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**Item No. 21.4**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**April 29, 2025**

**TO:** Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council  
**FROM:** Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer  
**DATE:** March 26, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Legislative Update – 2025 Spring Sitting

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### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

2025 spring sitting of the Provincial Legislature.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2025 spring sitting of the Provincial Legislature commenced on February 14<sup>th</sup> and concluded on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Staff provide Regional Council with updates regarding provincial legislative developments relevant to the Municipality following each sitting of the Legislature, as well as updates relating to Regional Council's list of outstanding legislative requests. This report outlines relevant developments from the 2025 spring sitting of the Legislature.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The 2025 spring sitting of the Legislature commenced on February 14<sup>th</sup> and concluded on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The sitting was the first of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, and the first sitting since the 2024 provincial election in which the NS Progressive Conservatives under Premier Tim Houston secured a second mandate and a 'super majority' of 43 of the 55 seats in the House of Assembly.

The spring sitting saw 10 government bills passed, with the most notable from HRM's perspective being:

1. Bill No. 24 - *Temporary Access to Land Act and Amendments to the Joint Regional Transportation Agency (JRTA) Act*,
2. Bill No. 68 - *Financial Measures (2025) Act*;
3. Bill No. 1 - *Government Organization and Administration Act*; and
4. Bill No. 6 – *Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources Act*.

An overview of these legislative changes is provided in the Discussion section of this report. The overviews are not exhaustive but convey salient aspects of the new and/or amended legislation, with a particular focus on aspects relevant to HRM.

Regional Council has a number of outstanding legislative requests with the Province, with the oldest dating to 2008 (see Attachment A). Prior to the 2025 spring sitting, HRM had 20 active legislative requests submitted for provincial consideration. While the spring sitting saw a number of legislative changes relevant to HRM, none directly addressed outstanding requests from Regional Council.

## DISCUSSION

### A. Legislative Updates – 2025 Spring Sitting

1. Bill No. 24 – Temporary Access to Land Act and Amendments to the Joint Regional Transportation Agency (JRTA) Act

Bill 24 introduces a number of changes to the *Joint Regional Transportation Agency (JRTA) Act*, which broaden the authority of the Minister of Public Works to direct the development of transportation infrastructure, and restructures, renames and broadens the mandate of the Joint Regional Transportation Agency ('Agency'). Bill 24 received several amendments during the legislative process in response to concerns raised by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM), discussed further below.

Notably, Bill 24 provides the Minister of Public Works with expanded authority to order a municipality to build, change, reconfigure or remove transportation infrastructure, as well as to do anything necessary or desirable the Minister deems to be in the interest of "the safe, efficient and co-ordinated movement of people and goods." Further details on the scope of this expanded authority are outlined below.

The Agency was created in 2021 to create a five-year transportation master plan to address growth and transportation issues in and adjacent to HRM. Bill 24 expands the geographic scope of the Agency's mandate to all of Nova Scotia and renames the Agency "Link Nova Scotia". In addition to infrastructure planning, the Agency's mandate will be expanded to include acquiring assets and potentially operating transit services and delivering programming. The provincial operating grant to the reconfigured Agency will be increased to \$2.3 million, up from \$2 million last year.

Other changes and details in Bill 24 relating to the JRTA Act include:

- Expands the Agency's ability to fund projects and pursue funding by allowing it to leverage federal public transit programs on behalf of the government.
  - Relevant federal programming being the [Canada Public Transit Fund](#), but may include others.
- Transfers the management and control of the Agency from the Board of Directors to the Minister and replaces the Board of Directors with a ministerial advisory board. The composition and structure of the new advisory board is outlined in the Act.
- As noted above, the Minister's authority to direct transportation infrastructure development is expanded, including the ability to:
  - Order municipalities to build, change, reconfigure or remove transportation infrastructure within the municipality and do anything necessary or desirable in the interest of the safe, efficient and coordinated movement of people and goods.
  - Require a municipality to comply with an order within a reasonable time specified in the order.
  - Delegate authority to build, change, reconfigure or remove transportation infrastructure where a municipality does not comply within the time specified in the order.
- Bill 24 was amended during the legislative process to clarify that the cost of projects resulting from a ministerial order to build, change, reconfigure or remove transportation infrastructure will be apportioned between the municipality and the province, as agreed upon between the parties on a case-by-case basis. Where no agreement can be reached, Bill 24 provides the Minister authority to determine the apportionment of the cost.
- Clarifies that the cost of work done by the province in response to non-compliance with an order will be considered a debt owed by the municipality to the province.
- Directs that a municipality's resolutions, regulations, by-laws and policies, and other acts or matters of a municipality, related to transportation must be reasonably consistent with the approved regional transportation plan.
- States that Ministerial action undertaken pursuant to the Act is exempt from the requirement in the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* to provide NSFM with 1 year notice of provincial action that may

