

Disclaimer: The official version of the law and any amendments thereto is published in Arabic in the Official Gazette. This version of the law, including amendments thereto, is provided for guidance and easy reference purposes. The Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission does not accept any liability for any discrepancy between this version and the official version as published in the Official Gazette and / or any inaccuracy or errors in the translation. For any corrections, remarks, or suggestions, kindly contact us on translate@lloc.gov.bh

Published on the website on May 2024

**Legislative Decree No. (41) of 2012 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;

Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the Shura Council amended by Law No. (31) of 2010;

And Legislative Decree No. (55) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the Shura Council amended by Law No. (9) of 2006;

And 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 (15), (127), (146), (147), (148) first paragraph, (149), (150), second paragraph, (156), (157), (158), (159), (165), (167), and (169) of Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the Council of Representatives shall be replaced with the following texts:

Article (15):

The Bureau of the Council shall consist of the Speaker and his two Deputies. The chairmen of the qualitative committees stipulated in Clauses First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth of the first paragraph of Article (21) of these regulations shall join them once they are elected.

Article (127):

The Council of Representatives shall express written wishes to the Government in public matters, and the Government shall respond to the Council in writing within six months, and if these wishes cannot be taken into account, the Government shall indicate the reasons for this.

Article (146):

The Speaker of the Council shall notify the interpellation to whomever it is addressed to, and he shall notify those submitting the interrogation in writing of that, and the interpellation shall be discussed in the Council unless the majority of its members decide to discuss it in the competent committee.

Before proceeding with the discussion of the interpellation, the Council shall vote on whether or not to discuss it in the competent committee.

It includes interpellations submitted on one topic, or on several topics closely related to each other, and is included in the agenda for discussion at one time.

Each interpellator is considered to have given up any questions he may have previously submitted regarding the same subject of the interpellation.

The interpellation shall not be discussed until at least eight days after its submission, unless the Minister requests that the discussion be expedited.

The person to whom the interpellation is directed may request an extension of the period stipulated in the preceding paragraph to two weeks at most, and his request will be answered, and the postponement for more than this period shall be by a decision of the Council or the Committee, as the case may be.

Article (147):

Interpellations take precedence over all other items on the agenda, unless the Council or the Committee decides otherwise. The discussion of the interpellation begins in the session specified for this purpose by the interpellators explaining their interpellation, and priority shall be given among them according to the order of their names in the interpellation

request, unless any of them cedes his role to the other interpellators, then the Minister to whom the interpellation is directed responds, and the members supporting and opposed to the interpellation speak alternately, and the discussion may not be closed before at least two of the speakers from each side speak.

Article (148) First Paragraph:

The interpellators and the competent committee may request any data from the Minister that may be necessary to clarify the truth of the matter with regard to the subject of the interpellation, and such request shall be submitted in writing to the Speaker of the Council well in advance of the session specified for discussing the interpellation.

Article (149):

After the interpellation discussion is completed, the Speaker shall present to the Council the proposals submitted thereon, and the proposal to move to the agenda shall have priority over other proposals submitted. The Council decides on these proposals without discussion.

Article (150) Paragraph Two:

The failure of one of the interpellators to attend the session specified for discussion in the Council or the Committee shall be considered a restitution from him for interpellation, and the provision of the preceding paragraph shall apply in this case, unless the absence of the interpellator is for an excuse acceptable to the Council or the Committee -as the case may be- in which case the consideration of the interpellation shall be postponed to a subsequent session and only once after hearing the opinion of the Minister to whom the interpellation is directed.

Article (156):

The Council of Representatives may not raise the issue of confidence in the Prime Minister, but if at least ten members of the Council submit a reasoned request for the inability to cooperate with the Prime Minister, the request shall be presented to the Council immediately after its submission, and if the majority of the Council members so agree, the request shall be referred, without discussion, to the Bureau of the Council to discuss it, and the Speaker of the Council shall notify the prime minister of that.

The Bureau of the Council shall prepare a report on its consideration of the request for the inability to cooperate with the Prime Minister and refer it to the Council within a period not exceeding two weeks from the date of its submission.

Article (157):

The Speaker shall submit to the Council a request for the inability to cooperate with the Prime Minister as soon as the Bureau of the Council completes the preparation of the report thereon, after verifying the presence of the applicants in the session, and the absence of one of them in the session is considered an assignment of the request, and it results in its dropping.

Article (158):

Before voting in the Council on the motion for the inability to cooperate with the permission of the Speaker to speak on the subject, two of the applicants, in the order of their request, and two of his opponents as well, unless the Council gives permission to speak to a larger number.

