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**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;

Law No. (4) of 1974 regarding the Internal Regulation of the National Council;

And Legislative Decree No. (15) of 2002 regarding Shura Council and Council of Representative as amended by Legislative Decree No. (30) of 2002;

Upon the submission of the Prime Minister;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers;

Hereby Decree the following Law:

Part One

General Provisions

Article (1)

The Council of Representatives shall exercise its competences in the manner specified in the Constitution and the Law of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.

Article (2)

The members of the Council shall abide by the provisions of the Constitution, the law, and this Regulation in their discussions and decisions.

Article (3)

The ordinary session of the National Council in its two Councils (the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives) shall be opened in accordance with the provisions of Articles (71), (73) and (74) of the

Constitution by listening to the Royal Address, and then the meeting shall be adjourned after delivering this speech, and the members of the Council of Representatives shall go to the headquarters of their Council.

Article (4)

After listening to the Royal Address, the Council of Representatives shall hold its first session in the first session, and the presidency shall be granted to the oldest of the members present, assisted by the two youngest members present, and their task shall end with the election of the Chairman of the Council.

Article (5)

Every member of the Council of Representatives shall take the following oath in a public session prior to practising his work in the Council or its committees:

((I swear by Almighty God to be loyal to the State and the King, to respect the Constitution and the laws of the State, to defend the people's freedoms and interests and money, and to perform my work honestly and truthfully))).

This oath shall be taken at the beginning of the legislative term by the head of age and the two assisting members.

Article (6)

At the beginning of the legislative term, it shall not be permissible for the Council to exercise any of its competences except after the election of its Chairman and Deputy.

Article (7)

The Bureau of the Council of Representatives shall select a committee of members of the Council in order to prepare a draft response to the Royal

Address, and shall present the formation of this committee to the Council for approval. The committee shall study the Royal Address and prepare a draft response to it, which shall be presented to the Council on the date it specifies, and the response shall be submitted to the King after its approval.

Article (8)

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives shall be the Division of the Kingdom of Bahrain in international parliamentary conferences. The General Assembly of the Division shall be composed in each Council of all its members.

The Assembly shall have an executive committee chaired by the Chairman of the Council of Representatives and the membership of eight members, four of whom shall be chosen by each Council from among its members.

The executive committee shall establish the rules governing the functioning of the Division.

Part Two

Council Bodies

Article (9)

The main bodies of the Council of Representatives shall be:

- a- Chairman of the Council.
- b- Bureau of the Council.
- c- Council committees.

Chapter One

Chairman of the Council

Article (10)

The Chairman of the Council of Representatives shall be chosen at the first session of the Council at the beginning of the legislative term, and for the same term, in accordance with the procedures stipulated in Article (60) of the Constitution.

Nominations shall be submitted to the chairman of the session within the period specified by him. If only one candidate applies for the position, the chairman of the session shall declare his victory by acclamation.

The election process shall be private and shall be held in a public session. The chairman of the session shall announce the election of the Chairman of the Council and shall assume the duties of the presidency immediately after the announcement of his election.

Article (11)

In the event that the place of the Chairman of the Council is vacant for any reason, the Council shall choose a replacement within three weeks from the date of the vacancy if the Council is in session, and within the first week of the meeting of the Council if the vacancy occurs during the holiday.

Article (12)

The Chairman of the Council shall be the one who represents him in his communication with other authorities, speaks on his behalf, supervises all his work, monitors his Bureau and committees, and shall supervise the General Secretariat of the Council, taking into account the application of the provisions of the Constitution and laws and the implementation of the provisions of this Regulation. He shall be permitted to seek the assistance of the Bureau, any member he deems fit or any committee in this regard.

He shall be the one who opens and presides over the sessions, declares their conclusion and regulates them, manages the discussions, permits to speak, and through him questions shall be directed, shall announce the results of the ballot and shall have the right to speak at any time if he deems this useful for the system of discussion or to clarify it.

He shall be the one who determines the subject of the research, shall have who have departed from it return and shall draw attention to the maintenance of order. He shall be permitted to explain or clarify a matter he deems to be ambiguous, raise the subject to take an opinion about them, announce the decisions issued by the Council and in general, he shall supervise the proper functioning of the Council.

The Chairman of the Council shall be entitled to participate in the discussions, and then he shall abandon the chairmanship of the session and shall not return to the rostrum until the discussion in which he participated is over.

Article (13)

The Chairman of the Council shall have the right to call any committee of the Council to convene to discuss an important or urgent subject, and he shall preside the sessions of the committees he attends.

Correspondence between any committee of the Council and the executive authority or others outside the Council shall be conducted through the Chairman of the Council.

Article (14)

If the Chairman of the Council is absent, the first Deputy shall preside over the sessions. In the event of his absence, the second Deputy shall preside. In the event that they are both absent from one of the sessions after its opening, the oldest member present shall preside over the

session. The chairman of the session shall have the competences prescribed in this Regulation for the Chairman of the Council in managing the session.

The Chairman of the Council shall be permitted to delegate one of the Chairman's Deputies in some of his competences.

In all cases, the first Deputy and then the second Deputy shall replace the Chairman in all his competences if his absence extends for more than three consecutive weeks.

Chapter Two

Bureau of the Council

Article (15)

The Bureau of the Council shall consist of the Chairman and his two Deputies. The President of each of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee and the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee shall be included as soon as they are elected.

Article (16)

After the end of the election of the Chairman of the Council, the Council shall proceed to elect the two Deputies successively, in the manner stipulated in Article (10) of this Regulation. If the place of either of them becomes vacant for any reason, a replacement shall be elected in the same manner, within two weeks from the date of the vacancy.

Article (17)

The Chairman of the Council shall notify the King of the formation of the Bureau of the Council as soon as this formation is completed.

Article (18)

The Bureau of the Council shall be competent in the following affairs:

a- Setting the agenda for the sessions of the Council, taking into account the priority of including the draft laws submitted by the government that the competent committees have completed their study, as well as the important ongoing topics. The Chairman shall announce the agenda and notify the members and the government well in advance of the session.

b- Deciding on the objections referred to it by the Council to what has been recorded in the minutes of the sessions.

c- Considering the Council's draft annual budget and its draft closing account, based on a referral by the Chairman, prior to presenting them to the Council for approval.

d- Following up the work of the Council committees and their reports, and assisting those committees in setting the rules governing the management of their work and coordinating their activities.

e- Proposing whoever he deems fit to represent the Council internally, based on the nomination of the Chairman, in preparation for presenting the matter to the Council for decision.

f- Studying the reports submitted by delegations on their missions and visits, prior to presenting them to the Council.

g- Exercising the administrative competences of the Council between the sessions, at the request of the Chairman of the Council.

h- Studying what the Chairman presents regarding the cases of members who do not perform their duties or behave in a manner inconsistent with the dignity of membership, prior to presenting the matter to the Council for appropriate action.

i- Examining any other matter in respect of which the Chairman of the Council deems it necessary to take his opinion.

Article (19)

The Bureau of the Council shall meet at the invitation of its Chairman, and its meetings shall be valid in the presence of all its members.

However, if one of the members of the Bureau impedes the exercise of his competences and the circumstances of urgency call for the meeting of the Bureau, it shall be permissible to be held in the presence of a majority of its members, provided that the Chairman shall be among them.

Its decisions shall be issued by the majority of the members present, and in case of a tie, the side of the Chairman shall prevail.

It shall not be permissible for other than the members of the Bureau to attend its meetings, and whoever the Bureau chooses shall make minutes of the meetings of the Bureau in important matters that need to be presented to the Council or to the various committees.

The Chairman shall invite the Minister concerned with the affairs of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives to attend the meetings of the Bureau, when preparing the agenda of the Council.

It shall be permissible for the Secretary General of the Council to attend the meetings of the Bureau of the Council at the request of the Chairman of the Council. In this case, he shall write the Council's minutes of the meetings.

Article (20)

The Secretary General of the Council shall be competent to supervise the editing of the Council's minutes of the sessions, record the names of the members who request to speak in the order of their requests, prove alerts to maintain order, record the results of the ballot and other matters requested by the Chairman regarding the management of the session.

Chapter Three

Council Committees

Article (21)

The following qualitative committees shall be formed during the first week from the beginning of the ordinary session, in order to study the work within the competence of the Council:

First- The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, which shall consist of eight members. It shall be competent to consider draft laws and their conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, and to assist the Council and its other committees in drafting legislative texts. It shall also be concerned with the affairs of members, examining cases of membership revocation, permission to lift immunity and all matters that do not fall within the competence of another committee.

Second- The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee, which shall consist of seven members. It shall be concerned with studying the international position, international policy developments, the foreign policy of the Kingdom of Bahrain and international conventions and treaties. It shall also specialize in studying all affairs related to internal security, combating crime and the external security of the State.

Third- The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, which shall consist of eight members. It shall be competent to study the construction projects for economic and social development included in the State budget, economic plans and make observations about them. It shall also be competent to study the financial and economic aspects related to the work of the Ministries and various departments, especially budgets and closing accounts.

Fourth- The Services Committee, which shall consist of seven members. It shall specialize in matters of education of all kinds and

stages, vocational training and literacy and topics related to social, sports, cultural, health services, media and labour matters.

Fifth - The Public Utilities and Environment Committee, which shall consist of seven members and be competent with studying topics related to housing, post, electricity, water, agriculture, transportation, roads, municipalities and the environment.

The Council shall be entitled -if necessary- to form a temporary committee to study a specific subject, and the temporary committee shall end at the end of the purpose for which it was formed.

Article (22)

The Chairman of the Council shall receive, at the beginning of the ordinary session and at the date he specifies, the requests of the members to join the membership of the committees.

The Bureau of the Council shall coordinate these requests in accordance with the rules and controls it determines.

Article (23)

A member shall participate in one of the Council committees.

