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Legislative Summary

BILL S-3:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT, THE ELECTRICITY AND GAS INSPECTION ACT, THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES REGULATIONS AND THE ELECTRICITY AND GAS INSPECTION REGULATIONS

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Legislative Summary of Bill S-3
(Preliminary version)

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1 BACKGROUND

Bill S-3, An Act to amend the Weights and Measures Act, the Electricity and Gas Inspection Act, the Weights and Measures Regulations and the Electricity and Gas Inspection Regulations,[1] was introduced in the Senate on 28 October 2025 by the Honourable Senator Pierre Moreau. It passed second reading and was referred for study to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Commerce and the Economy on 27 November 2025. The committee completed its study and reported the bill without amendment on 26 February 2026. Bill S-3 passed third reading in the Senate on 11 March 2026 and passed first reading in the House of Commons on 12 March 2026.

Bill S-3 amends the *Weights and Measures Act* (WMA)[2] and the *Electricity and Gas Inspection Act* (EGIA)[3] to modernize how trade measurement devices – such as gas pumps, scales, and electricity and gas meters – are approved, verified and inspected. Among other things, Bill S-3:

- clarifies existing powers, duties and functions of the Minister of Industry, the President (under the EGIA) and inspectors;
- provides the Minister of Industry with new authorities related to sampling during device examinations and corrective and preventive measures;
- broadens the definition of "meter" under the EGIA;
- establishes explicit steps for placing devices into service; and
- updates inspectors' powers to support compliance.

The bill also repeals certain outdated provisions of the *Weights and Measures Regulations* (WMR)[4] and the *Electricity and Gas Inspection Regulations* (EGIR)[5] related to inspection fees.

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Bill S-3 forms part of federal efforts to modernize Canada's trade measurement framework. In 2023, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) released a consultation paper exploring options for a more flexible and responsive legislative regime for trade measurement.[6] Budget 2024 subsequently indicated the government's intention to amend the WMA and EGIA, including by strengthening the minister's "authority to establish standards and provisions related to calibration, inspection, contractors, and certification."[7] These efforts align with the Government of Canada's Red Tape Review initiative, which seeks to modernize outdated regulatory frameworks, reduce administrative burden and support innovation and economic growth.[8] ISED has noted that the WMA and EGIA were designed for legacy technologies and may be overly prescriptive for today's digital and software-driven measurement systems.[9]

On 18 November 2025, the Minister of Justice tabled a Charter Statement[10] for Bill S-3 in the Senate. A Charter Statement is a requirement under the *Department of Justice Act*[11] that outlines the potential effects of a bill, at the time of introduction, on rights and freedoms guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (the Charter).[12] The statement identifies sections 7 and 8 of the Charter, which protect life, liberty and security of the person and against unreasonable search and seizure, respectively, as potentially engaged, but concludes that the bill is consistent with those sections.

2 DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Bill S-3 contains 59 clauses. This section summarizes the key amendments to the WMA, the EGIA, the WMR and the EGIR.

2.1 AMENDMENTS TO THE *WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT*

Clauses 1 to 27 amend the WMA to update the framework governing measuring devices used in trade.

2.1.1 Definitions (Clause 1)

Clause 1 revises several definitions. In particular, the definition of "inspector" is expanded to reflect a role that includes preventing non-compliance, and a definition of "vehicle" is added to clarify the scope of inspection powers.

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2.1.2 Ministerial Authorities and Device Examination (Clauses 3, 5 and 10)

Bill S-3 introduces new authorities for the Minister of Industry (the minister) related to the approval and examination of measuring devices. Under new section 3.1, the minister may designate entities other than the National Research Council to calibrate and certify reference standards used in inspections.

Under new section 8.1, the minister may authorize the temporary use of measuring devices that have not yet been formally approved or examined, subject to specified conditions. Such permissions may be suspended or revoked after notice and an opportunity for representations.

New section 15.2 allows inspectors to examine devices by sampling devices of the same class, type or design rather than testing each unit individually. Under new section 15.3, the minister may issue public directions governing the use of sampling methods.

2.1.3 Inspection Powers and Telewarrants (Clauses 12 and 13)

Bill S-3 expands inspectors' powers under section 17 of the WMA to verify compliance with the Act. Amendments authorize inspectors to, among other things:

- enter any place, including vehicles;
- examine, test or seize items and related documents and make photographs or other records;
- use computer or telecommunication systems to access and reproduce data;
- treat remote access by telecommunication as a form of entry; and
- require individuals to identify themselves, operate equipment or produce documents.

New section 17.1(3) allows applications for search warrants and the issuance of warrants by telecommunication.

2.1.4 Compliance Measures (Clause 16)

New sections 19.1 to 19.3 introduce measures aimed at addressing or preventing contraventions of the WMA. These provisions allow inspectors to order persons to take measures necessary to remedy or prevent non-compliance. They also allow the minister to issue written directions respecting compliance procedures and to order their development or implementation.

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2.1.5 Offences
(Clauses 18, 19 and 22)

Bill S-3 repeals subsection 26(2) and section 28, which set out offences related to importing measuring devices without notifying the minister and to removable tickets in ticket-printing measuring devices.

New section 34.1 creates offences related to obstructing enforcement of the Act, including interfering with seized items, failing to comply with orders issued by inspectors or the minister and entering premises where access has been restricted.