impact municipal revenues. Amendments were introduced to Bill 24 during the legislative process to add that the Minister will make “reasonable efforts” to consult NSFM and impacted municipalities. Additionally, a provision was added clarifying that no municipality will incur any cost or owe any debt for any work undertaken pursuant to an order of the Minister under the Act within the first 12 months of Bill 24 coming into force. However, beyond that, ministerial action is still exempt from the MGA requirement to provide notice.

In addition to changes to the *Joint Regional Transportation Agency (JRTA) Act*, Bill 24 introduces the *Temporary Access to Land Act*. The new legislation creates a process to resolve disputes where access over private property is necessary to complete eligible work, including construction, maintenance or repair of, or development for, a building or structure, but the property owner(s) and developer(s) cannot agree on access. The Act will give the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board (formerly Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board) authority to adjudicate such disagreements. Regulations will be developed to determine eligibility, calculate compensation, establish damage deposits and more.

Link to Bill No. 24: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-24>

## 2. Bill No. 68 - Financial Measures (2025) Act

Bill 68, the *Financial Measures (2025) Act*, is omnibus legislation introduced annually, generally to enact legislative changes necessary to support the provincial budget. Bill 68 contains amendments to 9 statutes. Among other changes, Bill 68 implements many of the tax and affordability measures outlined in Budget 2025-26, such as:

- Amending the *Income Tax Act* to increase the basic personal amount to \$11,744 from \$8,744 starting January 1, 2025; and
- Lowering the small business tax rate to 1.5 per cent and increase the small business deduction threshold to \$700,000 as of April 1, 2025.

Many of the changes in Bill 68 go beyond budgetary measures, including several amendments put forward with the stated intention of “modernizing legislation and reducing red tape.” A number of these changes are relevant to HRM, including:

### Halifax Regional Municipality Charter:

- Amends section 236A of the HRM Charter relating to the freeze on development charges to allow for the freeze to be extended to the later of November 9, 2025, or a date set by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and prescribed in the regulations. The freeze was introduced in 2023 and set for a period of two years, until November 9, 2025. The province has indicated that the change will allow the Minister to continue the freeze for HRM as well as Halifax Water, as needed.
- Amends subsections 13(2) and 14(2) of Chapter 13 of the Acts of 2022, An Act to Amend Chapter 39 of the Acts of 2008, the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Respecting Housing, to extend the suspension of referrals of planning matters to HRM advisory committees and community councils until November 25, 2026.
  - The suspension was first implemented via [Bill 137](#) in spring 2022 and set for a period of 3 years, expiring April 22, 2025.

### Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission Act:

- Amends the Act to remove tolls from Halifax Harbour bridges and changes the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission to a provincial Crown corporation, as announced in the 2025-26 provincial Budget.
- Removes the requirement for the Commission to provide its annual report to HRM, requiring that it only be provided to the province.
- Expands the regulation-making power of the Governor in Council relating to the Commission and to the maintenance and operation of the harbour bridges.

### Non-Resident Deed Transfer Tax Act:

- As announced in Budget 2025-26, amends the Act to increase the rate of the non-resident deed transfer tax from 5 to 10 per cent where the agreement of purchase and sale was entered into on or after April 1, 2025.

