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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 96  
(1997, chapter 45)

**An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards as regards the duration of a regular work week**

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**Introduced 13 March 1997  
Passage in principle 10 April 1997  
Passage 12 June 1997  
Assented to 19 June 1997**

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**Québec Official Publisher  
1997**

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

*This bill amends the Act respecting labour standards in order to progressively reduce the duration of a regular work week from 44 to 40 hours, at the rate of one hour as of 1 October every year from the year 1997 to the year 2000.*

*The bill proposes transitional measures to govern the temporary application of every provision relating to the duration of a regular work week that is contained in a collective agreement, or an arbitration award in lieu thereof, or in a collective agreement decree in force or expired on the date of assent to the Act.*

## Bill 96

### AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACT RESPECTING LABOUR STANDARDS AS REGARDS THE DURATION OF A REGULAR WORK WEEK

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS :

**1.** Section 52 of the Act respecting labour standards (R.S.Q., chapter N-1.1) is amended by adding, at the end, the following paragraph :

“The regular work week shall be gradually reduced to forty hours by means of a one-hour reduction as of 1 October every year from the year 1997 to the year 2000.”

**2.** Every provision relating to the duration of a regular work week contained in a collective agreement within the meaning of the Labour Code (R.S.Q., chapter C-27) or an arbitration award in lieu thereof that is in force or is expired on 19 June 1997 shall continue to have effect, even if the provision departs from the provisions of the second paragraph of section 52 of the Act respecting labour standards enacted by section 1 of this Act, until

(1) the date on which the right to strike or to lock out is exercised where the collective agreement or arbitration award does not contain a clause ensuring the maintenance of conditions of employment as provided for in section 59 of the Labour Code,

(2) the date occurring one year after the date of expiration of the collective agreement or the arbitration award if it is in force on 19 June 1997 or, as the case may be, 19 June 1998 if the collective agreement or arbitration award is expired on 19 June 1997,

(3) the date of the arbitration award or, as the case may be, of the new arbitration award,

(4) the date of coming into force of the collective agreement, determined pursuant to section 72 of the Labour Code or, as the case may be, the date of coming into force of the new collective agreement, or

(5) 1 October 2002,

whichever occurs first.

**3.** Every provision relating to the duration of a regular work week contained in a collective agreement decree within the meaning of the Act respecting collective agreement decrees (R.S.Q., chapter D-2) that is in force on 19 June 1997 shall continue to have effect, even if the provision departs from the provisions of the second paragraph of section 52 of the Act respecting labour standards enacted by section 1 of this Act, until the amendment or repeal of the decree or, as the case may be, until the expiration of the decree pursuant to section 37 or 38 of the Act to amend the Act respecting collective agreement decrees (1996, chapter 71).

**4.** This Act comes into force on 19 June 1997.