



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

SECOND SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 18
(2026, chapter 9)

**An Act to amend the voting criteria
for electors outside Québec**

**Introduced 26 March 2026
Passed in principle 2 April 2026
Passed 2 April 2026
Assented to 2 April 2026**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Act allows an elector who is temporarily absent from Québec to exercise their right to vote by mail during the five years after their departure.

The Act also provides that an elector who is temporarily absent from Québec for study purposes may exercise their right to vote by mail throughout their absence.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS ACT:

- Election Act (chapter E-3.3).

Bill 18

AN ACT TO AMEND THE VOTING CRITERIA FOR ELECTORS OUTSIDE QUÉBEC

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

ELECTION ACT

1. Section 282 of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3) is amended

(1) by replacing “two” in the first paragraph by “five”;

(2) in the second paragraph,

(a) by replacing “two-year” by “five-year”;

(b) by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph 2:

“(2.1) an elector who is outside Québec to attend an educational institution; or”;

(c) by replacing “1 or 2” in subparagraph 3 by “1, 2 or 2.1”.

2. Section 283 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the third paragraph: “However, if the elector is described in subparagraph 2.1 of that second paragraph, the request must instead be accompanied by proof of his registration in the educational institution concerned.”

3. Section 286 of the Act is amended by replacing “two” by “five”.

FINAL PROVISION

4. The provisions of this Act come into force on 2 April 2026.