Article (24)

The Bureau of the Council shall announce the nomination lists for the membership of the committees prior to presenting them to the Council. Each member shall be able to submit his proposals or objections in writing to the Chairman of the Council to present them to the Bureau for consideration.

The Chairman shall present the lists to the Council in accordance with the findings of the Bureau after studying the objections and proposals submitted by the members. The discussion in the Council shall be limited

to the rules and controls adhered to by the Bureau of the Council in this regard. These lists shall be considered effective once approved by the Council.

Article (25)

Each committee shall elect from among its members a President and a Vice President, by a relative majority of the number of its members. If more than one of them is equal in obtaining this majority, the choice shall be made among them by lot. The Secretariat of the committee shall be carried out by a member of the General Secretariat. The Bureau of the committee shall constitute of the Chairman and the Deputy.

The oldest member of the committee shall preside over the meeting of the committee for the first time in the session, and nominations shall be submitted in writing to him during the period specified by the Bureau of the Council. The President shall announce these nominations to the members of the committee. Elections between candidates shall be held by secret ballot under the supervision of a committee formed by the Bureau of the Council from among the members of the committees who are not applying for the positions of the offices of the committees.

If no one applies for nomination other than the required number, the candidates shall be declared elected by acclamation. The Chairman of the Council shall announce the result of the election of the offices of the committees and shall report it to the Council of Ministers.

Article (26)

The Deputy of the Chairman of the Council shall preside over the sessions of the committee that he attends.

Article (27)

The meetings of the committee shall not be valid except in the presence of a majority of its members, and decisions shall be issued by a majority of those present. In case of a tie, the side of the Chairman shall prevail.

If the majority of the committee is not completed, it shall be permissible for its President to postpone the meeting to a future session he determines. However, in cases where the Council decides to consider a matter by way of urgency, it shall be permissible to postpone the session of the committee to another date on the same day with re-notifying its members of this date. The convening of the committee shall be valid at the session adjourned to it in the presence of one-third of its members. If the number of attendees is less than that, the President of the committee shall present the matter to the Chairman of the Council.

The committee shall be permitted to seek the assistance of one or more experts or employees of the Council in its work. It shall be permitted to request -through the Chairman of the Council and through the competent Minister- the assistance of one or more government experts or employees. It shall also be permissible for the committee to seek the assistance of independent experts after the approval of the Chairman of the Council. None of these shall participate in voting.

Article (28)

The committees shall undertake the examination of the draft laws, proposals or topics referred to them that fall within the activity of the Ministries. It shall collect all data and information related to the topics referred to it to enable the Council to form its opinion on the subject when discussing it. To this end, it shall be permitted to request –through the Chairman of the Council and through the competent Minister- from Ministries, departments, institutions and public bodies the data and documents it deems necessary to study the subject referred to it. These

authorities shall submit what is required of them well before the committee draws up its report.

Article (29)

The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee shall be notified of all draft laws submitted by the government or proposals for laws submitted by members, and it shall inform the competent committee of its observations at the date specified by the Chairman of the Council.

Article (30)

If the matter presented is related to more than one committee, the Council shall determine the committee that shall study it or refer it to a joint committee that includes more than one committee.

Committees that participate in the consideration of a single subject shall be permitted to hold joint meetings between them with the approval of the Chairman of the Council. In this case, the oldest President of the committees or for one of the Deputies of the Chairman of the Council shall preside. The validity of the joint meeting shall be met by the attendance of at least a majority of the members of each committee separately. The decisions of the joint committee shall be issued with the approval of the majority of the members present.

All of this shall be subject to the provisions of Article (27) of this Regulation.

Article (31)

If one of the committees deems that it is competent to consider a subject referred to another committee or that it is not competent in the subject referred to it, it shall indicate this to the Chairman of the Council to present it to the Council for a decision.

Article (32)

The President of each committee shall manage its work, and shall be assisted by the Secretary of the committee. The President shall be replaced in his absence by the Vice President of the committee and then the oldest of its members present.

Article (33)

The Bureau of the committee shall set its agenda upon the proposal of its Chairman.

Article (34)

The committees shall meet at the invitation of their President or the Chairman of the Council, and they shall be invited to convene if requested by the majority of their members. The invitation of the committee shall be at least twenty-four hours prior to the date of its convening, and the members and the General secretariat of the Council shall be notified of the agenda of the meeting of the committee.

The postponement of the Council for its sessions shall not prevent the committees from meeting to complete their work. The Chairman of the Council shall be permitted to invite the committees to meet between the sessions of the meeting if necessary, or at the request of the government or the President of the committee.

Article (35)

The sessions of the committees shall not be public, and a minutes of each meeting shall be drawn up in which the names of the members present and absent, the summary of the discussions and the texts of the decisions shall be recorded, and it shall be signed by the President of the committee and its Secretary. A copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committees shall be deposited with the office of the Chairman of the Council and the offices of the two Deputies.

Each member of the Council shall be able to attend the meetings of the committees of which he is not a member, provided that the committee shall agree to this, provided that he shall neither interfere in the discussion nor make any observation.

Each member shall be able to send his opinion in writing, on a matter referred to a committee of which he is not a member, to the President of the committee to present it to it. The committee shall be able to authorize him to attend the session it appoints to explain his point of view without participating in the discussion or voting.

Each member of the Council shall have access to the minutes of the committees.

Article (36)

The competent Minister shall be able to attend the meetings of the committees when considering a matter related to his Ministry, and he shall be permitted to accompany one or more senior competent officials or experts or delegate any of them. Neither the Minister nor anyone accompanying him or delegating him shall have the right to vote, and their views shall be proven in the report.

The committee shall be permitted to request, through the Chairman of the Council, the presence of the competent Minister to discuss the matter before it. In this case, the Minister or his representative shall attend.

Article (37)

The priority of speech at the meetings of the committees shall be for the representatives of the government, for the members of the committee and then for those who submit the proposals referred to it.

With regard to the system of speech in the sessions of the committees, the rules prescribed for this shall apply with regard to the sessions of the

Council, which do not conflict with the provisions stipulated for the committees in this Regulation.

Article (38)

The committee shall submit to the Chairman of the Council a report on each subject referred to it summarizing its work, within the period specified by him, unless the Council decides otherwise. If the delay in submitting the report is repeated on the date specified for it, the Chairman of the Council shall present the matter to the Council at the first following session. The Council shall be able to grant the committee a new deadline, refer the matter to another committee or decide to decide on the matter directly.

The report of the committee shall include a statement of its procedures and its opinion on the subject referred to it, the reasons on which it relied in its opinion, the opinion of the committee or committees that may have consulted its observations and the totality of other views expressed in the meetings of the committee regarding the subject, as well as the written views and proposals it has been notified of.

The texts of the projects or legislations subject of the report, together with its explanatory notes, if any, shall be attached to the report of the committee.

Each committee shall be permitted to request the Chairman of the Council, through its President or the rapporteur of the subject, to return the report to it, even if the Council has begun its consideration if there is something that requires this request, unless the Council decides otherwise.

Article (39)

Upon completion of the discussion of the subject referred to it, the Bureau of the Committee shall choose one of its members to be a rapporteur for the subject and to express its opinion on it before the Council. The Bureau shall also choose a substitute rapporteur to replace the original in his absence. If they are absent from the session of the Council, its Chairman shall be able to request the President of the Committee or one of its members to explain the report on its behalf.

Part Three

Sessions and Decisions of the Council

Chapter One

Meeting of the Council

Article (40)

In the first session of the annual session, the Royal Order shall be read out to invite and what may be the orders and decrees related to the formation of the Ministry or the amendment of its formation, and then the members of the Council who have not previously performed it shall take the constitutional oath.

Article (41)

Subject to what is addressed by specific provisions, the convening of the Council shall not be valid except in the presence of more than half of its members.

If the meeting of the Council begins correctly, it shall continue as such, even if some of the members present leave the session room.

In this case, the Council shall be entitled to continue to discuss the subjects presented before it after alerting the Chairman of the Council of members to attend the Council chamber.

Article (42)

Subject to what is addressed by specific provisions, the decisions of the Council shall be issued by an absolute majority of those present. In case of a tie, the side of the Chairman of the Council or his representative shall prevail.

Article (43)

The sessions of the Council shall be public, and it shall be permissible to hold them in private at the request of the government, Chairman of the Council or at least ten of its members. In the latter case, the request shall be submitted in writing to the Bureau of the Council, and the Council shall decide in a private session whether the discussion of the subject before it takes place in a public session or not. This decision shall be issued after a discussion in which at most two supporters of confidentiality and two opponents of confidentiality participate.

Article (44)

When the Council convenes in a private session, the room shall be cleared of those who have been authorised entry, and no one other than the members shall have the right to attend the session except the staff who are authorised to attend by the Council, government employees or experts.

If the reason for the meeting of the Council in a private session ceases, the Chairman shall take the opinion of the Council to terminate it, and then the session shall return to public.

Article (45)

The Council shall be able to decide to record the minutes of the private session. The recording of the minutes during the session shall be by the Secretary General or whoever chosen by the Council. This minutes shall

be kept with the knowledge of the Chairman of the Council. It shall not be permissible for non-members or those allowed to attend the session to view it, except with the permission of the Chairman of the Council. The Council shall have the right to decide at any time in a private session to publish either the entire minutes or some parts of it.

Article (46)

The Council shall hold an ordinary session on the Tuesday of each week, unless it decides otherwise, or if there is no business requiring such a meeting.

Article (47)

The Chairman shall call the Council to hold its sessions at least forty eight hours prior to the date specified for holding them, provided that the invitation shall be accompanied by the agenda of the session and the notes, reports and projects related to them if they have not been previously distributed.

The Chairman shall be able to invite the Council to meet prior to its regular date if he deems it necessary, and he shall invite it if requested by the government or at least ten of the members. The invitation shall specify the subject to be presented. This urgent invitation shall not be limited to the date stipulated in the preceding Paragraph.

