

# Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP Oshawa

## What Can Happen When A Bill Does Not Become Law?



In the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, there is a ballot draw to find out when Members of Parliament can debate our private members Bills (legislation). Since being elected I have been able to debate five of my Private Members Bills. I have been able to introduce many more, but the amount of time allotted for Private Members business only allows members to debate approximately one bill every four years.

Every Thursday morning while the Legislature is in session there are two Private Members Bills debated. Our caucus regularly discusses bills that are being brought forward to ensure a broad perspective of issues of concern are considered and examined. This way there is less likelihood of duplication of issues being debated, although there is often overlap between the intent of similar legislation.

There have been a number of Bills I have debated and almost all have received support of the Legislature and passed two of the three readings necessary to become law. Even still, many aspects of the Bills were implemented without formal passage.

The first Bill I introduced and debated was for performance evaluation of judges and also had a component that allowed for victims to be able to make presentations at parole hearings. The idea of performance evaluation was hugely opposed by the Chief Justice for the Province of Ontario, with concerns over maintaining judicial independence. However I was pleased that the office of the Solicitor General saw merit in victims' presentations and that part of my legislation was implemented.

I also had the opportunity to present a bill that would require criminal background checks for all those working with kids. Even though the Legislature rose early and the Bill did not pass, there are a number of local and provincial organizations who highly praised the legislation and are adopting the policy because it is the right thing to do.

I have also introduced Bills directly designed to aid Oshawa, the automotive industry and the autoworkers, by informing the public of origins of manufacture of vehicles and components and reducing the tax on vehicles produced in Oshawa.

Lastly, I was working at the Oshawa Harbour reviewing a new environmentally-friendly program being tested. This idea is directly related to a Bill I was able to debate dealing with invasive species coming into Ontario via ships ballast water discharge. I called for a process that tried to virtually eliminate such species as the zebra mussel, round goby, spiny water flea and others. I was asked to present before the United States Senate Committee on the issue and did so. At the Oshawa Harbour an innovative company was testing the newest technology to completely neutralize all ballast water species and stop invasive species from coming into our province. Sometimes success takes time to happen and it is important to consider everything possible to ensure future exotic species are not transferred into Ontario.

Even when a Bill does not become law the intent to address an issue of concern can still be dealt with and lead to a better Ontario.

Now, directly electing the Regional Chair  
- we still are working on.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry J. Ouellette".

**Jerry J. Ouellette**  
**MPP Oshawa**