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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 57  
(2006, chapter 47)

**An Act to amend the Act respecting  
hours and days of admission to  
commercial establishments**

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**Introduced 1 December 2006  
Passage in principle 8 December 2006  
Passage 13 December 2006  
Assented to 13 December 2006**

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

*This bill sets out special rules for grocery stores, extending from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. the hours during which more than four people are to be allowed to attend to the operation of such stores on Saturdays and Sundays.*

*Moreover, the bill provides that the Government may, by regulation, change the hours and days of admission specified in the Act or determine special periods of admission to certain commercial establishments, which may vary according to criteria established by regulation.*

*In addition, the bill increases the minimum fines for a second or subsequent conviction for an offence committed by the operator of a grocery store.*

## Bill 57

### AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACT RESPECTING HOURS AND DAYS OF ADMISSION TO COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS :

**1.** Section 2 of the Act respecting hours and days of admission to commercial establishments (R.S.Q., chapter H-2.1) is amended by replacing “Subject to sections 5 to 14” at the beginning by “Subject to sections 3 to 14”.

**2.** Section 3 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “Subject to sections 5 to 14” at the beginning by “Subject to sections 4.1 to 14”;

(2) by striking out paragraph 8.

**3.** The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 3:

**“3.1.** Subject to sections 3, 4.1, 6 and 12 to 14, the public may be admitted to a grocery store only between the hours of

(1) 8:00 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and 8:00 a.m. and 9 p.m. on other days of the week;

(2) 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on 24 and 31 December; and

(3) 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on 26 December, if it is a Saturday or a Sunday, or 1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., if it is another day of the week.

A grocery store is an establishment that principally offers for sale, at all times, only the following products or some of the following products : foodstuffs or alcoholic beverages to be consumed elsewhere than on the premises of the establishment.”

**4.** The Act is amended by inserting the following section before section 5:

**“4.1.** The Government may, by regulation, change the hours or days of admission specified in section 2, 3 or 3.1 or determine special periods of admission to certain commercial establishments, which may vary according to criteria established by regulation and have precedence over sections 5 to 10.”

**5.** Section 5 of the Act is amended by replacing “outside the hours set out in section 2 and on the days listed in section 3” by “outside the legal periods of admission”.

**6.** Section 6 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**6.** The public may also be admitted to a grocery store outside the legal periods of admission provided that not more than four persons attend to the operation of the store.”

**7.** Sections 7 to 14 of the Act are amended by replacing “outside the hours set out in section 2 and on the days listed in section 3” by “outside the legal periods of admission”.

**8.** Section 23 of the Act is amended by adding “or, in the case of the operator of a grocery store within the meaning of section 3.1, to a fine of not less than \$6,000 for a second conviction and \$9,000 for a subsequent conviction” at the end of the first paragraph.

**9.** This Act comes into force on 13 December 2006.