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## Memorandum

COM-C 14-2026

**Subject:** Councillor Information Request regarding Bill 74 (Missing Persons Amendment Act)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026

**To:** Public Health and Social Services Committee

**From:** Donna Gibbs, Regional Solicitor/Director, Legal and Court Services, and Henri Koning, Commissioner, Community Services

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At Niagara Regional Council meeting held on February 10, 2026, the following Councillor Information Request was made:

Provide information on the legislation (Bill 74 - *Missing Persons Amendment Act, 2023*) for declaring persons as missing as it relates to homeless shelters at an upcoming Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting.

As of the writing of this memo, [Bill 74, Missing Persons Amendment Act, 2024 - Legislative Assembly of Ontario](https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill-74/status) (<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill-74/status>) is still at the Committee Stage and has not yet received royal assent (meaning its proposed changes have not been incorporated into the [Missing Persons Act, 2018, S.O. 2018, c. 3, Sched. 7 | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/18m03) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/18m03>) at this point).

The Bill proposes to amend the *Missing Persons Act, 2018* with respect to introducing the issuance of vulnerable persons alerts. A vulnerable person is defined in the Bill to mean a person who, **because of their age, a disability or other circumstances, whether temporary or permanent, is in a position of dependency on others or is otherwise at a greater risk than the general population of being harmed by a person in a position of trust or authority towards them.**

The Bill has been supported by the Ontario Autism Coalition and other groups as a crucial safety measure for high-risk individuals but is not intended to be aimed more broadly at individuals who are unhoused. In this regard, an excerpt from the Standing Committee on Justice Policy- May 16, 2024 [Committee Transcript 2024-May-16 | Legislative Assembly of Ontario](https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/committees/justice-policy/parliament-43/transcripts/committee-transcript-2024-may-16) ([https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/committees/justice-policy/parliament-43/transcripts/committee-transcript-2024-may-](https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/committees/justice-policy/parliament-43/transcripts/committee-transcript-2024-may-16)



presumption that further contact is expected; that they may be in danger; or, that their right to privacy and autonomy should be disregarded.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Donna Gibbs  
Regional Solicitor/Director, Legal and Court Services

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Henri Koning, MHSc  
Commissioner, Community Services