

Bill C-22: Lawful Access Act (2026) Analysis

An evidence-based, AI-collated analysis site on Canada's digital lawful access framework

1 Overview

Welcome to the policy analysis portal for **Bill C-22, the *Lawful Access Act, 2026***. Introduced in the House of Commons on March 12, 2026, this legislation represents a significant modernization of Canada's electronic surveillance, digital search, and lawful access capabilities for law enforcement and national security agencies.

This site compiles primary source documents, public consultations, and stakeholder statements to deliver structured, neutral, and rigorous syntheses of key issues, legal expansions, and civic debates.

1.1 AI Collaboration Disclosure

The content on this site is synthesized and collated with the assistance of AI models. All findings, summaries, and analyses are strictly grounded in primary legislative documentation and stakeholder releases listed on our [References Page](#).

2 Key Research Areas

To explore the key implications of the *Lawful Access Act*, the portal divides its analysis into three core sections:

- **Part 1: Investigative Tools:** An examination of new mechanisms such as subscriber information production orders, confirmation of service demands, and cross-border digital investigations.
- **Part 2: Service Provider Obligations:** An analysis of mandatory technical architecture requirements, decryption assistance, and the highly debated one-year metadata retention mandate for Electronic Service Providers (ESPs).

- **Stakeholder Perspectives & Debates:** A balanced and objective synthesis of positions from government agencies, law enforcement, civil liberties organizations, and digital privacy experts.

3 Legislative Timeline

- **March 12, 2026:** Bill C-22 is introduced and passes First Reading in the House of Commons.
- **April 20, 2026:** Bill C-22 passes Second Reading with a majority vote and is officially referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.
- **Ongoing (May 2026):** Currently under review in committee, receiving testimonies from privacy experts and law enforcement leaders.

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