2.1.6 Review
(Clause 27)

The bill introduces a requirement that the WMA be reviewed every 10 years, with a report tabled in Parliament following the review.

2.2 AMENDMENTS TO THE *ELECTRICITY AND GAS INSPECTION ACT*

Clauses 28 to 48 introduce comparable changes to the EGIA, which governs the approval and inspection of electricity and gas meters.

2.2.1 Definitions
(Clause 28)

Bill S-3 updates several definitions in the EGIA. Notably, the definition of "apparatus" is expanded to include software, and the definition of "meter" is broadened to include any apparatus or part of an apparatus used to determine charges for electricity or gas.

The bill introduces new defined roles, such as "designated inspector" and "vehicle." It also replaces the term "director" with "president," referring to the official appointed under the EGIA, and replaces the term "accredited meter verifier" with "authorized service provider."

2.2.2 Approval of Meters and Authorization of Service Providers
(Clause 34)

A meter must be approved, verified and sealed before being put into service. Bill S-3 introduces greater flexibility in how meters may be approved and used. Under new section 9, the president may permit meters to be placed in service on a temporary basis without full approval, verification or sealing, subject to specified conditions.

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Under section 10, the president may also authorize service providers to carry out activities such as verification and sealing of meters. Under new section 10(2), the president may publish directions governing the authorization and activities of such providers.

2.2.3 Sampling for Verification and Reverification (Clause 35)

Like the amendments to the WMA, Bill S-3 allows electricity and gas meters to be verified or reverified through sampling methods. New section 12.1 authorizes the examination of meters by sampling devices of the same class, type or design, with results applied across the group. New section 12.2 authorizes the minister to issue public directions governing sampling practices.

2.2.4 Suspension and Revocation Powers (Clause 35)

New section 12.3 authorizes the president to suspend or revoke approvals, permissions, authorizations and contractor certificates issued under the EGIA. These actions may only be taken after providing notice and an opportunity for affected parties to make representations.

2.2.5 Inspection Powers, Telewarrants and Compliance Measures (Clause 42)

Bill S-3 introduces expanded inspection and compliance powers similar to those added to the WMA. New sections 26.1 to 26.4 allow inspectors to, among other things:

- enter any place, including vehicles;
- examine, test or seize items and related documents and make photographs or other records;
- use computer or telecommunication systems to access and reproduce data;
- treat remote access by telecommunication as a form of entry; and
- require individuals to identify themselves, operate equipment or produce documents.

Where entry to a dwelling-house is required, inspectors must obtain a warrant, which may be issued by telecommunication.

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New sections 26.5 to 26.7 allow inspectors to order measures necessary to remedy or prevent contraventions to the EGIA. They also allow the minister to issue directions concerning compliance procedures and allow the minister or an inspector to order their development or implementation.

2.2.6 Offences (Clause 45)

Bill S-3 creates or updates several offences under the EGIA, including offences for:

- putting meters into service contrary to approval requirements;
- improperly breaking seals;
- failing to comply with orders issued by the minister or an inspector;
- entering a place after access has been prohibited; and
- unauthorized marking or certification of meters.

2.2.7 Review (Clause 44)

As with the WMA, the bill also introduces a requirement that the EGIA be reviewed every 10 years, with a report to be tabled in Parliament following the review.

2.3 AMENDMENTS TO THE *WEIGHTS AND MEASURES REGULATIONS* AND THE *ELECTRICITY AND GAS INSPECTION REGULATIONS*

Clause 49 repeals Part IV and clause 50 repeals Schedule V of the WMR, while clause 51 repeals Part X and clause 52 repeals Schedule 1 of the EGIR. According to ISED, these provisions contain outdated prescriptive requirements, such as inspection fee schedules and paper-based and location-specific processes.[13]

NOTES

1. Bill S-3, An Act to amend the Weights and Measures Act, the Electricity and Gas Inspection Act, the Weights and Measures Regulations and the Electricity and Gas Inspection Regulations, 45th Parliament, 1st Session.
2. *Weights and Measures Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. W-6.
3. *Electricity and Gas Inspection Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. E-4.
4. *Weights and Measures Regulations*, C.R.C., c. 1605.
5. *Electricity and Gas Inspection Regulations*, SOR/86-131.

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6. Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), Measurement Canada, *Moving toward a more flexible and agile legislative framework for trade measurement – Measurement Canada Legislative Visioning Paper 2023*.

7. Government of Canada, "Annex 3: Legislative Measures," *Fairness For Every Generation*, Budget 2024.

8. Government of Canada, *Red Tape Review*.

9. ISED, *Red Tape Review – Measurement Canada*.

10. Government of Canada, *Bill S-3: An Act amending the Weights and Measures Act, the Electricity and Gas Inspection Act, the Weights and Measures Regulations and the Electricity and Gas Inspection Regulations – Charter Statement*, 18 November 2025.

11. *Department of Justice Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. J-2, s. 4.2.

12. *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Part I of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, being Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982*, 1982, c. 11 (U.K.).

13. Government of Canada, "Regulations Amending the *Electricity and Gas Inspection Regulations* and the *Weights and Measures Regulations*," *2025–2027 Forward Regulatory Plan – Measurement Canada*.