Link to Bill No. 68: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-68>

### 3. Bill No. 1 - Government Organization and Administration Act

Bill 1, the *Government Organization and Administration Act*, is omnibus legislation introducing changes to 10 statutes, the general purpose of which is to implement changes to the structure and operations of the provincial government and public service. A high-level overview of these changes include:

#### Executive Council Act, and Public Service Act:

- Introduces amendments to reflect previously announced changes and restructuring of government and public service, including the creation of the departments of Energy, and Cyber Security and Digital Solutions. Changes also reflect the merging and updating of departmental names and functions.
  - Most notably, the changes formalize the expanded mandate of the Executive Council Office, which directly supports the Premier and cabinet. The Office of Priorities and Planning, as well as Communications Nova Scotia were both dissolved in February prior to the spring sitting by an Order in Council.<sup>1</sup> Responsibility for government communications, labour relations, and priorities and planning are now under the Executive Council Office.
- Amends the *Public Service Act* to broaden the authority of cabinet to approve and enter into agreements with other governments, as well as providing clarity for when cabinet approval is required for such agreements.
- Amends the *Executive Council Act* to establish pay for ministerial assistants, to be determined using the same process as that for MLAs.

#### Election Act:

- Removes fixed provincial election dates, which were introduced by the Houston Government in 2021.

#### Civil Service Act:

- Allows for the dismissal of non-unionized government staff without cause in situations other than a layoff and requires compensation in accordance with the regulations.

#### House of Assembly Act:

- Incorporates new compensation levels for members the Legislative Assembly, as recommended by the Legislative Assembly MLA Remuneration Review Panel.<sup>2</sup>

#### Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Municipal Government Act, and Privacy Review Officer Act:

- Introduces changes to freedom of information legislation to provide relevant public sector bodies, including municipalities, with greater authority to expeditiously process and dismiss access requests determined to be “trivial, frivolous and vexatious”, or without sufficient particulars provided for the records being sought.
  - During the legislative process, the freedom of information components of Bill 1 received several amendments in response to public feedback, most notably:

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<sup>1</sup> February 10, 2025, Order in Council - *Public Service Act & Executive Council Act*.

<https://novascotia.ca/apps/oic/OicFile/Details/20847>

<sup>2</sup> 2025 Member of the Legislature Remuneration Review – Report & Recommendation:

<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/people/MLARemunerationReview2025.pdf>

- The head of a public body must now apply to the privacy commissioner for approval to disregard a request application on the grounds it is trivial, frivolous or vexatious. As initially introduced, officials would have been provided broader discretion to dismiss such requests.
- Language was softened so that applicants seeking to access records would be required to make “reasonable efforts” to list the particular of records sought. Prior to this change, a higher burden would have been placed on applicants to list particulars, with a failure to do so allowing for a request to be dismissed.

Private Ways Act:

- Transfers the responsibility for settling private woodland disputes, such as the granting of a right of way across private land for mining, quarrying, farming or forestry, from the government (petitions to the Governor in Council) to applications to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

As originally introduced, Bill 1 included several amendments to the *Auditor General Act*. Among others, the proposed changes would have enabled the Auditor General to be removed without cause by a two-thirds vote of the House of Assembly, as well as greater authority for Cabinet to restrict the public release of information contained in an audit report. Following public feedback, it was announced that the changes relating to the *Auditor General Act* would be withdrawn from Bill 1.<sup>3</sup>

Link to Bill No. 1: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-1>

4. Bill No. 6 – Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources Act

Bill 6, the *Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources Act*, is another piece of omnibus legislation, which introduces changes to 5 statutes. The general purpose of the changes are to clear the path for greater resource development within the province; a key priority for the Houston Government’s second mandate. A particular focus in Bill 6 is on uranium and fracking. A high-level outline of the changes include:

- Amends the *Petroleum Resources Act* to “create the potential” for hydraulic fracturing to access onshore natural gas.
- Repeals the *Uranium Exploration and Mining Prohibition Act* to enable research and exploration around the presence and distribution of uranium within the province.
- Amends the *Public Utilities Act* to extend Efficiency Nova Scotia’s demand-side management plan by one year while key changes to the electricity system are put in place.
- Repeals and replaces the *Agrologist Act* and the *Agricultural Weed Control Act* to better protect against noxious weeds and “better address the agriculture industry’s needs”.