Article (159):

The Council may not issue its decision on the request for the inability to cooperate before the lapse of seven days from the date of submission of

the report of the Bureau of the Council thereon, and the Council shall issue its decision that cooperation is not possible by a two-thirds majority of the members of which it is composed.

Article (165):

The government shall prepare a draft law on the annual budget covering state revenues and expenditures and submit it to the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives at least two months before the end of the fiscal year, to be discussed in the Council of Representatives and referred to the Shura Council to complete the procedures for its approval.

Article (167):

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Council shall meet with the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Shura Council in a joint meeting to discuss the draft budget law with the Government, and each committee shall submit to the Council to which it is affiliated a separate report that includes an overview of the foundations on which the draft budget is based and an appropriate statement on each of its parts, noting the observations and suggestions submitted by members of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives or the two committees thereon.

The invitation to the meeting of the two committees and the Government shall be sent by the Speaker of the Council of Representatives at least forty-eight hours before the scheduled date of the meeting. The meeting shall be considered valid in the presence of the majority of the members of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Council of Representatives.

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Council of Representatives shall submit its report after the end of the joint discussions and no later than six weeks from the date of referral of the draft to it, and if the Committee does not submit its report within this period, the Council may discuss the draft budget law in the case in which it was received from the Government.

Article (169):

Discussion of the budget in the Council shall be on the basis of the classification contained therein. The budget may be prepared for two fiscal years at most, and no revenue from public revenues may be allocated to a specific aspect of expenditure except by law.

Article Two

Added to Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the Council of Representatives, a new clause No. (G) to Article (18), and a new paragraph to Article (21), and new articles No. (145) bis, (145) bis (1) , (149) bis, and three new sections shall be added to Chapter Two of Part Four of this Law, which are: The seventh section titled (Discussion of the Government Programme) which fall under it the new Articles from (165) to (168), and the eighth section titled (Government Statement) which fall under it the new Article (169), and the ninth section titled (Requests for General Discussion) which fall under it the new Articles from (170) to (174), and Articles from (165) to (220) are renumbered to become numbers from (175) to (230), and a new Article shall be added to this Law, after renumbering, with number (228) bis, the following texts:

Article (18) Clause (J):

(J) Any other competence provided for in the Constitution or these Regulations to be assigned to the Bureau.

Article (21) New Paragraph:

In forming committees, the representation of different spectrum and trends within the Council shall be taken into account.

Article (145) bis:

The Speaker of the Council shall refer the interpellation immediately upon submission to the Bureau of the Council to express an opinion on the fulfilment of the formal conditions stipulated in the two preceding Articles therein, and the Bureau of the Council shall express its opinion within a maximum period of three days from the date of referral of the interpellation to it.

If the Bureau of the Council finds that the formal conditions are not met in the interrogation, it shall decide to exclude it and notify its submitters thereof, and the interpellators may object to this decision within one week from the date of their notification, and if they object within that period, the matter shall be submitted to the Council at the first subsequent session to decide on it without discussion before taking the procedures stipulated in the following Articles.

Article (145) bis (1):

After verifying the fulfilment of the formal conditions in the interpellation, the Speaker of the Council shall present the interpellation to a committee formed of the chairmen and deputy chairmen of the qualitative committees stipulated in Clauses First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth of the first paragraph of Article (21) of these Regulations, except for the presenters of the interrogation, to prepare a report regarding its seriousness, and the committee shall complete this report within a period

not exceeding seven days from the date of submitting the interpellation to it.

In order to verify the seriousness of the interpellation, the committee may ensure the availability of facts, documents, and evidence supporting the point of view of the interpellators.

The report of the committee shall be presented to the Council in the first session following its preparation.

Article (149) bis:

If the Council decides, by a majority of its members, to discuss the interpellation in the competent committee, and after the completion of its discussion, the chairman of the committee shall submit its report to the Speaker of the Council, and the Speaker shall present to the Council at the first session following the submission of the report to it, the proposals submitted by the committee to it regarding the interpellation, and the proposal to move to the agenda shall take precedence over other proposals submitted. The Council shall decide on these proposals without discussion, if the report ends with moving to the agenda, but if the report includes the conviction of the person to whom the interpellation is directed, the discussion must be held in the Council before voting on the committee's decision. The discussion shall be heard by the opinions of the members in favour and against the interpellation on a rotational basis, and the discussion shall not be closed before at least two of the petitioners from each side have spoken.

