



City of Hamilton Report for Consideration

To: Chair and Members
Planning Committee

Date: January 13, 2026

Report No: PED26031

Subject/Title: City of Hamilton Response to Legislative
Amendments to *Bill 30, Working for Workers Seven
Act, 2025*

Ward(s) Affected: City Wide

Recommendations

- 1) That Council **ENDORSE** the submissions and recommendations attached in Appendix A to Report PED26031 regarding Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting Nos. 025-1159; and,
- 2) That the Director of Planning and Chief Planner be **AUTHORIZED** and **DIRECTED** to confirm the submissions and recommendations made to the Province resulting from Council's review and decisions on Report PED26031.

Key Facts

- On May 28, 2025, the Province introduced *Bill 30, Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025*. Although the province was not soliciting feedback on Bill 30 at that time, staff provided initial comments through Report PED25176 - City of Hamilton's Response to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025* and Associated Ontario Regulations, and Bill 30, *Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025*.
- On October 17, 2025, the government proposed a legislative amendment through Bill 30, through Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting (ERO) No. 025-1159 regarding worker training centres funded by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development Skills Development.
- The province was requesting comments on the amendments by November 16, 2025. Formal comments were prepared and submitted to the Province via the

Environmental Registry of Ontario on November 14, 2025, and have been attached as Appendix A.

- The Bill received Royal Assent on November 27, 2025. As part of the next steps, Staff will be bringing forward an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment to address the changes.

Financial Considerations

N/A

Background

On May 28, 2025, the Province introduced Bill 30, *Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025*. On October 17, 2025, the Province proposed an additional legislative amendment in Bill 30 through ERO Posting 025-1159 regarding worker training centres funded by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development Skills Development Fund – Capital Stream, which exempts these facilities from the *Planning Act*.

The City provided initial comments regarding the original Bill 30 posting on July 8, 2025. The province posted the amendment to Bill 30 as part of ERO posting 025-1159 on October 17, 2025, and requested comments on the amendment by November 16, 2025. The city provided comments on November 14, 2025. The Bill received Royal Assent on November 27, 2025.

Analysis

The City has reviewed the proposed legislative changes regarding worker training centres. While prioritizing the increase in training capacity in the Province is supported, staff note the proposed exemption risks transparency and accountability and removes the City's ability to provide regulations that address site specific context, integration into communities, servicing constraints and orderly development. Further, there is additional concern regarding potential adverse impacts given the range of uses that may be subject to the worker training centre exemption, which may also extend to both private and public entities.

Staff are also concerned that permitting worker training centres on rural lands without any local planning oversight may risk negative impacts on the primary agricultural function of these lands and to the natural heritage features and natural heritage systems that are prevalent. Consideration should be given to restricting training and skills development centres to urban lands.

The City's full comments are attached as Appendix A.

Next Steps

Since the proposed Bill received Royal Assent on November 27, 2025, staff are targeting Q1 2026 to amend the Urban Hamilton Official Plan (if required), Rural Hamilton Official Plan (if required) and applicable Zoning By-law's to implement the changes approved as part of Bill 30, *Working for Workers Seven Act*.

Alternatives

Council may amend the staff-level comments submitted to the province contained in Appendix A or supplement the staff-level comments with additional comments.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

1. Safe & Thriving Neighbourhoods
 - 1.1. Increase the supply of affordable and supportive housing and reduce chronic homelessness.
 - 1.2. Make sure people can safely and efficiently move around by food, bike, transit, or car.

Previous Reports Submitted

PED25176 City of Hamilton's Response to Provincial Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025 and Associated Ontario Regulations, and Bill 30, Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025 (City Wide)

Consultation

The proposed changes through Bill 30 were circulated to Sustainable Communities Section and Development Planning Section.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix A: City Response to Proposed Amendment to the Planning Act as per ERO Posting 025-1159

Prepared by: Alaina Baldassarra, Senior Planner, Zoning By-law Reform Planning and Economic Development

Submitted and recommended by: Anita Fabac, Acting Director of Planning and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department