On February 11, prior to the commencement of the spring sitting, Minister John Lohr circulated a letter to all municipalities outlining the need to more aggressively pursue resource development in the province. The letter requested that municipal councils consider publicly signaling their support for greater resource development by letter or press release. Bill 6, as well as details set out in the Throne Speech and 2025-26 Budget, provide greater clarity around provincial intentions for resource development going forward.

Link to Bill No. 6: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-6>

Additional Highlights from 2025 Spring Sitting

- [Bill No. 21](#) (*Justice Administration Amendment (2025) Act*) – Introduces changes to several statutes with the stated purpose of clarifying and updating processes in the administration of justice. Includes

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<sup>3</sup> February 24<sup>th</sup> Announcement Re: Bill 1 *Auditor General Act* amendments: <https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2025/02/24/premier-agrees-auditor-general-will-amend-legislation>

amendments to the *Interpretation Act* so that unproclaimed legislation will automatically be repealed after 10 years, with the Legislature and/or Governor-in-Council able to prevent or delay an automatic repeal.

- [Bill No. 36](#) (*Free Trade and Mobility within Canada Act*) – Seeks to remove inter-provincial barriers to trade and investment between Nova Scotia and other provinces and territories that reciprocate. The legislation was brought forward in response to US tariffs, with Nova Scotia being the first jurisdiction in Canada to approve such legislation.
- [Bill No. 12](#) (*Advanced Education and Research Act*) – Introduces changes to several statutes to strengthen provincial oversight over post-secondary institutions with regards to financial accountability and sustainability, as well as alignment with government priorities. Includes expanded authority for the Minister of Advanced Education to appoint university board members.
- [Bill No. 3](#) (*Amendments to the House of Assembly Act*) - Enables the appointment of an independent electoral boundaries commission, which will make recommendations to ensure effective representation of the Acadian region of Chéticamp.
- [Bill No. 11](#) (*Administrative Efficiency and Accountability in Healthcare Act*) - Repeals two statutes and amends others with the stated purpose of streamlining healthcare legislation. Changes clarify billing for healthcare professionals.

A full list of legislation passed during the 2025 spring sitting can be found here:

<https://nslslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1>

## B. Other Legislative Developments

### I. Amendments to Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations (HRM Charter) – Wind Turbines

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the province announced the introduction of amendments to the Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations (MPR) under the HRM Charter relating to the allowable setbacks for wind turbines. The stated purpose of the changes are to make it “easier for wind energy projects to move forward.” Under the amended MPR regulations:

- Minimum setbacks for wind turbines cannot be larger than the greater of:
  - (a) four times the turbine height, or
  - (b) the distance required to avoid excessive sound levels and to avoid excessive shadow flicker on nearby residential dwellings (limits for both are prescribed in amended regulations).
- Removes the ability for the Municipality to influence wind turbine placement based on visual impact:  
Matters considered before approving wind turbine development  
15 Any statement of policy included in a municipal planning strategy in accordance with clause 13(d) on matters that Council must consider before approving a wind turbine development must not include the visual impact or aesthetic appearance of a wind turbine development.

Wind turbines are regulated through the Regional Plan and land use by-laws. The MPR requirements on wind turbine setbacks only affect Large Facilities (over 2MW). Staff are currently reviewing HRM’s regulatory framework against the MPR. Staff will bring forward a detailed assessment of the new MPR requirements with a recommended approach to addressing the possible amendments for Council consideration as part of the upcoming Phase 4 Regional Plan Report later this spring.

A full copy of the Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations amendments relating to wind turbines available here: <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/reg/2025-050.pdf>

### II. Extension for Implementation of Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations

On January 24, 2025, the Honourable Colton LeBlanc, Minister of Growth and Development, issued a public statement that HRM would be granted a deadline extension for implementing previously announced

changes to the MPR regulations under the HRM Charter.<sup>4</sup> The MPR changes in question were initially announced in August 2024, and include 12 new mandatory planning requirements intended to ensure the Municipality's planning framework, including policies, by-laws, regulations, decisions and development approvals, recognize the current housing crisis in the Halifax region and expedite increasing housing supply as a top priority.<sup>5</sup> Included in the MPR changes was a deadline for HRM to implement the new requirements by December 31, 2024.

