

Two private members' bills to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code

The two private members' bills to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada have died by prorogation.

Bill C-273 was tabled in the House of Commons in May 2022 by MP Peter Julian, had passed second reading and was awaiting third reading at prorogation.

Bill S-251 was tabled in the Senate in June 2022 by Senator Stan Kutcher. The bill had passed second reading and been referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, where it was awaiting further study at prorogation.

A total of 19 private members' bills to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code have been tabled separately in the Senate and the House of Commons since 1989. None were tabled by the government of the day. None were passed into law.

Following prorogation, the recent parliamentary session was dissolved. Further attempts to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code must now await the outcome of the April 28, 2025, federal election and the tabling of a fresh bill for repeal, either introduced by the newly elected federal government or sponsored by an MP or Senator as a private member's bill.