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**Legislative Decree No. (38) of 2022 amending Some Provisions of
Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal
Regulation of the Council of Representatives**

We Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution, in particular, Article (38) thereof;

And Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the Council of Representatives, as amended;

Upon the submission of the Prime Minister;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

Hereby Decree the following Law:

Article One

The texts of Articles (21) second paragraph, (23), (38) last paragraph, (64), (66), (67), (68), (74), (102), (105) last paragraph, (106) last paragraph, (108), (127), (130) first paragraph, (138) of Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the Council of Representatives shall be replaced with the following texts:

Article (21) second paragraph:

The Council may, based on the President's proposal - if necessary - form a temporary committee to study a specific subject, and the temporary committee shall conclude its work upon achieving the purpose for which it was formed.

Article (23):

The member shall participate in one of the specialized committees of the Council as specified in the first paragraph of Article (21) of this Regulation.

Article (38) Last Paragraph:

The President, the Committee President or the Rapporteur may request that the report be returned to the committee for further study, even if the Council has commenced its discussion and they may also request the postponement of the discussion of the report for a period not exceeding one month, unless the Council decides otherwise. The government may also make such a request, and it shall be granted upon its request.

Article (64):

No one other than the President of the Council may interrupt the speaker or make any comments to them.

Only the President shall have the right to interrupt the speaker at any moment during their speech to alert them to their violation of the provisions of the preceding article, or any other provisions of this Regulation, or to the fact that their opinion has been sufficiently clarified and there is no place for further elaboration. If the speaker does not comply, the President may draw his attention again, with this being documented in the minutes. If the member insists on their position, the President shall take the appropriate action against them or refer the matter to the Council for a decision in accordance with the provisions of Article (67) of this Regulation.

Article (66):

If the President draws the attention of the speaker in accordance with the provisions of the two preceding articles and the speaker returns in the same session to deviating from the rules of speech, the President may prevent them from speaking on the same subject, and may deprive him from speaking for the rest of the session, or the matter may be presented to the Council for it to issue its decision in this regard without discussion.

Article (67):

The Council, based on the proposal of its President, may impose one of the following penalties on the member who violated the rules during the session or did not comply with the order to stop speaking:

- a- Prohibition from speaking on a specific subject for the remainder of the session.
- b- Warning.
- c- Reprimand.
- d- Prohibition from speaking for the rest of the session.
- e- Removal from the meeting room with the prohibition from participating in the rest of the session's proceedings.
- f- Prohibition from attending the meeting room for one session.
- g- Prohibition from participating in the Council and its committees' proceedings for a period not exceeding two weeks.

The Council's decision to impose one of the aforementioned penalties shall be issued in the same session without discussion and after hearing the member's statements if the situation requires.

The penalties provided for in clauses (a, b, c, d) can be directly imposed by the President of the Council.

Article (68):

If the member does not comply with the Council's or the President's decision, the President may take whatever means he deems necessary to enforce the decision after warning the member about it. He may suspend or adjourn the session, and in this case, the prohibition shall extend to twice the duration determined by the Council.

Article (74):

No proposal shall be presented for consideration except by the President of the Council.

Article (102):

Within fifteen days following the beginning of the first legislative session of each legislative term, the President of the Council shall notify the Prime Minister of the draft laws that the previous Council has not decided upon, including those that the National Council has not decided upon.

If the government does not request the President of the Council to continue considering the mentioned drafts within two months from the date of notifying the Prime Minister, they shall be deemed invalid.

If the government requests their consideration, the Council shall refer them to the relevant committee, and the committee shall be content with what the previous committee's opinion has concluded if it has submitted a report on the matter.

Article (105) Last Paragraph:

The Council may, based on a written request signed by at least five members, consider a proposed amendment that is submitted either before the session or during it, it shall be formulated and specific. The Council shall issue a decision to consider or exclude it after hearing the opinion of one of the requesters, if it is appropriate to do so without discussion. If the Council approves considering the amendments, the President presents them to the Council, and he may decide to consider them immediately. They shall be referred to the relevant committee for examination and the preparation of a report on them, based on the request of the government or the President.

Article (106) Last Paragraph:

The government, the President of the Council, the President of the committee and the rapporteur may request the referral of a proposed amendment during the Council session to the committee. This request shall be answered if the proposal has not previously been considered by the committee.

Article (108):

After completing the discussion of the article and the amendments submitted thereon, the opinion shall be taken first on the recommendation of the committee on it - if any - and then the other proposed amendments according to the precedence of their submission. In the event that the Council rejects the said amendments, the opinion shall be taken on the original text, and then the opinion shall be taken on the article as a whole.

Article (127):

After approving the government's program, the Council of Representatives shall express written demands to the Government in the public matters, and the Government shall respond to the Council in writing within six months and if these demands cannot be taken into account, the Government shall explain the reasons for that to the Council.

Article (130) first paragraph:

The President shall allow one of the proposers of the suggestion to speak if there are multiple of them.

Article (138):

When the question that is listed on the agenda and its answer are presented, the member may declare their satisfaction with the response,

thus closing the discussion on the matter. Alternatively, they may express their desire to speak, in which case they shall be granted the right to respond to the minister for a period not exceeding five minutes. The minister has the right to comment on that response in writing or orally. If the minister introduces new information, the member's right to respond shall be renewed for a period not exceeding three minutes.

Article Two

A last paragraph shall be added to Article (43) and a new article No. (209) bis shall be added to Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the Council of Representatives with the following texts:

Article (43) Last Paragraph:

If the Council decides to hold a secret session, the President shall instruct the withdrawal of all technological devices, such as mobile phones and tablets or any other means from the members present in the session to ensure the confidentiality of the session and prevent the leakage of any information about it. Those attending the secret session shall not to disclose any of its proceedings in any manner.

Article (209) bis:

If a member held a public position and relinquished it due to their membership in the Council of Representatives, it is permissible, upon the expiry of his membership term at the end of the legislative session, to reappoint or employ him in a similar position to the one they relinquished due to their acquisition of membership in the Council.

Article Three

This Law shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Prime Minister

Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 27 Rabi' Al-Awwal 1444 A.H.

Corresponding to: 23 October 2022