In October 2024, Regional Council provided direction to proceed with the amendments necessary to meet the new MPR requirements as part of the ongoing Regional Plan Review. Due to the complexity of the required changes and ongoing work on the Regional Plan, HRM put forward a formal request to the province to extend the December 2024 deadline to accommodate the necessary work. The request was granted by the Minister, with the new deadline set as June 30, 2025. In granting the extension, the Minister noted further extensions will not be considered.

Since the October 2024 direction from Council, staff have been advancing the Regional Plan Review, with public consultations concluding in February. Staff will bring forward the Phase 4 Region Plan report to Council in spring of 2025 to align with the new deadline.

### III. Adoption of 2020 National Fire Code

On March 24, 2025, the province announced that it will adopt and implement the 2020 National Fire Code of Canada, effective April 1, 2025. The national fire code is a model code developed by the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes and updated every 5 years. It sets out technical requirements for activities related to the construction, use, or demolition of buildings and facilities, with the primary goal of ensuring fire safety, prevention, and protection. The national model code does not have legal force unless it is adopted by the province.

Changes highlighted in the 2020 fire code include:

- Consolidating fire safety plan requirements to ensure better compliance and enforcement.
- Establishing classifications for widely used water-mixable liquids to ensure that appropriate fire safety measures are used for their storage, handling and processing.
- Introducing new measures for the construction of mass timber buildings.

The announcement to adopt the 2020 National Fire Code aligns with the province's announcement in September 2024 that it will also adopt the 2020 National Building Code to provide guidance on provincial construction standards: both of which will be implemented in April 2025.

At the time writing, HRFE staff are reviewing the new fire code changes.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A.

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

N/A.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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<sup>4</sup> January 24, 2025 Statement from Minister in MPR extension: <https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2025/01/24/ministers-statement-extending-deadline-minimum-planning-regulations-hrm>

<sup>5</sup> For greater detail on the 2024 MPR Regulation changes, see the September 13, 2024 staff report: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/241001rc1514.pdf>

No community engagement was required or undertaken in the development of this report.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A.

### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

The relevant statutes for legislative changes passed during the 2025 spring sitting, as well as Council's outstanding legislative requests, are outlined in the Discussion section of this report or attachments.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Halifax Regional Council Legislative Request Tracking Sheet – March 2025

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: David Perusse, Intergovernmental Affairs Advisor, GREA 902.430.3143

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**Halifax Regional Council Legislative Requests**  
*[Last updated March 2025]*

**Active Requests**

Particulars of Request	
1.	<p><b><u>Crosswalk Penalties - Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</u></b></p> <p>Request for the province to consider increasing non-monetary penalties for crosswalk violations.</p>
	<p>Date of Request: <a href="#">March 10, 2015</a> – Item 11.5.3</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Heritage Conservation District Development Moratorium – Heritage Property Act</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Heritage Property Act</i> and Heritage Conservation Districts regulations, where appropriate, to authorize the Council to adopt a by-law that would suspend specific types of development, for a period not exceeding one (1) year, within the boundaries of an area that Council has identified as part of a background study to establish a Heritage Conservation District.</p>
	<p>Date of Request: <a href="#">February 23, 2016</a> – Item 9.1.2</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Parking Fines - Summary Offence Ticket Regulations</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the Summary Offence Ticket Regulations to increase parking fines for “other” parking types only; not inclusive parking meter violations, as outlined in Option 1, Attachment D (Appendix A) of the <a href="#">staff report dated February 10, 2017</a>, with the following amendment:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The requested increase to the fine amounts be amended so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) all Category A (parking) offences are increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00 (rather than \$45.00 as recommended by Committee of the Whole);</li> <li>(b) all Category B (parking) offences are increased from \$50.00 to \$100.00; and</li> <li>(c) all Category C (parking) offences are increased from \$100.00 to \$200.00 rather than \$150.00.</li> </ul>
	<p>Date of Request: <a href="#">January 15, 2019</a> – Item 14.1.6 &amp; <a href="#">February 15, 2017</a> – Item 5</p>
4.	<p><b><u>Dooring – Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> to prohibit people from opening their vehicle doors until it is</p>