It shall be permissible for the session to be adjourned to an unspecified day, and the meeting shall be held on the following Tuesday unless the Chairman specifies another date.

Chapter Two

The Sessions' Working System

Article (48)

A record of attendance shall be placed at the disposal of the members half an hour prior to the opening of the session, in which they sign when they attend, and another record shall be placed in which they sign after the session ends, in accordance with the system issued by a decision by the Bureau of the Council.

Article (49)

The Chairman shall open the sessions of the Council in the presence of more than half of its members. If it becomes clear at the time of the meeting that this quorum has not been completed, the Chairman shall delay the opening of the session for half an hour. If the quorum is not completed, the session shall be postponed to a specified later date.

If the quorum for the Council meeting is not completed twice in a row, the meeting of the Council shall be considered valid, provided that the number of attendees shall not be less than a quarter of the Council members.

Article (50)

After the opening of the session, the names of the members who excused themselves and those absent from the last session without permission or notice shall be read out, and then the opinion of the Council shall be taken in ratifying the prepared minutes of the previous sessions. Each member present at the session shall be permitted to request the correction of what any error made in their statement upon the ratification of its minutes. Whenever the decision of the Council to accept the correction is issued, this shall be recorded in the minutes of the session in which it was issued, and the previous minutes shall be corrected accordingly.

It shall not be permissible to make any correction in a ratified minutes, except with the permission of the Council.

The Chairman shall then inform the Council of the received papers and letters prior to considering the issues contained in the agenda. Each member shall have the right to comment on the subject of papers and letters once, provided that the member's speech shall not exceed five minutes and the entire comment period shall not exceed half an hour, taking into account the provisions of Article (55) of this Regulation. The Council shall be entitled to exceed the aforementioned time limits.

The Council shall then begin to consider the issues on the agenda.

Article (51)

It shall not be permissible to discuss a subject that is not on the agenda except for urgent matters and under a clause of new work. This shall be at the request of the government, the Chairman or a reasoned written request submitted by at least five members. In all cases, the approval of the Council on the request shall be required, and the competent Minister shall be entitled to request the postponement of the consideration of the subject raised for the first time as prescribed in regard to the questions, even if its discussion has begun.

The decision of the Council on these requests shall be issued without discussion. However, the Chairman shall be entitled to authorize speech to one of the supporters of the request and one of its opponents for a period not exceeding five minutes each, before the Council issues its decision.

Article (52)

No member shall be allowed speech during the session unless they request speech and obtain permission from the Chairman.

It shall not be permissible for the Chairman to refuse speech except for a reason required by the provisions of this Regulation. In the event of disagreement over this, the matter shall be submitted to the Council to issue a decision in it without discussion.

It shall not be permissible, to record in the minutes of the session or to publish by any means of publication, speech that takes place contrary to the provision of this Article.

With the exception of a request to expedite the termination of reports on subjects referred to the Council committees or the procedures related to their carrying out their mission, requesting speech on a subject previously referred by the Council to one of the committees shall not be accepted except after submitting its report and including it in the Council's agenda, unless the Council decides otherwise for serious reasons.

Article (53)

It shall be permissible for each member to submit in writing to the Chairman of the Council a request for clarification on any subject the member would like to inquire about in the affairs of the Council, and the Chairman of the Council shall be permitted to briefly respond to the inquiry during the session, without any discussion taking place, then the Council shall consider the rest of the issues on the agenda.

Article (54)

The Secretary General shall prepare a list of the names of those requesting speech, according to the order of their requests. Ministers and rapporteurs shall not be bound by this arrangement, as they always have the right to speak whenever they request it. Ministers shall be able to seek the assistance of senior officials or their representatives.

Article (55)

The Chairman shall authorize speech first to the members whose names are registered in the Secretariat of the Council prior to the session, then to the members who request speech during the session, all according to the order of requests. The application for registration in the Secretariat of the Council shall be in writing after the distribution of the agenda for each subject separately, if the application for registration is prior to the session.

And when opinions diverge, the Chairman shall take into account, as much as possible, that the speakers alternate between supporters and opponents of the subjects presented for discussion.

Without prejudice to the provisions of the preceding Paragraph, it shall be permissible for each person who requests speech to assign his role to someone else, and then the assignee shall take his place in the role.

Article (56)

The word shall always be given to the Prime Minister, Ministers and government representatives whenever they request speech from the Chairman, after the original speaker has finished his speech.

The Presidents of the committees and the rapporteurs, during the discussion of the subjects issued by their committees, shall have the right to speak whenever they request the Chairman of the Council to do so.

Article (57)

Subject to what is addressed by specific provisions, a member shall not be permitted to speak on the same subject in the same session more than twice, or that his speech exceed fifteen minutes in the first time, and ten minutes in the second, unless the Council permits otherwise.

Article (58)

The Chairman of the Council shall always authorize speech in the following cases:

- a- Drawing attention to the violation of the current discussion to the provisions of the Constitution, the law of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives or the provisions of this Regulation, without taking this as a means to speak on the subject.
- b- Correcting a specific alleged fact or responding to a saying in which there is defamation of the person who requested speech.
- c- A request to postpone consideration of the subject under discussion due to the need to decide on another subject linked to it.
- d- A request to close the discussion.

These requests, in their aforementioned order, shall have the priority over the original subject, and they shall stop discussing it until the Council issues a decision in this regard.

It shall not be permissible for the person requesting speech to speak regarding his request before the original speaker finishes, unless the Chairman authorizes him to do so, and the basis for the request of speech is one of the reasons indicated in Clause (a) of this Article.

Article (59)

If it transpires after permission for the member to speak that he has spoken in violation of any of the provisions of the previous Article, the Chairman of the Council shall be entitled to withdraw the word from him. The Council shall also be entitled, upon the proposal of its Chairman, to decide to warn him not to repeat this, or to prevent him from speaking on the subject presented until the end of the session.

Article (60)

The Council shall be entitled, based on a proposal by its Chairman, the government or the competent committee, or upon a written request signed by at least five members, to set a time to finish discussing a subject and take an opinion on it.

Article (61)

The Council shall be entitled, based on a proposal by its Chairman, the government or the competent committee, or upon a written request signed by at least three members, to close the door for discussion on one of the subjects, and in order to close the door for discussion, it shall be required that permission to speech has been granted to at least two supporters and two opponents, and it shall always be authorized for one member to speak after the government speaker.

Article (62)

Those who are authorized to speak shall speak standing from their places, or from the pulpit if the Chairman of the Council allows them to do so. The rapporteur shall always speak from the pulpit, as well as everyone who speaks during the discussion of the Royal Address or the government program, and in other cases in which the Chairman of the Council invites the speaker to speak from the pulpit.

The speaker shall not direct his speech to anyone other than the Chairman or the Council.

Article (63)

The speaker shall express his opinion and point of view, while preserving the dignity and prestige of the constitutional institutions of the State, and the dignity of the Council, its Chairman and its members. The speaker shall not repeat his own statements or those of others, and he shall

neither deviate from the subject under discussion, nor to come up in general with an order that violates the order and dignity required for the session. It shall not be permissible to speak about anyone's personal matters, unless supported by a final judicial ruling.

Article (64)

No one other than the Chairman of the Council shall interrupt the speaker or make any remarks to him.

The Chairman alone shall have the right to alert the speaker at any moment during his speech to his violation of the provisions of the previous Article or other provisions of this Regulation, or that his opinion has been sufficiently clear, and that there is no room for him to go on speaking. If he does not comply, he shall be entitled to draw his attention again. with proof of this in the minutes. If the member insists on his position, the matter shall be presented to the Council for a decision, taking into account the provisions of Article (67) of this Regulation.

Article (65)

If the speaker violates the order by violating one of the aforementioned provisions in this Regulation or in any other way, or makes inappropriate statements or harms the higher interest of the country, or exposes in bad faith to one of his colleagues, members of the government, or statutory bodies, or directs an insult, provocative phrase, or threat to one of those, if he deviated in any way from the requirements of decency, the Chairman shall call him by his name and warn him to maintain order, or prevent him from continuing to speak.

Article (66)

If the Chairman draws the attention of the speaker in accordance with the provisions of the two preceding Articles, and then returned in the

same session to deviating from the speech system, the Chairman shall be entitled to propose to the Council to prevent him from speaking on the same subject or until the end of the session, and the Council's decision in that regard shall be issued without discussion.

Article (67)

The Council shall be entitled, upon the proposal of its Chairman, to take one of the following penalties against a member who violates order during the session, or who does not comply with the Council's decision to prevent him from speaking:

- a- Prohibition from speaking on a specific subject for the rest of the session.
- b- Warning.
- c- Blame.
- d- Deprivation of speaking for the rest of the session.
- e- Expelling him from the meeting room and depriving him of participating in the rest of the session.
- f- Deprivation of attendance in the meeting room for one session.
- g- Deprivation from participation in the work of the Council and its committees for a period not exceeding two weeks.

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

Article (68)

If the member does not comply with the Council's decision, the Chairman shall be entitled to take whatever means he deems necessary to implement this decision after notifying the member of

that. He shall be able to stop the session or adjourn it, and in this case the deprivation shall extend to twice the period decided by the Council.

Article (69)

A member who has been denied participation in the Council's work under any of the provisions of the two preceding Articles shall be able to request the suspension of the provisions of this decision if he submits a written apology to the Chairman of the Council, in which he records his regret for not respecting the Council's order. This apology shall be recited during the session, and the Council shall issue its decision on the request without discussion.

Article (70)

If a member, in the same session, repeats something necessitates depriving him of participating in the Council's work, an apology shall not be accepted from him. In this case, the Council shall have the right to prevent him from participating in its work for a period not exceeding one month, or to refer his matter to the Bureau of the Council to submit a report to the Council on his violation of the order.

