevant expertise, will now be regulated exclusively by political appointees.^{6,7}
7. The Cabinet and the Minister of Health can adopt as law in BC any regulations, codes, standards or rules enacted in foreign jurisdictions or international bodies.⁸
8. The new *Health Professions and Occupations Act* requires further elucidation of undefined terms used in the Act, such as “false or misleading information”, which may be defined by appointees at their discretion, lacking consultation with health professionals.⁹

Bill 36 was one of the largest bills ever passed in British Columbia, consisting of 645 sections and 276 pages, that received royal assent on November 24, 2022. Members of the BC legislature failed to fully consider or debate the 412 clauses. MLA Mike Farnworth made the motion to dispose (end) the debate, and that motion was carried. The public was denied due democratic process to have a fully debated and considered bill, violating the BC government’s own Standing Order s. 84 (1)(2) of the BC Constitution Act (1996), s.45.

WHAT DOES THE HPOA / BILL 36 MEAN FOR YOU?

- Your personal health records are no longer private
- Medical doctors and other health practitioners are moving out of the province or retiring because of HPOA
- HPOA allows medically untrained politicians to set practice standards for medical professionals

HOW CAN YOU HELP STOP THE HPOA / BILL 36?

- Share this document with your contacts and educate them about the HPOA
- Read points 1-8 above and consider the implications of HPOA health regulations to you as a patient /practitioner
- Create and share a social media post about how the HPOA will affect you
- VOTE on October 19!!

cssem.org/hpoa