

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS IN SASKATCHEWAN

The following are just a few private member's bills that have been presented to the legislature in Saskatchewan for consideration. Not all of these have become law.

1. **Bill 609 (2010)—*The Whistleblower Protection Act***

granted Saskatchewan's public sector employees protection from reprisal for reporting wrongdoing in their workplace.

2. **Bill 201 (2006-07)—*The Bio-diesel Fuel Act***

required minimum amounts of bio-diesel fuel blends to be used in Saskatchewan.

3. **Bill 227 (1999)—*The Grain Elevators Sales Act***

required sellers of grain elevators to locally advertise its sale, and if any offer was rejected an arbitrator could decide if the offer price was fair.

4. **Bill 617 (2010)—*The Protection of Service Animals Act***

prohibited the touching, feeding, impeding, or interfering with service animals such as guide dogs, helper monkeys, or police dogs.

5. **Bill 612 (2010)—*The Earth Day Recognition Act***

formally designated April 22nd as Earth Day in Saskatchewan.

6. **Bill 603 (2012)—*The Seniors' Bill of Rights Act***

declared rights of Senior Citizens, including freedom to plan their own lives, protection from abuse and neglect, and a right to long-term care regardless of income.

7. **Bill 618 (2018)—*The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act***

required a provincial suicide prevention strategy that would be evaluated annually.

8. **Bill 602 (2012)—*The School Bus Drivers of Saskatchewan Appreciation Day Act***

formally designated a day at the start of the school year to appreciate the work of school bus drivers.

9. **Bill 606 (2009)—*The Protection of the Wild Ponies of the Bronson Forest Act***

gave protected status to the wild ponies in the Bronson Forest north of Lloydminster.

10. **Bill 612 (2015)—*The Respect for Diversity—Student Bill of Rights Act***

declared rights of public school students, including positive and safe environments, freedom of expression, and the freedom to establish safe and inclusive activities and groups.

Discuss

1. Decide in principle if each law would be a good idea, and explain why.
2. Have any of these bills become law?
3. Even if a private member's bill does not pass, do you see a purpose in it being proposed and debated in the legislature?
4. Is it important that private members—and not just the cabinet and premier—be able to introduce legislation?
5. Private member's bills cannot oblige the government to spend money. Why do you think this is? Do you think this is fair?
6. If you were an MLA, what kind of private member's bill would you put forth?

