

# Health Professions and Occupations Act

The BC NDP passed Bill 36 in November 2022, known as the Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA)

## **THIS ACT MAKES PATIENTS LESS SAFE!**

### Patients are Less Safe Because of:

**LOSS OF HEALTHCARE:** Patients are suffering and dying because medical doctors and healthcare professionals are burned out and leaving their professions or BC.

**LOSS OF MORALE:** Patients have lost confidence in healthcare.

**LOSS OF INFORMED CONSENT:** Practitioners are practicing in fear of government overreach.

**LOSS OF EXPERTISE:** Politicians create practice standards instead of highly trained medical professionals.

**LOSS OF PRIVACY:** Your personal health records are no longer private.

### Background

**LENGTH:** One of the largest bills passed in BC, with 645 sections in 276 pages.

**VIOLATION:** 412 of the 645 sections (64%) of Bill 36 (HPOA) were not fully debated or considered when Mike Farnworth motioned to end the debate. This violated the BC government's own Standing Orders, s. 84 (1)(2) of the *BC Constitution Act* (1996), s.45.

**ENFORCEMENT:** The NDP plan to enforce the HPOA by June 2025.

### Key Restrictions Imposed by the HPOA

**1. Compliance Required:**

The government is now in a position to set health guidelines, which could prevent practitioners from making honest recommendations.

**2. Severe Penalties for Non-Compliance:**

Healthcare professionals face up to \$200,000 in fines and 2 years of incarceration for ill-defined offences against the Act, including even the sharing of information.<sup>1</sup>

**3. Anonymous Complaints:**

Anonymous complaints to the Colleges can result in summary suspension of licensure to practice before the complaint is investigated.<sup>2,3</sup>

**4. Entry and Seizure of Records:**

Appointees, chosen by politicians, may now enter a healthcare practice, seize patient records and restrict access to that facility without a warrant or court order.<sup>4</sup>

**5. Vaccination Mandates:**

Refusal to accept all Ministry mandated vaccines and therapies will likely result in delicensure.<sup>5</sup>

**6. Composition of Advisory Boards and Loss of Self-Regulation:**

Healthcare professions, previously regulated by expert members within the field, will now be overseen solely by political appointees.<sup>6,7</sup>

**7. Adoption of Foreign Regulations:**

The Cabinet and the Minister of Health can adopt as law in BC any regulations, codes, standards or rules enacted in foreign jurisdictions or international bodies.<sup>8</sup>

**8. Ambiguous Terminology:**

The new *Health Professions and Occupations Act* requires further elucidation of undefined terms used in the Act, such as "false or misleading information", which may be defined by appointees at their discretion, lacking consultation with health professionals.<sup>9</sup>

**RESOURCES:** Review the HPOA: <http://tinyurl.com/HPOA-Bill36> and visit [CSSEM.org/HPOA](http://CSSEM.org/HPOA)

**SHARE YOUR STORY:** How has the HPOA made you less safe? Email [HPOBC25@gmail.com](mailto:HPOBC25@gmail.com)



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