Article (71)

If the order is disturbed and the Chairman is unable to restore it, he shall declare his intention to suspend the session. If the order is not restored, he shall adjourn the session for a period not exceeding half an hour. If the breach of order continues after the re-establishment of the session, the Chairman shall adjourn it and announce the date of the subsequent session.

Article (72)

The Chairman shall be entitled to temporarily adjourn the session for a break for a period not exceeding half an hour. And shall adjourn it for prayer when the time has come.

Chapter Three

Taking Opinion and Announcing the Council's Decision

Article (73)

The Chairman of the Council shall take the opinion on the subject presented immediately after announcing the Council's decision to close the door for discussion thereon and after verifying the completion of the quorum required for the validity of expressing the opinion.

Article (74)

No proposal shall be presented for opinion except by the Chairman of the Council. Opinion shall be taken first on the proposals presented regarding the subject presented, and the priority in presenting them shall be given to the widest range and farthest from the original text. In the event that the Council rejects the aforementioned proposals, opinion shall be taken on the original text.

Article (75)

If the proposed proposal includes several matters, and its submitter or five of the other members requested its division, the Chairman shall present the opinion on each matter separately.

Article (76)

Taking into account the cases in which the opinion is taken by calling the name, the opinion shall be taken by one of the following means:

- a- Electronic voting.
- b- Raising hands.

c- Standing and sitting.

Article (77)

If the Chairman does not see the opinion of the majority when taking the opinion by raising hands, by standing and sitting and by asking the supporters to stand up. If the result is not clear, then the opinion shall be taken in reverse, by asking the opponents to get up, and if the result is not clear, the opinion shall be taken by calling the name.

Article (78)

An opinion shall be taken by calling by name in the following cases:

a - Cases in which a special majority is required.

b- If the Chairman of the Council or the government so requests.

c- If a written request is submitted by at least seven members prior to proceeding with the taking opinions, and this request shall not be accepted except after verifying the presence of its presenters during the session.

The member shall express his opinion when his name is called with the word **((agree))** or **((disagree))** or **((abstain))** without any commentary.

In exceptional cases, with the approval of the majority of the members of the Council present, the vote shall be held in secret.

In all cases, the Chairman shall cast his vote after the vote of all members. When the votes are equal, the side of the Chairman of the Council or whoever takes his place shall prevail.

Article (79)

Each member shall express his opinion on any subject presented for opinion on it. Nevertheless, the member shall be able to refrain from expressing his opinion, provided that he shall present the reasons for his

abstention to the Council after taking the opinion on the subject and prior to announcing the result.

Article (80)

Those who refrain from expressing their opinion shall not be considered to be approving or rejecting the subject. If it turns out that the number of members who actually expressed their opinion is less than the majority required for issuing the decision, the opinion shall be adjourned on the subject presented to a subsequent session.

The subject shall be re-pollled in that session, and if it does not have the necessary majority to approve it in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation, it shall be postponed to the subsequent session.

Article (81)

The Chairman shall announce the Council's decision on the subject presented in accordance with the opinion's conclusions. After announcing the decision, no comment shall be made on it.

Chapter Four

Minutes of the Session

Article (82)

The minutes of the session shall be the official statement of everything that happens during the session of matters and what was said in it, and it shall include a detail of what is recited during the session in terms of memoranda, projects, suggestions, the discussions that took place, the opinions expressed, the decisions and recommendations issued, and it shall also include a statement of the names of those who participated in voting and the opinion of each of them, whether it was for, against or abstaining, as well as the names of the absent members. Minutes of

each session shall be edited by the Council staff and under the supervision of the Secretary General of the Council.

Article (83)

The minutes shall be distributed to the members as soon as they are printed, and they shall be presented for ratification in the subsequent session for distribution in accordance with Article (50) of this Regulation. It shall be sufficient for the Bureau of the Council to ratify the minutes of the last sessions of the session that have not been ratified by the Council.

Article (84)

After the ratification of the minutes, it shall be signed by both the Chairman of the Council and the Secretary General, and it shall be kept in the Council's records, and it shall be published in a special appendix to the Official Gazette after sending it to the government.

Article (85)

The Chairman of the Council shall be entitled, on his own initiative or at the request of the government, to delete from the minutes of the session any speech issued by a member that is contrary to the provisions of this Regulation, and upon objection to that, the matter shall be presented to the Council to issue its decision in this regard without discussion.

Article (86)

An urgent summary of its minutes shall be prepared after each session, showing a summary of the subjects that were presented to the Council and the decisions and recommendations taken, in order to be available to the various media.

Part Four

Works of the Council

Chapter One

Legislative Affairs

Section One

Suggestions to the Amendment of the Constitution

Article (87)

The Prime Minister shall notify the Chairman of the Council of Representatives of the Royal Decree requesting to amend the Constitution in accordance with Articles (35) and (120) thereof.

The request shall include specifying the articles of the Constitution that are required to be deleted or added, or whose provisions are required to be changed, and the amendment request shall be accompanied by a statement of the justifications for that.

The Chairman of the Council shall order that the letter of the Prime Minister requesting the amendment and the statement attached thereto be printed within twenty-four hours of its receipt to the Council, and he shall also order its distribution to all members.

Article (88)

The Council shall hold a special session within a week from the date of receiving a request to amend the Constitution from the Prime Minister.

The Chairman of the Council shall present an explanatory statement of this request to the Council before it decides to refer it to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee to prepare a report on it within fifteen days of referring it. The committee shall include in its report its opinion on the principle of amendment, the drafting of the proposed articles to be

amended or added in the event that it agrees to the principle of amendment.

The draft report of the committee shall be recited to it in a session attended by at least two-thirds of its members prior to submitting it to the Council. The committee shall also approve the draft by a majority of its members after discussing it.

Article (89)

The Council shall set a session to consider the report of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee regarding the amendment of the Constitution within the next fifteen days to submit it to the Chairman of the Council, along with the text of the amendment request and its justifications.

The report of the committee shall be recited in the Council prior to discussing it, and the Council's decision approving the amendment shall be issued by a two-thirds majority of its members. In this case, voting shall take place by calling by name.

Article (90)

If the proposal to amend the Constitution has been submitted by the members of the Council in accordance with Article (92) of the Constitution, this request shall meet the conditions mentioned in the second Paragraph of Article (87) of this Regulation.

Requests submitted by a number less than the prescribed constitutional quorum shall be preserved, and the Chairman of the Council shall notify the applicants of these requests in writing.

The Chairman of the Council shall present the request submitted proposing the amendment within seven days of its submission to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee in order to prepare a report

regarding the principle of the amendment and its subjects. The report shall be presented to the Council, and an opinion shall be taken upon it by calling by name. If the Council approves the principle of the amendment and its subjects by a two-thirds majority of its members, then it shall refer the proposal to the government to formulate the draft for amending the Constitution.

Article (91)

The Council shall hold a special session within fifteen days from the date of receiving the draft amendment to the Constitution from the Prime Minister, and the draft shall be read out prior to discussing it, and the Council shall issue a decision approving the amendment in accordance with the provisions contained in the second Paragraph of Article (89) of this Regulation.

Article (92)

In all cases in which the Council of Representatives agrees to amend the Constitution and its amended articles in accordance with the provisions contained in this Section, the Chairman of the Council shall notify the Chairman of the Shura Council of this in order to present the amendment to the Council in order to take the prescribed measures in this regard.

Section Two

Draft Laws and Law Proposals

Article (93)

Proposals for laws shall be submitted by the members of the Council to its Chairman, drafted and specific as much as possible, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum including the definition of the provisions of the Constitution related to the proposal, the basic principles on which it is

based and the objectives it achieves. It shall not be permissible for a law proposal to be signed by more than five members.

Article (94)

The Chairman of the Council shall be entitled to notify the proposer in writing of his violation of the Constitution, his failure to meet the required form or the existence of the provisions contained in his articles in the laws in force, and to request him to correct or withdraw it.

If the member insists on his opinion, he shall submit a written memorandum to the Chairman of the Council with his point of view within a week from the date of his notification, and the Chairman shall present the matter to the Bureau of the Council.

The Chairman shall notify the member in writing of what the Bureau decides in this regard. If the member insists within a week on his point of view, the Chairman shall present the matter to the Council.

Article (95)

The Chairman shall refer the law proposal to the competent committee to express an opinion on its idea, and the committee shall be entitled to take the opinion of the proposer prior to submitting its report thereon. The committee shall prepare a report to be presented to the Council, including the opinion on the permissibility of considering the proposal, rejecting or postponing it. The committee shall be able to advise the Council to reject the proposal for reasons related to the subject in general. If the Council agrees to consider the proposal, it shall refer it to the government for drafting.

Any law proposal submitted by one of the members and rejected by the Council, it shall not be permissible for any of the members to submit it again in the same session except with the approval of the government.

Article (96)

If a committee approves a law proposal that would increase expenses or decrease revenues over what is stated in the general budget of the State, it shall refer it to the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee or its Bureau for an opinion. In these cases, the report of the original committee shall include the opinion of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee or its Bureau.

Article (97)

The Chairman shall submit to the Council draft laws submitted by the government or proposed by the members and drafted by the government in accordance with Article (95) of this Regulation at the first session following their receipt, in order to consider referring them to the competent committees, unless the government requests that the draft be considered as a matter of urgency or the Chairman of the Council considers that it has the status of urgency, so he shall directly refer it to the competent committee, and notify the Council of this in the first following session with the distribution of the draft to the members accompanied by the agenda of this session.

Article (98)

If a proposal or a draft law relating to another proposal or project presented to a committee is submitted, the Chairman shall directly refer it to this committee and notify the Council of this in the first following session.

Article (99)

If there are several draft laws or proposals in the same subject, the first of them shall be considered the original, and everything else shall be considered as an amendment to it.

