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# OAA Special News Bulletin

December 6, 2023

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## Further Update on Legislation Regarding Limited Licences

Following [the email sent earlier this month](#), the OAA is reaching out to you again to provide a further update on its ongoing work with the provincial government related to limited licences. (As always, you can catch up on other developments through our dedicated landing page on the [OAA Website](#).)

As you know, the OAA has been seeking the necessary legislative amendments to allow it to issue limited licences in the architectural discipline, and create the title “Licensed Technologist” for those holding such status or Certificate of Practice. This was reflected in the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) omnibus [Bill 157, \*Enhancing Access to Justice Act, 2023\*](#), which includes changes to the OAA’s prevailing legislation, the [Architects Act](#).

### Latest News

Yesterday, on **December 5**, the Bill underwent Second Reading and has now been referred to the provincial government’s [Standing Committee on Justice Policy](#). At the moment, the Committee has not indicated if it will hold public consultations related to this matter. However, anyone is free to make a written submission to [the Committee](#) and request an opportunity to give an oral deputation. (The OAA is currently preparing its own response in strong support of Bill 157.)

**The Association encourages you to also reach out to your MPP in support of the amendments—swift passage of the changes to the *Architects Act* will allow the OAA to move forward with the issuance of limited licenses.** (Dates for Committee hearings and deadlines for written submissions have not yet been established.)

During the Second Reading, some MPPs had questions regarding whether this change would present a duplication of work being done by the *Association of Architectural Technologists of Ontario* (AATO). **The OAA will be focused on clearing up some misunderstandings regarding the *Architects Act* and the *AATO Act*.**

## Clarifying Roles

The OAA and the AATO have very distinct roles. The OAA is the statutory regulator that governs the practice of architecture in Ontario in order to serve and protect the public interest in accordance with the *Architect Act*. The AATO is a voluntary professional association for architectural technologists. The *AATO Act* is a private member's act, which, unlike public acts, deals with matters of a private interest to specific corporations or individuals.

Schedule 1 of Bill 157 does not create duplication of legislation because the AATO does not grant licences to practise architecture. The *AATO Act* is title legislation that establishes exclusive use of the designations "architectural technologist" and "architectural technician" (and their French equivalents), as provided in the *Architects Act*. The *Architects Act*, on the other hand, sets out the scope of the practice of architecture and establishes that the OAA "regulate the practice of architecture and to govern its members, holders of certificates of practice, and holders of temporary licences in accordance with this Act, the regulations and the bylaws in order that the public interest may be served and protected."

## Further Steps

Should Bill 157 become law, the Act would change, followed by updates to **Regulation 27** to prescribe details for limited licences. The OAA will continue to keep you updated as things progress.

As always, the Association continues to acknowledge the severe impact the initial Court Order has had on you, as well as many others. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to OAA staff at **[OAAtechProg@oaa.on.ca](mailto:OAAtechProg@oaa.on.ca)**.

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