

Appendix A: Bill 5 – Summary of Amendments

Bill 5 - <i>Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025</i> Introduction: April 17, 2025 Royal Assent: June 5, 2025		
Act	Summary of Key Changes	In Force & Effect
Schedule 1: Electricity Act, 1998 & Schedule 6: Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The amendments to the Electricity Act, 1998 and the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 allow the Government to regulate the procurement of goods and services by Ontario energy sector participants by imposing requirements or restrictions on any good or service used or procured on the basis of the country, region or territory of origin of such good or service.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ These directives would apply to the Independent Electricity System Operator, Ontario Power Generation and/or subsidiaries.• Through these requirements, other countries may become ineligible to undertake activities related to the province's electrical system.	All upon Royal Assent
Schedule 2: Endangered Species Act, 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This act has been amended in the interim and will be replaced by the <i>Species Conservation Act, 2025</i> upon order of the Lieutenant Governor in council.• The purpose of the <i>ESA</i> is amended to include consideration for 'social' and 'economic' factors including the need for sustainable economic growth in Ontario.• Removes "harass" from the prohibited activities impacting protected species.• Narrows the definition of 'habitat' to include only specific dwelling places essential for breeding, rearing, staging, wintering, or hibernation. Broader survival areas are not included.• Amends Section 7 of the <i>ESA</i> – which currently requires a designated MECP official to file a regulation that lists all species classified as extirpated, endangered, threatened and of special concern by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk (COSSARO) – with a new provision allowing the Lieutenant	All upon Royal Assent

	<p>Governor in Council to add, remove, or reclassify species on the Species at Risk in Ontario List (SROL) at their discretion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeals provisions relating to government response statements, management plans and agreements. This would include Subsection 12(1) of the ESA, which requires the preparation of management plans for each special concern species listed on the SROL. • Repeals Section 17 of the ESA which sets out requirements for when permits to engage in designated prohibited activities may be issued and replaces it with new provisions providing the Minister with discretion to issue permits and impose conditions, as the Minister considers appropriate. • Removes the ability of enforcement officers to issue stop orders and adds provisions that authorize provincial officers to issue ‘contravention orders’ when an officer has reasonable grounds to believe a person is engaging, has engaged or may engage in an activity that would contravene the ESA. • The Species Conservation Action Agency would be wound up with assets transferred to the Crown. 	
Schedule 3: Environmental Assessment Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amends the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> by exempting specific projects from environmental impact assessment requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Terminates agreement regarding the Eagle’s Nest mining project, which is located within the “Ring of Fire”. ○ Specific activities at the Chatham-Kent waste site are exempt from Part II.3 Projects in the act. 	On a day to be named by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC)
Schedule 4: Environmental Protection Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeals fees with respect to Environmental Activity and Sector Registry. 	Upon Royal Assent
Schedule 5: Mining Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of act now includes alignment with protection of Ontario’s economy. • Increases the authority of the Minister of Energy and Mines to suspend, restrict or prohibit a person’s mining lands administration account, and to make other orders, if they are deemed to be 	All on a day to be named by order of the LGIC

	<p>desirable for the protection of the strategic national mineral supply chain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes the creation of a new ‘mine authorization and permitting delivery team’ to expedite the application, review and decision-making processes for high-priority mining projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also excludes these projects from environmental impacts assessments under the Environmental Assessment Act. • Legal actions related to these changes are barred. 	
Schedule 7: Ontario Heritage Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded powers for artifact/archaeological site inspections and seizures by order of the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Minister provided with authority to appoint investigators. ○ Expanded enforcement capabilities for investigators to obtain search warrants and conduct investigations. • The Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) granted authority to issue an order that would exempt a property from archaeological assessment requirements of the OHA (Part VI) where the exemption could potentially advance the following Provincial priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transit; ○ housing; ○ health and long-term care; ○ other infrastructure; ○ Such other priorities as may be prescribed. • Legal actions are barred in relation to these new powers (above changes). 	<p>Upon Royal Assent</p> <p>On a day to be named by order of the LGIC</p> <p>On a day to be named by order of the LGIC</p>
Schedule 8: Rebuilding Ontario Place Act, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments exempt the Ontario Place redevelopment and any related activities from Part II of the <i>Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part II sets out the minimum levels of public participation that must occur before the Province makes decisions on specific kinds of environmentally significant proposals. 	Upon Royal Assent

<p>Schedule 9: Special Economic Zones Act, 2025</p> <p>*New Act*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This act empowers the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations to designate specific geographic area as a 'Special Economic Zone', • Creates regulation making power to designate 'trusted proponents' and/ or 'designated projects' through regulation that would be exempt from permitting and regulation requirements. • This power also includes exemption or modifications from by-laws or other instruments of a municipality or local board meaning the City would not be able to legally challenge decisions made in the SEZ. 	<p>Upon Royal Assent</p>
<p>Schedule 10: Species Conservation Act, 2025</p> <p>*New Act*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeals and replaces the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i>. • Continues the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario's role in species classification. • Carries forward a number of the interim amendments that were made to the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i> (e.g.. allowing the Lieutenant Governor in Council to add, remove, or reclassify species on the Species at Risk in Ontario List (SROL) at their discretion.) • Establishes a new "registration-first approach" where projects but may proceed once proponents of the project have registered the project online. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Registered activities will be required to meet requirements to protect species, which will be prescribed through future regulations. • Establishes powers to enforce, suspend, or revoke permits are clarified and strengthened. 	<p>On a day to be named by order of the LGIC.</p>