Article (100)

If the competent committee introduces influential amendments to the drafting of a draft law, it shall be able, prior to submitting its report to the Council, to refer it, after the approval of the Chairman of the Council, to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee or its Bureau, to express its opinion on the drafting and the coordination of its articles and provisions within the period specified by the Chairman of the Council. The committee shall refer in its report to the opinion of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee or its Bureau.

Article (101)

At the beginning of each ordinary session, the committees shall resume examining the draft laws they have on their own without the need for a new referral.

In the event of a ministerial change, the Prime Minister shall be permitted to request the Chairman of the Council to postpone the consideration of all or some of these projects in the Council committees for a period not exceeding thirty days, so that the government prepares to discuss them, or to take the constitutional procedures prescribed for their amendment or restoration.

As for the reports on the draft laws and their proposals, which the Council began to consider in a previous session, its consideration shall resume in the state in which it was, unless the Council decides to return them to the committee at the request of the government in accordance with the provisions of the preceding Paragraph.

Article (102)

The Chairman of the Council shall notify the Prime Minister, within the fifteen days following the opening of the first session of each legislative term, of draft laws that have not been decided by the previous Council.

If the government does not request the Chairman of the Council to continue considering the aforementioned projects within two months from the date of notifying the Prime Minister, they shall be considered non-existent.

If the government requests its consideration, the Council shall refer it to the competent committee, and the committee shall be able to suffice in its regard with what was concluded by the opinion of the previous committee, if it has put a report in it.

Article (103)

The Council shall discuss draft laws in a single deliberation. However, a second deliberation shall be permitted to be held in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.

Article (104)

The discussion of draft laws shall begin with the recitation of the original draft and the report of the competent committee and the amendments contained therein, unless the Council deems it sufficient to distribute some or all of these documents with their proof in the record. When discussing the draft, speech shall be given to the rapporteur of the committee, the government and the members.

The deliberation shall begin by discussing the general principles and foundations of the project as a whole. If the Council does not approve the project in principle, this shall be considered a rejection of the project.

If the Council approves the draft in principle, it shall proceed to discuss its articles one by one after reading each of them and the suggestions

made thereon. The opinion shall be taken on each article separately, and then the opinion shall be taken on the draft as a whole.

Article (105)

When considering a draft law, each member shall be able to propose an amendment by adding, deleting or dividing the articles or the amendments presented. The amendment shall be submitted in writing at least forty-eight hours prior to the session at which the articles covered by the amendment are to be considered for circulation to the members.

It shall be permissible, with the approval of the Council, to consider the amendment submitted immediately prior to or during the session. The Council's decision to consider or exclude it shall be issued after hearing the proposer, if there is a subject, without discussion. If the Council approves the consideration of these amendments, the Chairman shall submit them to the Council and he shall be able to decide to examine them immediately or refer them to the competent committee to examine them and prepare a report on them.

Article (106)

The competent committee shall be notified of the substantial amendments submitted by the members prior to the session specified for the consideration of the project before the Council for consideration. The decision shall indicate the opinion of the committee during the discussion in the session. The amendment proposal shall be specific and worded.

The government and the rapporteur of the committee shall be permitted to request that the amendment proposed during the session of the Council be referred to the committee. This request shall be answered if the amendment proposal is substantial and has not been previously considered.

Article (107)

If the Council decides to refer the proposed amendment to the committee, this latter shall submit its report within the time specified by the Council. If this amendment has an impact on the rest of the articles of the draft, it shall be postponed until the committee completes its work in this regard, otherwise the Council shall continue to discuss the rest of the articles.

Amendments shall be considered non-existent, and shall not be presented for discussion, if their sponsors waive them without being adopted by one of the members.

Article (108)

After the completion of the discussion of the article and the amendments submitted thereon, the opinion on the amendments shall be taken first, and the Chairman shall start with the widest range and the furthest from the original text, and then the opinion on the article as a whole shall be taken.

Article (109)

If the Council decides on a provision in one of the articles that would make an amendment to an article it has previously approved, it shall be able to return to the discussion of that article. The Council shall be permitted, at the request of the government, the committee or one of the members, to decide to re-discuss a previously approved article if new reasons are expressed for this, prior to the end of the deliberation on the draft.

Article (110)

The Council shall be able, prior to taking a final opinion on the draft law, if amendments have been made to its texts during the session, to refer it

to the competent committee to express its opinion in conjunction with the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee or its Bureau in formulating and coordinating its provisions. The committee referred to the project shall submit its report on the date determined by the Council.

A discussion of the draft shall then take place only in relation to the wording.

Article (111)

A second deliberation shall be held on some of the articles of the draft law if a written request to do so is submitted to the Chairman of the Council by the government, the Chairman of the committee, its rapporteur or at least five members, prior to the session or the date specified for taking a final opinion on the draft law. The request shall indicate the article or articles that shall be re-considered and amended, the reasons and justifications for this amendment and the proposed wording of the articles to be amended.

Article (112)

In the second deliberation, it shall not be permissible to discuss other than the proposed amendments on which the request was submitted in accordance with the previous Article, and then the opinion shall be taken after the discussion on the articles proposed to be amended according to their order in the draft, and then the opinion on the draft shall be taken definitively.

Article (113)

The provisions relating to the amendments submitted in the first deliberation shall apply to the amendments submitted during the second deliberation.

Article (114)

It shall not be permissible for the Council to approve or reject any subject except after considering it in the competent committee or committees, and in the light of the reports it submits in this regard, taking into account the special provisions contained in this Regulation.

Article (115)

It shall not be permissible to take a final opinion on the draft law prior to the lapse of at least four days from the end of its deliberation.

It shall be permissible, with the approval of the Council, in urgent cases, to take the final opinion on the draft at the same session in which it was approved, at least one hour after the completion of its consideration, unless the majority of the members of the Council decides otherwise.

Article (116)

Whoever submits a law proposal shall retrieve it by a written request to the Chairman of the Council, even if this is during its discussion. The Council shall not continue to consider it unless it is signed by a member or members of another, or if one of the members requests to continue its consideration by a written request submitted to the Chairman of the Council, or if the government requests it.

Article (117)

Laws proposals submitted by members whose membership has ceased shall be forfeited, unless they are signed by a member or members of another, with the exception of law proposals that have already been approved by the Council and it was decided to refer them to the government for drafting. The government shall be able to continue to draft them and refer them to the Council.

Article (118)

Law proposals that are retrieved by their sponsors or are dropped in accordance with the provisions of the previous Article shall not be resubmitted in the same session.

Article (119)

All law proposals shall be dropped by the end of the legislative term, with the exception of law proposals that have already been approved by the previous Council and it was decided to refer them to the government for drafting, in which case the provisions of Article (102) of this Regulation shall apply.

The committees shall not resume the consideration of the law proposals referred to them in a previous session, unless their submitters request the Chairman of the Council to adhere to them in writing within thirty days from the start of the new session. The Chairman shall notify the committees of this request.

Article (120)

If the project or proposal consists of one article, it shall be sufficient to read and discuss it, and then take the final opinion on it once.

Article (121)

If the King objects to a draft law approved by the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives and rejects it in accordance with the provisions of Article (35) of the Constitution, the draft shall be referred to the Chairman of the Council of Representatives to notify the Council of the objection to the draft law and the reasons for the objection.

The Council shall hold an urgent session for this purpose, and the Prime Minister or his representative shall be entitled to make a statement in this regard. The Council shall refer the objection and the data related to it in the same session to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee to study

the objected project, the principles and texts that are the subject of the objection, and its constitutional or legislative reasons, as the case may be.

The report of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee shall be submitted to the Council for its urgent consideration. In the event that a two-thirds majority of the members of the Council approves the draft, it shall be referred to the Shura Council to complete the prescribed procedures.

Section Three

Legislative Decrees

Article (122)

The Chairman of the Council shall refer the legislative decrees issued in implementation of Article (38) of the Constitution to the competent committees to express their opinion thereon, and they shall have priority in the Council and in the committees over any other work.

Article (123)

It shall not be permissible to submit any amendment proposals in the texts of any legislative decree issued in accordance with the provisions of Article (38) of the Constitution.

Article (124)

The legislative decrees of procedures for discussing the draft laws stipulated in this Regulation shall apply. The Council shall vote on these decrees with approval or rejection.

The decision of the Council not to approve the legislative decree shall be issued by a majority of the members of the Council, and this decision shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Section Four

International Treaties and Conventions

Article (125)

The Chairman shall notify the Council of treaties or conventions concluded by decrees in accordance with the provisions of the first Paragraph of Article (37) of the Constitution accompanied by the government statement accompanying it. This statement shall be read at the first following session with the deposit of the treaty and its annexes with the Secretariat of the Council.

The Council shall be entitled to make any observations it deems appropriate regarding these treaties or conventions without taking a decision regarding the treaty itself.

Article (126)

The Chairman shall refer to the competent committee the treaties and conventions stipulated in the second Paragraph of Article (37) of the Constitution for examination and submission of a report thereon to the Council. The Council shall be entitled to approve or reject them or postpone their consideration, and it shall not amend their texts. In the event of rejection, the Chairman of the Council shall notify the Prime Minister of a statement that includes the texts or provisions contained in the treaty or convention that led to the rejection or postponement.

Chapter Two

Political Affairs

Section One

Proposals

Article (127)

The Council of Representatives shall be entitled to express the written wishes of the government in public matters, and if the government is unable to take these wishes into account, it shall explain to the Council in writing the reasons for this.

Article (128)

It shall be permissible for each member to submit to the Chairman a proposal of a public interest to be presented by the Council to the government in matters within its competence.

The proposal shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Council, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum clarifying the subject of the desire and the considerations of the public interest justified for presenting the proposal to the Council.

The Chairman shall refer the proposal as soon as it is submitted to the competent committee to study it and submit a report thereon to the Council. The committee shall be entitled to take the opinion of the proposer prior to submitting a report thereon.

