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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

**Bill 95**

(1997, chapter 28)

**An Act to establish a fund to combat poverty  
through reintegration into the labour market**

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**Introduced 13 March 1997  
Passage in principle 15 April 1997  
Passage 10 June 1997  
Assented to 12 June 1997**

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

*The object of this bill is to establish a fund to combat poverty through reintegration into the labour market.*

*The fund will be devoted to financing measures to combat poverty by fostering the entry of the disadvantaged into the labour market.*

*The bill gives effect to the Statement made by the Minister of Finance on 26 November 1996 concerning the establishment of such a fund.*

## Bill 95

### AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A FUND TO COMBAT POVERTY THROUGH REINTEGRATION INTO THE LABOUR MARKET

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS :

**1.** A fund to combat poverty through reintegration into the labour market is hereby established at the Ministère du Conseil exécutif.

The fund shall be dedicated to the financing of measures to combat poverty by fostering the entry of the disadvantaged into the labour market.

**2.** The Government shall fix the date on which the fund begins to operate and determine its assets and liabilities and the nature of the costs and expenses that may be charged to the fund.

**3.** The fund shall be made up of the following sums:

(1) the sums paid into the fund by the Minister of Revenue pursuant to section 1186.5 of the Taxation Act (R.S.Q., chapter I-3), enacted by section 289 of chapter 14 of the statutes of 1997;

(2) the gifts, legacies and other contributions paid into the fund to further the attainment of the objects of the fund;

(3) the sums paid into the fund by the Minister of Finance pursuant to sections 5, 6 and 14;

(4) the sums paid into the fund by a government department out of the appropriations granted for that purpose by Parliament.

**4.** The management of the sums making up the fund shall be entrusted to the Minister of Finance. Those sums shall be paid to the order of the Minister of Finance and deposited with the financial institutions he designates.

Notwithstanding section 13 of the Financial Administration Act (R.S.Q., chapter A-6), the Minister shall keep the books of account of the fund and record the financial commitments chargeable to it. In addition, the Minister shall certify that the commitments and the payments arising therefrom do not exceed and are consistent with the available balances.

**5.** The Minister of Finance may, with the authorization of the Government and subject to the conditions it determines, advance to the fund sums taken out of the consolidated revenue fund.

Conversely, the Minister of Finance may advance to the consolidated revenue fund, on a short-term basis and subject to the conditions he determines, any part of the sums making up the fund that is not required for its operation.

Any advance paid to a fund shall be repayable out of that fund.

**6.** The minister designated under section 12 may, as Minister responsible for the carrying out of this Act, borrow from the Minister of Finance sums taken out of the financing fund of the Ministère des Finances.

**7.** The following sums shall be paid out of the fund:

(1) the sums required for the payment of sums pursuant to programs, complementary to regular programs, established or approved by the Government to combat poverty through reintegration into the labour market;

(2) the sums required for the payment of any other expenditure related to the activities and priority interventions established or approved by the Government to foster the entry of the disadvantaged into the labour market;

(3) the sums required for the payment of the remuneration and expenses relating to employment benefits and other conditions of employment of the persons who, in accordance with the Public Service Act (R.S.Q., chapter F-3.1.1), are assigned to the operation of the fund.

**8.** Sections 22 to 27, 33, 35, 45, 47 to 49, 49.2, 49.6, 51, 57 and 70 to 72 of the Financial Administration Act, adapted as required, apply to the fund.

**9.** The fiscal year of the fund ends on 31 March.

**10.** Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the Minister of Finance shall, in the event of a deficiency in the consolidated revenue fund, pay out of the fund to combat poverty through reintegration into the labour market the sums required for the execution of a judgment against the Crown that has become *res judicata*.

**11.** The Prime Minister shall table a report on the operation of the fund for each fiscal year in the National Assembly.

The competent parliamentary committee of the National Assembly shall examine the report.

**12.** The Prime Minister shall be responsible for the administration of this Act and the Government shall designate the minister responsible for the carrying out of this Act.

**13.** The committee formed by the Government under Order in Council 79-97 (1997, G.O. 2, 1085) shall advise the Prime Minister and make recommendations concerning the use of the sums making up the fund.

**14.** The Minister of Finance shall pay into the fund, before 1 April 2000, the sums required to ensure that the fund receives not less than \$250,000,000. Such sums shall be taken out of the consolidated revenue fund.

Any sum not used on the date on which this Act ceases to have effect not exceeding \$250,000,000 shall be appropriated to the financing of such complementary measures consistent with the objects of the fund as are determined by the Government, in the manner fixed by the Government.

Any sum remaining in the fund on the date on which this Act ceases to have effect in excess of \$250,000,000 shall be paid into the consolidated revenue fund and shall be appropriated to the financing of such complementary measures consistent with the objects of the fund as are determined by the Government, in the manner fixed by the Government.

**15.** This Act has effect from 26 November 1996. It will cease to have effect on 1 April 2000 or on any later date determined by the Government.

**16.** This Act comes into force on 12 June 1997.