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	reasonably safe to do so.
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">August 15, 2017</a> – Item 14.2.3
5.	<p><b><u>Green Network Plan – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i>, as set out in Actions 18 and 61 of the Halifax Green Network Plan, to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) enable the Municipality to acquire sensitive environmental lands (e.g. riparian areas, wetlands, steep slopes, etc.) as an environmental reserve through the land development and subdivision process, in addition to existing parkland dedication provisions; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) enable a greater range of legislative abilities, such as the ability to enact parkland dedication requirements based on density to address development that does not include the subdivision of land.</p>
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">August 14, 2018</a> - Item 14.3.1
6.	<p><b><u>Transportation Network Company Fees - Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> to enable the Municipality to charge Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) per-trip fees. This will enable the Municipality to generate additional revenues as part of the forthcoming regulation of TNCs like Uber and Lyft.</p>
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">January 14, 2020</a> – Item 15.3.1
7.	<p><b><u>Construction Mitigation Fund – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to enable HRM to establish a construction mitigation fund to assist with marketing and promotions for business impacted by lengthy construction projects, as well as to provide direct compensation to private sector businesses in those cases where reasonable parking and access cannot be maintained.</p>
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">February 25, 2020</a> – Item 15.1.7

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<b>8.</b>	<p><b><u>Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate Alignment - Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act</u></b></p> <p>Request that the provincial Zero Emission Vehicle mandate, introduced in the <i>Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act</i>, be strengthened to better align with the targets set in HalifACT.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">November 23, 2021</a> – Item 15.2.2</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b><u>Photo Enforcement Radar – Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</u></b></p> <p>That the CAO develop a program of photo enforcement in anticipation of the eventual proclamation of the <i>Traffic Safety Act</i> and in accordance with the recommendations set out in the January 2022 consulting report prepared by Stewart Solutions Inc., which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request that staff engage with the province to establish the necessary framework, including legislation, to enable a successful photo enforcement program under the <i>Traffic Safety Act</i>.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">March 1, 2022</a> – Item 15.1.1</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b><u>Authority to Set Speed Limits – Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province delegate the legislative authority to set speed limits below 50 km/hr to the HRM Traffic Authority.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">November 22, 2022</a> – Item 15.1.8 &amp; <a href="#">April 11, 2017</a> – Item 14.4.1</p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b><u>Community Benefit Agreements – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to add the power to develop, enter into and enforce Community Benefit Agreements.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">November 22, 2022</a> – Item 15.1.11</p>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b><u>Auditor General Term of Appointment – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to grant Halifax Regional Council the authority to determine the length of a fixed-term appointment for HRM’s Auditor General for a non-renewable term not to exceed 10 years.</p>

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	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">February 21, 2023</a> – Item 15.1.4
13.	<b><u>Halifax Water Regional Development Charges Waived for Affordable Housing – Public Utilities Act</u></b> Request that the province amend the <i>Public Utilities Act</i> to enable Halifax Water to waive Regional Development Charges for affordable housing developments.
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">November 14, 2023</a> – Item 15.1.3 & <a href="#">November 10, 2020</a> – Item 11.1.1
14.	<b><u>Permanent Resident Municipal Voting Rights – Municipal Elections Act</u></b> Request that the province amend the <i>Municipal Election Act</i> to include permanent residents as qualified electors to vote in municipal elections.
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">November 14, 2023</a> – Item 15.2.1 & <a href="#">December 2, 2014</a> – Item 11.3.3
15.	<b><u>Mi'kmaw Seat Halifax Regional Council – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></b> Request that the province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to enable HRM to consider a Mi'kmaw council seat, subject to consultation and agreement with Mi'kmaw representatives.
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">November 14, 2023</a> – Item 15.2.1
16.	<b><u>Taxation of Vacant Residential Lots – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></b> Request that the province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to grant Regional Council authority to impose an additional residential property tax on vacant lots located within areas of HRM, based on assessed value and determined using an inclusion criteria designated by Regional Council.
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">March 5, 2024</a> – Item 15.1.4
17.	<b><u>Identification of Properties Serving Victims of Abuse – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></b> Request the province amend subsections 89 (1) and (4) of the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to protect the identification of residential properties that are in receipt of a municipal tax exemption that serve victims of abuse, such as emergency shelters and transitional housing, by removing the legislated requirement that such properties be specifically