In the event of urgency, the Council shall be able to decide to consider the proposal willingly without referring it to the competent committee. In this case, the government or the competent Minister shall be entitled to request the postponement of the discussion of the proposal for a period of at most one week, and this request shall be met. The postponement for more than this period shall not be except by a decision of the Council.

Article (129)

It shall not be permissible to submit a proposal signed by more than five members of the Council.

The proposal shall not contain anything contrary to the Constitution or the law, detrimental to the supreme interest of the State, inappropriate or offensive to the dignity of persons or bodies or outside the competence of the Council.

The Chairman of the Council shall be entitled to save any proposal that violates the provisions of the preceding Paragraph, and notify the proposer in writing of his decision and its reasons, and he shall be entitled to warn him not to speak about it. If the member insists on his point of view, the Chairman shall present the matter to the Council to express his opinion on it without discussion.

Article (130)

The member submitting the proposal shall have priority of speech at the session in which the report on his proposal is included in its agenda.

The Chairman of the Council shall be permitted to authorize one of the supporters of the proposal and one of its opponents to speak prior to taking the opinion of the Council on the report of the committee.

Article (131)

In the event that the Council rejects the proposal, it shall not be permissible to be resubmitted prior to the lapse of four months from such rejection.

Article (132)

Each member shall be entitled to submit a proposal with the desire to retrieve it by a written request submitted to the Chairman of the Council until before the inclusion of the report of the committee on his proposal in the agenda of the Council. In this case, the Council shall not consider it.

The aforementioned proposals shall be forfeited by the termination of the membership of the applicants, and the remainder of them shall be forfeited in the committees until the beginning of the subsequent session, unless they are requested by the Chairman of the Council in writing within thirty days from the beginning of the new session to adhere to them. The Chairman of the Council shall inform the committee of these requests to resume its consideration.

In all cases, these proposals shall be dropped by the end of the legislative term.

Section Two

Questions

Article (133)

Each member of the Shura Council shall be entitled to address written questions to the Ministers determining the subject matter, in order to seek clarification on matters within their jurisdiction or to inquire about any matter of which the member is unaware or to verify the occurrence of an event brought to their attention.

The question shall not be signed by more than one member and it shall only be directed to one Minister.

Article (134)

The question shall be signed by the questioner, written as clearly and concisely as possible, and specific to a matter of public importance, it shall not be related to the personal interests of the inquirer, his relatives up to the fourth degree or any of their clients. The question shall focus on the matters intended for inquiry without commentary. It shall not contain inappropriate language, insult the dignity of individuals, authorities or public institutions, harm the higher national interest. It shall not be related

to matters outside the Minister's jurisdiction or request information or statistics unrelated to the subject of the question.

If the question does not meet these conditions, the Bureau of the Council shall be permitted to exclude it based on a referral from the Chairman with informing the member of this. If the member is not convinced of the Bureau's point of view, and objects to it within a week from the date of his notification, the matter shall be submitted to the Council for decision without discussion, prior to taking the measures stipulated in the following Article.

Article (135)

Requests to direct questions shall be recorded according to their dates in a special register, and the Chairman of the Council shall notify the question in which the provisions of the preceding Article have been taken into account to the Minister to whom the question is addressed within ten days from the date of its submission. The Minister shall respond to the question in writing within a maximum period of fifteen days from the date of notification.

Article (136)

The Chairman shall inform the questioner of the answer as soon as it is received, and the question and answer shall be included in the agenda of the first following session.

The question that the Minister did not respond to on the date specified in the previous Article shall also be included in the table to be answered orally in the Council. The Minister shall be entitled to request a postponement of the answer to a date not exceeding seven days, and his request shall be granted. It shall not be permissible to postpone for more than this period except by a decision of the Council.

Article (137)

It shall not be permissible to inform Ministers of questions relating to subjects referred to the Council committees, before the committee submits its report to the Council. If the committee is late for the specified date, the question shall be reported to the Minister.

No questions shall be communicated to the Ministers prior to the presentation by the Ministry of its programme unless they are on a subject of special and urgent importance, and after the approval of the Chairman of the Council.

A member shall only be allowed to submit one question within a single month.

The questions submitted on one subject or closely related subjects shall be combined when notifying the Minister for simultaneous answering.

Article (138)

When presenting the question that was included in the agenda and the answer to it, the member shall be able to declare that he is satisfied with the response, so the discussion of the subject is closed, or he expresses his desire to speak, so he alone is given the right to briefly comment on the Minister, and the Minister shall be entitled to comment on that comment in writing or orally.

Article (139)

The government shall be permitted, on its own initiative or on the occasion of a question directed to one of its Ministers, to request a discussion on a specific subject related to the State's public policy to obtain the Council's opinion or provide statements regarding it.

Article (140)

The previous procedures for questions shall not apply to those addressed to Ministers during the discussion of the budget or any subject before the Council, and members shall be entitled, after being authorized speech, to orally ask these questions during the session, provided that they shall meet the conditions stipulated in Articles (133) and (134) of this Regulation and that they shall be related to the subject presented before the Council.

Article (141)

Following the completion of the subject of the papers and letters referred to in the third Paragraph of Article (50) of this Regulation, half an hour shall be allocated for questions and answers. If anything remains after that, it shall be included in the agenda of the subsequent session unless the Council decides otherwise. A legal quorum shall not be required during the presentation of questions and their answers, as long as such quorum is present at the beginning of the session.

Article (142)

It shall be permissible for a member to retrieve his question at any time, and it shall not be permissible to convert the question into an interpellation at the same session.

Article (143)

The question shall be nullified by the loss of the status of the questioner or the addressee, or by the end of the session during which the question has been submitted.

Section Three

Intepellations

Article (144)

It shall be permissible, based on a request signed by at least five members, to direct interpellations to any of the Ministers on matters within their competencies.

Article (145)

The request for directing the interpellation shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Council, indicating in general the subject of the interpellation, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum containing a statement of the matters interpellated, the main facts and points dealt with in the interpellation and the reasons on which the interpellators are based, the violation attributed to the person to whom the interpellation is directed and the grounds that support interpellators.

The interrogation shall not include matters contrary to the Constitution or the law, inappropriate phrases or statements that insult the dignity of individuals, authorities or harm the higher national interest. It shall not be related to matters outside the jurisdiction of the interpellated Minister, acts or actions prior to his assumption of the Ministry or present a private interest to the interpellator or his relatives up to the fourth degree or to one of his clients.

It shall also not be permissible to submit an interpellation on a subject in which the Council has already decided on in the same session.

No interpellation shall be included in the agenda prior to the Ministry's presentation of its programme.

Article (146)

Taking into account the provisions of the preceding Article, the Chairman of the Council shall inform the person to whom the interpellation is directed, and the Chairman shall notify the interpellators in writing of this, and the interpellation shall be included in the agenda of the Council at

the first session following its submission, in order to refer it to the competent committee for discussion and submission of a report to the Council.

It shall include interpellations submitted on one subject, or on several subjects closely related to each other, and shall be included in the agenda for referral to the committee at one time.

Each interpellator shall be 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 in the competent committee 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 shall be entitled to request an extension of the period stipulated in the preceding Paragraph to two weeks at most, and his request shall be granted and the postponement for more than this period shall not be except by a decision of the the committee.

Article (147)

Interpellations shall take precedence over all other items stipulated on the of the committee's work and, unless the committee decides otherwise. The discussion of the interpellation shall begin 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 whichever cedes his role to the other interpellators, then the Minister to whom the interpellation is directed shall respond, and the members supporting and opposing to the interpellation shall speak alternately.

Article (148)

It shall be permissible for any member of the committee to request from the Minister any data necessary to clarify the truth of the matter with regard to the subject of the interpellation presented to the committee, and such request shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Council well in advance of the session specified for discussing the interpellation.

The Minister shall submit the aforementioned data after directing the request from the Chairman of the Council to him, and at least forty-eight hours prior to the date specified for discussion.

Article (149)

After the completion of the committee's discussion of the interpellation, the President of the committee shall submit its report to the Chairman of the Council, and the Chairman shall present to the Council at the first session following the submission of the report to it, the proposals submitted by to him by the committee 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 shall be held in the Council prior to 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.

Article (150)

Any of the interpellators shall have the right to retrieve the interpellation at any time, either by written request of the Chairman of the Council or orally at the session. If this retrieval results in that the number of interpellators is less than five, the interpellation shall be excluded from the agenda and shall not be considered.

The failure of one of the interpellators to attend the session specified for discussion in 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, in which case the consideration of the interpellation shall be deferred by the commission to a subsequent session and only once after hearing the opinion of the Minister to whom the interpellation is directed.

Article (151)

The interpellation shall be dropped by the demise of the capacity of the person to whom it is addressed, or by the termination of the membership of one of the presenters for any reason whatsoever, if this results in the number of interpellators being less than five, or by the end of the role during which it was submitted.

Section Four

Withdrawal of Confidence from a Minister

Article (152)

A request to withdraw confidence from one of the Ministers shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Council and signed by ten members. It shall not be permissible for this request to be submitted except after the Council has completed discussing an interpellation

addressed to the person who submitted the request to withdraw confidence from him.

Article (153)

The Chairman shall submit a request to withdraw confidence from the Minister to the Council immediately after submitting it to it, after verifying the presence of the applicants during the session. The absence of one of them shall be considered a waiver of the request.

It shall be permissible for the Council to postpone the discussion of the request to a date it determines.

Article (154)

Prior to voting in the Council on the subject of confidence, the Chairman shall authorize speech on the subject to two of the proposers of the motion of no confidence in order of their request, and to two of its opponents as well, unless the Council gives permission to speech to a larger number.

Article (155)

It shall not be permissible for the Council to issue its decision on the request for withdrawal of confidence prior to the lapse of seven days from the date of its submission, provided that at least three days shall have elapsed from the date of the end of the discussion therein.