Section Seven

(Discussion of the Government Programme)

Article (165):

The Prime Minister shall submit the Government Programme within thirty days of taking the Constitutional oath to the Council of Representatives, or at its first meeting if he is absent.

The Council shall discuss the Prime Minister's statement on the Government Programme, and this statement shall be referred to a special committee headed by one of the two Deputies of the Council, and the Speaker of the Council shall present the formation of this committee to the Council for approval. The committee shall study the Government Programme and prepare a report on it within ten days, and the report shall be presented to the Council in the first session following the end of this period.

Article (166):

Any member of the Council wishing to discuss the Government Programme shall submit a written request to the Speaker of the Council.

Such requests must include the specific topics on which the request to speak is made and must be submitted at least two days before the session specified for discussion.

The Bureau of the Council shall coordinate the requests to speak well in advance of the date of the session, and the Speaker of the Council shall notify the applicants of these requests in writing of the findings of the Bureau in this regard.

It is not permissible to authorise participation in the discussion except for those who request to speak from the members in accordance with the preceding provisions, as well as for those who are allowed by the Speaker to speak after the approval of the Council.

Article (167):

The report of the committee shall be read out in the session specified for discussing the Government Programme, and the Speaker of the Council shall organise the order of discussion in a way that allows the registered members requesting to speak to express their opinions, taking into account the rules prescribed for priority in speaking in these regulations. When the speakers have finished the discussion, the Speaker shall put the Government Programme to a vote.

The decision of the Council to approve or not approve the Government Programme must be issued by a majority of its members within ten days following the submission of the report to the Council, and in all cases, the period shall not exceed thirty days from the date of submission of the programme.

Article (168):

Taking into account the periods and voting majority stipulated in the second paragraph of Article (46) of the Constitution, the rules of the previous discussion shall be followed when resubmitting the Government Programme for the second time in the event that the Council does not approve it the first time.

Section Eight

(Government Statement)

Article (169):

The Prime Minister may deliver a statement before the Council of Representatives or one of its committees on a subject within his competence, and he may authorise one of the ministers to do so.

If the statement is before the Council, it may discuss it or refer it to one of its committees to discuss it and make any observations it deems appropriate thereon.

Section Nine

(Requests for General Discussion)

Article (170):

At the request of at least five members, a general topic may be raised for discussion with a view to clarifying the Government's policy thereon and exchanging views about it. The subject of the general discussion must be related to domestic affairs and to the public interest.

Article (171):

The request for a proposal for general discussion shall be submitted to the Speaker of the Council in writing and must include a precise definition of the topic at hand, the justifications and reasons that justify its submission to general discussion in the Council, and the name of the member chosen by the requesters to have priority speech on the subject of the general discussion.

The Speaker of the Council shall inform the Prime Minister or the competent minister, as the case may be, about the request for general discussion as soon as it is submitted. The Bureau of the Council shall include this request in the agenda of the first session following its submission for the Council to decide on without discussing the approval to put the subject for general discussion or exclude the request from its agenda for the invalidity of the subject for discussion, after hearing the opinion of a member of the supporters of exclusion and a member of his opponents.

The Prime Minister or the competent minister may request the postponement of the discussion for a period of one week at most, and the request shall be granted. The postponement shall not be for more than this period, except by a decision of the Council.

In all cases, the Council may decide to refer the request to one of the committees for examination and submission of a report thereon before deciding on it.

Article (172):

If all or some of the requesters of the request for general discussion waive it in writing after it is included in the agenda, or after setting a date for discussion therein, so that their number is less than the number necessary for its submission, the Council or its Speaker, as the case may be, shall exclude it.

Requesters who are absent without an acceptable excuse from attending the session specified for discussion shall be deemed to have waived the Request.

Article (173):

During the discussion, proposals related to the subject of the request for general discussion shall be submitted to the Speaker of the Council in writing, and the Speaker shall present these proposals immediately after the end of the discussion, and it is not permissible to speak when presenting such proposals except for those who presented them, and each of them shall explain the proposal briefly, and the Council may, upon the proposal of its Speaker, refer these proposals to one of the committees to submit a report on them before taking an opinion on them.

Article (174):

Requests for general discussion shall not be included before the Government presents its programme and the Council finishes discussing it and issues its decision in this regard.

Article (228) bis:

In cases in which the National Council is called to convene, its sessions shall be chaired by the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, and the provisions of this internal regulation shall be applied in those sessions, taking into account the provisions of Article (103) of the Constitution.

Article Three

The Prime Minister and the ministers - each within his jurisdiction- shall implement this Law, and it 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

Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 4 Shawwal 1433 A.H.

Corresponding to: 22 August 2012