

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 2025-05-20

BRIEFING NOTE - TO COMMITTEE

SUBJECT

BILL 49: PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STATUTES AMENDMENT ACT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee receive the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) report regarding changes proposed to the Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act concerning Policing and Emergency Management as information.

DETAILS

Background: The Province has tabled Bill 49, with the goal of amending the *Police Act* and *Emergency Management Act*.

The following are summaries of some of the changes proposed:

Police Act - Changes

The Province has tendered legislative amendments to enable the creation of the Independent Alberta Police Services (IAPS), and will allow municipalities of any size, the option of entering into agreements with those policing agencies outlined in the *Police Act*, as well, it states that an IAPS may provide services in all or any part of Alberta, not just those that have requested. Hypothetically, this could mean the Province is moving to transitioning away from the RCMP and over to a Provincial Police force. Part of the amendments include oversight and the rules of the Lieutenant Governor, particularly as it relates to regulations, budgeting and operational priorities.

The RMA has responded with some questions centered around an outstanding resolution, 12-24F, tabled at convention, asking for details from the Province on breakdown cost, and how that relates to the Provincial Policing Funding Model. They have listed out a series of “unanswered questions” (Pg. 10) that they are hoping to bring before the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

Emergency Management Act – Changes

If passed, it would outline the powers and processes available to both the Provincial & Local Government to respond to emergencies like floods, wildfires or pandemics.

Amendments include a change in language reinforcing the rights of individuals and their property during emergency situations, update the term of “emergency”, and streamline the powers of the Minister when exercising power in Provincial emergency declarations.

Of note, are changes to funding tools designed to simplify compensation for damages, assistance for rebuilding and improving funding for prevention and proactive planning.

The RMA has responded with some additional questions (Pg. 17) that they wish to place before the Minister, including language definitions for the term “sudden and temporary” as it pertains to declarations, as well as how certain terminology may impact funding and cost recovery.

The main issue with the proposed amendment centers around the circumstances that the Minister believes must exist to “override” municipal authority during an emergency, and how that may impact cost recovery.

Discussion:

Relevant Policy/Legislation Practices:

- Police Act
- Emergency Management Act
- RMA Resolution #12-24F

Desired Outcome (s):

Response Options: Question may be directed to RMA

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: No immediate impact, however, a change in Bill 49 may result in the County reviewing policing models of service.

Financial:



Communication Required:

Implementation:

Council Goal:

ATTACHMENTS

- Bill 49: Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act (RMA)
- RMA Resolution 12-24F

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DATE:2025-05-08