The Council shall issue its decision of no confidence by a two-thirds majority of the members of which it is composed.

Section Five

Inability to Cooperate with the Prime Minister

Article (156)

The Council of Representatives shall not raise the issue of confidence in the Prime Minister, however if two-thirds of the members of the Council, based on a request submitted by ten members, deem it impossible to cooperate with the Prime Minister, the matter shall be referred -without discussion- to the National Council for consideration, and the Chairman of the Council shall notify the Prime Minister of this.

Article (157)

The Chairman of the Shura Council shall call the National Council to meet immediately upon the referral of the Council of Representatives of the proposal that it is not possible to cooperate with the Prime Minister. The Chairman shall present the request by proposing the inability to cooperate to the Council, after verifying the presence of the applicants during the session, and the absence of one of them during it shall be considered a waiver of the request, and it shall result in dropping it.

Article (158)

Prior to voting in the National Council on the proposal of the inability to cooperate, the Chairman shall authorize speech on the subject to two of the proposers in order of their request, and to two of its opponents as well, unless the Council gives permission to speech to a larger number.

Article (159)

It shall not be permissible for the National Council to issue its decision on the proposal of the inability to cooperate prior to the lapse of seven days from the date of its referral, and the Council shall issue its decision of the inability to cooperate by a majority of two-thirds of the members of which it is composed.

Section Six

Investigation Requests

Article (160)

It shall be permissible for the Council of Representatives, at any time, to form committees or delegate one or more of its members to investigate any matter within its competence.

Article (161)

The procedures prescribed in the preceding Article shall be taken at the request of the Bureau of the Council or one of its committees, or on the basis of a proposal submitted by at least five members.

The Council shall select the committee or member conducting the investigation based on the nomination of its chairman, taking into account the specialization and experience in the subjects being investigated.

Article (162)

It shall be permissible for investigators to take all necessary measures to obtain data, information and papers related to the subjects referred to them.

All competent authorities shall cooperate with investigators in the performance of their task, and shall provide them with the necessary means to collect the evidence they deem necessary, and enable them to obtain the reports, data, documents or exhibits they need.

Article (163)

The result of the investigation shall be submitted within a period not exceeding four months from the date of its commencement. If it is not possible to submit the report to the Council on the set date, a report shall be prepared for the Council including the obstacles and reasons that led

to this delay, and the Council shall be entitled to extend this period for another period or periods that do not all exceed four months, or take what it deems appropriate in this case.

Article (164)

The report shall include the measures taken to investigate all the facts regarding the referred subject and proposals on the treatment of the negatives found.

The Council shall discuss the report in the first session following its submission, and the priority of speech shall be for those who submit a written request for this purpose to the Chairman of the Council prior to the date specified for discussion.

Chapter Three

Finances

General Budget and its Closing Accounts

Article (165)

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

Article (166)

The Chairman shall immediately refer the draft budget law to the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee upon its submission the Council, and he shall notify the Council of that in the first subsequent session.

Article (167)

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee shall submit to the Council a report containing an overview of the bases on which the draft budget is based and an appropriate statement for each of its Parts, noting the observations and suggestions submitted by the members of the Council or the committee thereon, within a period not exceeding six weeks from the date of referring the draft to the committee. If this period expires without the committee submitting the aforementioned report, it shall indicate the reasons for this to the Council. The Council shall be entitled to grant it another period not exceeding two weeks, and if it does not submit its report within this period, the Council shall be permitted to discuss the draft budget law in the case received from the government.

Article (168)

The consideration of the budget in the Council and its committees shall be by means of urgency, and the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee shall refer the Parts that finish their consideration to the Council for successive consideration.

The provisions stipulated in Article (217) of this Regulation shall apply in regard to the draft budget law.

Article (169)

Discussion of the budget in the Council shall be on the basis of the classification contained therein. It shall be permissible for the budget to be prepared for more than one fiscal year, and no revenue from public revenues shall be allocated to a specific aspect of expenditure except by law.

Article (170)

Every amendment proposed by the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee in the appropriations included in the draft budget shall be with

the approval of the government, and the committee shall note this approval in its report.

Article (171)

Whoever wishes to speak on a subject related corresponding one of the Parts of the budget shall register his name after the distribution the report of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee and before discussing it. The speech requester shall specify the issues that his research will address, and the discussion in the Council shall be limited to the subjects raised by the speech requester, and all of this unless the Council permits otherwise.

Article (172)

It shall not be permissible to revoke or amend an existing department or function under an applicable legal system, or to amend an existing law by revoking or amending the appropriations recorded in the budget. If the Council deems it necessary to do so, it shall submit a proposal for a special law in this regard.

Article (173)

The closing account of the State's financial affairs for the past year shall be submitted to the Council of Representatives first within the five months following the end of the fiscal year, and the Chairman, after its approval by the Council, shall refer it to the Shura Council with his observations.

Article (174)

The provisions relating to the discussion and issuance of the general budget shall apply to the closing account, additional appropriations, and transfers from one Part of the budget to another. These provisions shall also apply to independent and supplementary budgets and additional

appropriations relating to them, and transfers from one Part to another of its Parts and closing accounts.

Part Five

Rights and Duties of Members

Chapter One

Parliamentary Immunity

Article (175)

It shall not be permissible, during the session, except in the case of a flagrante delicto, to take measures towards the member for detainment, investigation, search, arrest, imprisonment or any other criminal procedure except with the prior permission of the Council.

In the absence of the session of the Council, any of these measures shall be taken with the permission of the Chairman of the Council. It shall be considered as permission that the Council or the Chairman does not issue their decision to request permission within a month from the date of reaching it.

The Council shall be notified of any measures that may be taken in accordance with the preceding Paragraph during its meeting, and it shall always be notified at its first meeting of any action taken during the Council's annual holiday against any of its members.

Article (176)

The request for permission to lift the immunity of the member shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Council by the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs.

The request shall be accompanied by an official copy of the case files in which action is required.

The Chairman shall refer the aforementioned request and its attachments to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee for examination and opinion. The committee shall prepare its report regarding the request to lift immunity within ten days at most from the date of referral of the papers to it.

Article (177)

It shall not be permissible for a member to waive immunity without the permission of the Council, and the this latter shall be entitled to authorize the member, upon his request, to hear his statements if any accusation is made against him, even before he submits a request to lift immunity. In this case, it shall not be permissible to take any other measures against the member, except after the issuance of a decision by the Council to authorize this in accordance with the provisions of the two preceding Articles.

Article (178)

It shall not be permissible for the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee nor for the Council to examine the availability or lack of evidence for conviction in the subject of the criminal charge. The examination shall be limited to the extent of the maliciousness of the prosecution and to verify whether it is intended to prevent the member from performing his parliamentary responsibilities in the Council

Criminal proceedings shall always be authorized when it is proven that the procedure is not intended to prevent the member from performing his parliamentary responsibilities in the Council.

Chapter Two

Presence and Absence of Members

Article (179)

The member shall regularly attend the meetings of the Council and its committees.

Article (180)

A member who is absent from one of the sessions of the Council or the meetings of its committees shall notify the Chairman of the Council or the President of the committee in writing, as the case may be.

It shall not be permissible for a member to be absent from more than two meetings of the Council or three consecutive meetings of the committee, unless he obtains a leave or permission from the Chairman of the Council for reasons that justify this, or if the absence is for an acceptable excuse submitted to the Chairman of the Council or the President of the committee at the subsequent session or meeting.

Leave for an indefinite period shall not be requested.

The Chairman shall notify the Council of the leaves granted to the members at the first subsequent session.

Article (181)

If the member is absent from attending the meetings of the Council or its committees without leave or permission, or if he does not attend after the lapse of the period in which he is licensed, he shall be considered absent without permission and his right to remuneration shall be forfeited for the period of absence.

Article (182)

A member who is dismissed from the session of the Council or the sessions of its committees permanently prior to their conclusion shall seek permission in writing from the Chairman of the Council or the President of the committee, as the case may be.

Article (183)

A member of the Council who is sent abroad on a special mission for the Council shall be considered to be on leave for the period specified for this task.

Article (184)

The President of the committee shall submit to the Chairman of the Council on a monthly basis, and whenever the President of the committee deems it necessary, a report on the attendance and absence of the members of the committee.

Chapter Three

Member Duties

Article (185)

The member shall observe due respect for the State's constitutional institutions and the principles of decency with his colleagues in the Council and the chairmanship of the session.

Article (186)

It shall not be permissible for a member to commit acts inside or outside the Council that violate the provisions of the Constitution, the law or this Regulation.

Article (187)

It shall be prohibited for a member to allow the exploitation of his capacity to obtain special benefits without any right.

Article (188)

It shall not be permissible for a member, immediately after announcing his election, to accept appointment in a foreign company, nor to accept membership in the Boards of Directors of joint stock companies or

the control boards of limited partnership by shares and limited liability companies, unless he is one of the founders, the owner of at least ten percent of the shares of the company's capital or if he had previously held membership in these boards prior to announcing his election.

Article (189)

Every member shall, immediately upon the announcement of his election, notify the Chairman of the Council of his membership in the companies stipulated in the previous Article, the free profession he practices or any commercial, industrial or agricultural activity he undertakes.

He shall notify the Chairman of the Council of any change that occurs during the term of his membership to these data, within a month at most from the time of its occurrence.

Article (190)

The member shall, when discussing any subject presented to the Council, its Bureau or one of its committees relating to a personal interest of him or one of his relatives up to the fourth degree or to one of his clients , notify the Council, the Bureau or the committee of this prior to discussion.

Chapter Four

Parliamentary Penalties

Article (191)

Subject to what is stipulated in Article (99) of the Constitution, and without prejudice to criminal or civil liability, a member who is proven to have breached the duties of membership or committed an act prohibited to him shall be subject to one of the following penalties:

a- Verbal warning.

b- Written warning.

c- Blame.

d- Deprivation from participation in the work of the Council for a period no less than two sessions and not exceeding ten.

e- Deprivation from participation in the work of the Council for a period exceeding ten sessions and not exceeding the end of the session.

f- Membership revocation.

