



Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA formerly Bill 36)

Background

On November 24, 2022, Bill 36, [the revised Health Professions and Occupations Act \(HPOA\)](#) passed third reading in the Legislative Assembly of BC and received Royal Assent the same day. This new Act, the HPOA, will replace the previous Health Professions Act and is now a law. A Cabinet order will need to determine when the HPOA comes into force.

The new HPOA delivers on the Government of BC's commitment to implement recommendations arising from the [2018 Cayton Report](#). In October 2022, Minister Dix indicated his commitment to delivering on reformation of the regulatory framework for health professionals, as outlined in the Report. The [final approved HPOA](#) moved quickly through the legislative process. It includes numerous provisions that represent significant change to the regulation of health professions in BC.

There is no doubt it will take time to clarify with the regulators, notably the [BC College of Nurses and Midwives \(BCCNM\)](#), how this new legislation will impact nurses. In collaboration with our partners, NNPBC continues to work through various aspects of the HPOA. We note that areas of particular concern for nurses include complaints, discipline, board appointments, a potential for increased costs, composition of regulatory boards, a lack of appeal process associated with complaints, and more. As this legislative change directly impacts the self-regulation of the nursing profession, NNPBC remains committed to ensuring that nursing is respected as the autonomous health profession that it is.

We encourage all nurses and nurse practitioners to pay attention to factual information around the new HPOA, such as that shared by the BCCNM. We encourage nurses to [share](#) your concerns and questions with NNPBC so that we may seek factual responses and advocate for the profession.

Key Messages

- On November 24, 2022, Bill 36, the revised Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA) received Royal Assent.
- The new Health Professions Act is now law, and a Cabinet order will determine when it comes into force.
- As the new legislation governing health professions' regulation in British Columbia, the HPOA raises questions and concern regarding how the change will impact nursing.
- NNPBC encourages nurses to rely on factual information as shared by BCCNM.
- NNPBC encourages nurses to share concerns and questions about the new law with NNPBC.
- NNPBC's mandate is to advocate on behalf of the profession and wants to continue to hear from nurses in order to provide this advocacy around the implementation of the HPOA.
- NNPBC is committed to advancing the profession of nursing as an autonomous, self-regulating profession.

References

- [BCCNM HPOA Announcement](#)
- [Bill 36-2022 Health Professions and Occupations Act](#)
- [A Guide to the Legislative Process in BC](#)
- [CBC News- Announcement of new regulation](#)
- Hansard:
 - [October 31, 2022- Afternoon](#)
 - [November 1, 2022- Morning](#)
 - [November 1, 2022- Afternoon](#)
 - [November 2, 2022- Afternoon](#)



- [November 3, 2022- Morning](#)
- [November 3, 2022- Afternoon](#)
- [November 21, 2022- Afternoon](#)
- [November 24, 2022- Morning Video](#)
- [November 24, 2022- Afternoon Video](#)
- [November 24, 2022- Final Vote, Royal Assent \(5:15pm\)](#)