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	named in policy.
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">April 23, 2024</a> – Item 15.2.3
18.	<p><b><u>Collection of Construction-Related Fines – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter &amp; Building Code Act</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amend the <i>Building Code Act</i> to enable the Municipality to refuse to issue or renew permits to applicants and related companies for outstanding fines; and</li> <li>2. Amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to enable the Municipality to refuse to issue or renew planning approvals to applicants and related companies for outstanding fines.</li> </ol>
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">August 20, 2024</a> – Item 15.1.11
19.	<p><b><u>Immunity for Constructive Taking Claims – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to include immunity from constructive taking / de facto expropriation claims.</p>
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">October 1, 2024</a> – Item 15.1.4
20.	<p><b><u>Extension of Cogswell District Energy System - Halifax Regional Municipality Charter &amp; Halifax Regional Water Commission Act</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> and <i>Halifax Regional Water Commission Act</i>, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Expand the boundary of the Cogswell District Energy System to include the “non-mandatory” connection zone depicted in Figure 2 of the Halifax Water report dated August 28, 2024;</li> <li>b. Authorize the municipality to pass by-laws with respect to both the mandatory and nonmandatory connection zones; and</li> <li>c. Extend the application of Halifax Water’s statutory limitations of liability to the provision of incidental business, including district energy services.</li> </ol>
	<b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">October 1, 2024</a> – Item 18.1

## Halifax Regional Council Legislative Requests

*[Last updated March 2025]*

<b>21.</b>	<p><b><u>Ground-Floor Commercial Space Required Allocation – Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations / Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></b></p> <p>Request that the <i>Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations</i> be amended to remove section 4A(2)(j):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">4A(2) In addition to the requirements prescribed in subsection 229(1) of the Charter and Section 4, a municipal planning strategy must do all of the following to address the issue of housing supply:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">....</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(j) for multi-unit residential buildings that begin construction before April 1, 2027, not require that the ground floor consist of more than 20% commercial space;</p>
	<p><b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">February 25, 2025</a> – Item 16.1</p>

### Inactive Requests

Particulars of Request	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Heritage Registration Sunset Clause - Heritage Property Act</u></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Heritage Property Act</i> to introduce a sunset clause of 90 days for impact clerical errors have on heritage registration.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">April 22, 2008</a> – Item 12.3</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>Commercial Tax Options – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter &amp; Assessment Act</u></b></p> <p><i>*Partially addressed during 2016 fall sitting by <a href="#">Bill 52</a>.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Request that the province make changes to legislation governing the assessment process so that (a) the annual valuation is averaged over a three-year period, or (b) the full assessment roll is updated every 3-4 years as is the current policy in Saskatchewan and Ontario.</li> <li>2) Request that the province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to provide Council with greater legislative authority in setting taxes and charges respecting the general tax rate and area rates for both residential and commercial properties.</li> <li>3) Request to work with Service Nova Scotia and the Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) to change the</li> </ol>

## Halifax Regional Council Legislative Requests

*[Last updated March 2025]*

	<p>commercial tax assessment so it is based on 3 past years of assessment rather than one year. This would increase predictability in annual commercial tax bills by evening out increases.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">November 10, 2015</a> – Item 14.1</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>Traffic Control Persons for Special Events</u> – <i>Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</i></b></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> to permit traffic control persons to direct the movement of traffic for special events.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">April 25, 2017</a> – Item 14.3.1</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>Removal of Market Levy Cap</u> – <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i></b></p> <p><i>*Partially addressed during 2022 fall sitting by <a href="#">Bill No. 204</a>: levy increased but not removed.</i></p> <p>Request that the province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Marketing Levy Act</i> (Repealed – Levy provisions now in the HRM Charter) to remove the cap on the marketing levy.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Request:</b> <a href="#">February 23, 2021</a> – Item 11.2.1</p>