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Modernizing Alberta's health care system

Proposed legislation would modernize physician rules, drug coverage, food safety and health cards while improving oversight and administration in Alberta's health system.

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If passed, Bill 11, the *Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (No. 2)*, would amend several pieces of legislation to reflect Alberta's evolving health needs, strengthen the ability of health care professionals to deliver care and improve accountability and efficiency across the system.

“This legislation represents a new era for health care in Alberta. By putting patients first and supporting providers, we are improving transparency, flexibility and access. With modernized physician rules, stronger drug coverage, enhanced food safety and better health information sharing, Albertans will have world-class care.”

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services

Protecting drug coverage for Albertans

If passed, amendments would improve coordination between public and private drug plans, ensuring taxpayer-funded programs are used efficiently and remain available for those who need them most.

Private plans would become the first payer for individuals who have them, with public programs acting as a safety net. The legislation would also protect older Albertans by ensuring employers cannot reduce or terminate health benefits for employees aged 65 and older who remain actively employed.

“People shouldn't be punished for getting older – it's that straightforward. With this legislation, we're protecting Albertans by ensuring employers can no longer kick folks off their health benefits when they need them most.”

Jason Nixon, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services

Ensuring consistent billing and remuneration practices

Alberta's government is also proposing amendments to the *Alberta Health Care Insurance Act* to ensure health care providers and clinics are not engaging in improper billing practices and making inappropriate claims. The proposed amendments would strengthen accountability and transparency while generating cost savings by introducing penalties for systemic non-compliance.

Strengthening food safety in Alberta

If passed, amendments to the *Public Health Act* and related regulations would strengthen food safety across all establishments by improving training for staff, increasing transparency of inspection results and giving inspectors new tools for oversight and investigation.

The changes would also update the *Food Regulation, Food Retail and Food Services Code, Institutions Regulation* and create a new *Public Health Investigator Regulation*, ensuring consistent standards, better reporting and increased public confidence in Alberta's food safety system.

“Enhancing food safety in Alberta is an important step to making sure Albertans have the safeguards and protections in place to keep them healthy and well. If passed, these amendments to the *Public Health Act* will ensure food establishments are following best practices and that enforcement measures are in place to support proper food safety.”

Dr. Sunil Sookram, interim chief medical officer of health

Improving health cards and information sharing

If passed, the legislation would create a new process for health card renewal, prevent card misuse and allow cards to be seized or suspended if tampered with. The changes would also permit information sharing with the ministries of Technology and Innovation and Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction to support continued efforts to modernize health cards.

Amendments to the *Health Information Act* would support a more integrated health care system and seamless patient experience to help improve care for Albertans who are accessing the system.

It would also add new authority to enable health foundations to better connect with patients to support innovation and advancement of care in their community in an appropriate manner, in accordance with the requirements set out in regulations.

“Albertans generously support enhancements to health care delivery, innovation and research in their communities each year. We look forward to working with our health partners across the continuum to better communicate with grateful patients. With these changes, we will join other Canadian jurisdictions in connecting patients with health foundations in their community while ensuring the strongest protection of Albertans' private health data.”

Sharlene Rutherford, president and CEO, Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation

Advancing a new era of health care

If passed, proposed amendments to the *Alberta Health Care Insurance Act* and the *Provincial Health Agencies Act* would support operational changes to implement previously announced objectives like transitioning Alberta Health Services to a hospital-based acute care service provider.

The proposed amendments would also result in the repealing of the *Hospitals Act*, as all hospital governance and operational provisions would be moved into the *Provincial Health Agencies Act*.

New dual practice model to increase access and choice

The Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (No. 2) includes proposed amendments to the *Alberta Health Care Insurance Act* that would modernize how physicians participate in Alberta's publicly funded health insurance plan. The changes would introduce a new *dual practice* model, giving physicians greater flexibility to provide care in both public

and private settings while maintaining safeguards to ensure Albertans continue to have access to publicly funded health services.

Quick facts

- Proposed amendments, if passed, would bring changes to the:
 - *Alberta Health Care Insurance Act*
 - *Insurance Premiums Act*
 - *Health Information Act*
 - *Provincial Health Agencies Act*
 - *Public Health Act*

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