Taking into account the penalties stipulated in Articles (65), (66), (67) and (68) of this Regulation, it shall not be permissible to impose any of the penalties stipulated in the previous Clauses on the member except after hearing his statements and achieving his defence. The Council shall entrust this to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, and the approval of the majority of the members of the Council shall be required for the imposition of one of the penalties stipulated in Clauses (c), (d) and (e) of this Article.

The membership revocation shall be subject to the approval of two-thirds of the members of the Council and taking into account the procedures stipulated in this Regulation.

Article (192)

The member's right to membership remuneration shall be forfeited for the period during which the Council decides not to involve him in its work.

If the person against whom the previous penalty was imposed is a President or Vice President of one of the committees, this shall result in his removal from his position in the committee , in the session during which the penalty was imposed.

Part Six

Membership Expiry

Chapter One

Membership Revocation

Article (193)

In the event that the Chairman of the Council is notified by one of the official authorities of the issuance of judicial rulings, actions or decisions resulting in the membership revocation in accordance with Article (99) of the Constitution, the Chairman of the Council shall refer the matter to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee within three days from the date of the notification, and shall inform the Council of this in the first subsequent session.

After hearing the member's statements and investigating his defence, the committee shall examine the matter from the constitutional and legal points of view. If the committee concludes that what it has established results in membership revocation, it shall submit a report with its opinion to the Bureau of the Council to refer it to the Council for consideration at the first subsequent session to decide on what it deems appropriate.

Article (194)

At least ten of the members of the Council shall be permitted to submit a written request to the Chairman of the Council proposing to revoke the membership of one of its members, for one of the reasons set out in Article (99) of the Constitution, and the reasons for this shall be stated in the request.

The Chairman of the Council shall notify the member in writing of a copy of the proposal to revoke membership from him, after the Bureau of the Council verifies that the formal conditions are met in the request.

The request for membership revocation shall be included in the agenda of the first session of the Council following the notification of the member of a copy of the request, to decide to refer it to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee.

Article (195)

The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee shall not start its procedures except after notifying the member in writing to attend on the date it specifies, provided that the period between the date of notification and the date specified for the convening of the committee shall not be less than three days.

The committee shall listen to the member's statements and verify his defences, and the member shall leave the meeting venue when votes are taken.

If the member fails to attend, the committee shall notify him again in accordance with the previous rules. If he fails after that without an acceptable excuse, the committee shall continue to proceed with its procedures.

The member shall be able to choose one of the members of the Council to assist him in presenting his defence before the committee.

The committee shall submit its report to the Chairman of the Council after the approval of a majority of two-thirds of its members within two weeks at most from the date of its referral to it. This report shall be presented to the Council at the first subsequent session, and the Council's decision thereon shall be issued within a period not exceeding two weeks from the date of presenting the report to it.

Article (196)

The report of the committee on the membership revocation shall be read before the Council, and an opinion shall be taken on it by name. The Council's decision to revoke membership shall not be issued except with the approval of at least two-thirds of its members. It shall be permissible for the Council to decide to make the vote secret.

Article (197)

The request to cancel the effect preventing the nomination resulting from the membership revocation in accordance with what is stated in Clause (d) of Article (57) of the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Council. The request shall be accompanied by a statement of the decision of the Council, its reasons, the justification for removing the effect preventing the nomination and the supporting documents.

The Chairman shall submit the request to the Council for referral to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee to prepare a report thereon to the Council.

The committee shall summon the person whose membership has previously been revoked, listen to his statements and achieve his defences. Its report shall include a discussion of the reasons and grounds he has presented for his request.

The report shall be submitted to the Council, and the Council shall issue its decision in this regard within two weeks at most from the date of submitting the report to it.

Chapter Two

Member Resignation and Vacancy

Article (198)

Resignation from the membership of the Council shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Council in writing and shall be free of any restriction or condition.

The Chairman shall present the resignation within three days from the date of its receipt to the Bureau of the Council for consideration at a meeting to which the resignation applicant is invited. The resignation shall be presented to the Council accompanied by a report from the Bureau of the Council at the first subsequent session.

It shall be permissible -based on the proposal of the Chairman of the Council or the request of the member- to consider resignation in a secret session. The resignation shall not be considered accepted except from the time of its approval by the Council, and the member shall be able to revoke his resignation prior to the issuance of the Council's decision to accept it.

Article (199)

If the membership of a member terminates by death, resignation, or membership revocation, the Chairman of the Council shall announce the vacancy of his place in the department at the same session in which the death of the member is announced or the termination of his membership is decided. The Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs shall be notified of the vacancy of the place within a week from the date of announcing this to the Council to take measures to elect his replacement.

If the vacancy occurred, for any reason, during the six months preceding the end of the legislative term of the Council, no replacement member shall be elected.

Part Seven

Council Affairs

Chapter One

Maintaining Order in the Council

Article (200)

Maintaining order within the Council shall be the competence of its Chairman.

The Chairman, in coordination with the Minister of Interior, shall determine the number of guards necessary to maintain security and order.

This guard shall be under the command of the Chairman of the Council and independent of any other authority.

It shall not be permissible for any other armed force to enter the Council or to settle in the vicinity of its doors except at the request of the Chairman.

It shall not be permissible for anyone other than the guard responsible for maintaining security and order, to carry any kind of weapon inside the premises of the Council. The Chairman of the Council shall set the system that ensures this.

Article (201)

It shall not be permissible for anyone to enter the Council except with a permit issued in accordance with the system set by the Bureau of the Council.

Those who are authorized entry shall follow the instructions issued to them by the Council's guards.

Article (202)

It shall not be permissible to enter the session room or the places where the meetings of the committees are held at the time of their convening for

non-members of the Council, those assigned to work in it, those assigned by the Prime Minister or other members of the government to assist them , and those whom the Council or the committee authorizes them to attend.

Article (203)

Places shall be allocated for representatives of newspapers and other media, and for the public, in the balconies of the Council to watch its sessions.

The Chairman of the Council shall set the rules and procedures for permission to enter these balconies.

Article (204)

Those authorized to enter the balconies of the Council shall remain completely silent for the duration of the session, remain seated, show no signs of approval or disapproval and take into account the instructions and observations given to them by those charged with maintaining order.

Those who maintain order shall be able to instruct those who make noise or breach order who have been authorized to enter the balconies to leave them. If they do not comply, the Chairman shall be entitled to order the guard of the Council to remove them and hand them over to the competent authority if necessary.

Chapter Two

Council Budget and its Closing Account

Article (205)

The appropriations allocated to the budget of the Council shall be included in a single figure in the State budget, and the Council shall

approve its annual budget within the limits of the appropriation included in this regard in the State budget in agreement with the government.

The budget of the Council shall be promulgated by law, attached to the State's general budget and the provisions relating to the State's general budget shall apply.

Article (206)

After the issuance of the Council's budget law, the appropriation allocated to it in the State budget shall be deposited in the entity chosen by the Bureau of the Council, and this appropriation shall not be disbursed except with the permission of the Chairman of the Council or his representative.

Article (207)

The Bureau of the Council shall set the rules for the organization of the Council's accounts, the system of disbursement and inventory and other financial matters.

Article (208)

The provisions prescribed in the preceding Articles regarding the budget of the Council of Representatives shall apply in regard to additional appropriations.

Article (209)

The Secretariat General of the Council shall prepare its closing account within thirty days from the end of the fiscal year, and the Chairman shall refer it to the Bureau of the Council for consideration prior to presenting it to the Council for discussion and approval.

The Bureau of the Council shall be able to refer the closing account to the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee for consideration and

submission of a report thereon to be presented to the Council at the first subsequent session.

The procedures followed in approving and issuing the closing account shall be followed in approving and issuing the budget of the Council.

Chapter Three

General Secretariat of the Council

Article (210)

The Council shall have a General Secretariat, which shall be regulated by a decision issued by the Chairman of the Council after the approval of the Bureau of the Council. The decision shall include the detailed provisions relating to administrative and financial affairs. Until this decision is issued, the Chairman of the Council shall be permitted to issue temporary decisions to regulate the affairs of the Secretariat General.

Article (211)

The Chairman of the Council shall supervise the Secretariat General and all administrative, financial and technical affairs and works of the Council.

Article (212)

The Council shall have a Secretary General appointed by decree in the rank of Undersecretary. He shall have the financial and administrative competences and powers prescribed in the laws and regulations for the Undersecretaries of the Ministries.

The Secretary General shall prepare the draft agenda of the meetings of the Council for approval by the Bureau and the Chairman of the Council.

He shall attend the meetings of the Council, attend the meetings of the committees at their request and shall be responsible for his work before the Chairman of the Council.

Article (213)

The Chairman of the Council shall have the powers vested in the Minister and the Minister of Finance and National Economy stipulated in the laws and regulations. The Bureau of the Council shall have jurisdiction over the matters for which a decision shall be issued by the Prime Minister, as well as the matters in which the laws and regulations require the opinion or approval of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, the Civil Service Bureau or any other body, as the case may be.

Part Eight

Miscellaneous Provisions

Article (214)

The Prime Minister and the Ministers shall be specified special places in the front of the session room, and the representatives of the government shall have other places specified by a decision of the Chairman of the Council.

Article (215)

The Bureau of the Council shall set the general organizational rules related to the facilities provided to the members of the Council to enable them to carry out their responsibilities.

Article (216)

The Bureau of the Council shall, on the basis of what is proposed by its Chairman, establish a special system of precedence in the

ceremonies between the members of the Council in its official meetings and in the meetings it convenes or calls for.

The Chairman of the Council shall notify the Prime Minister of this system.

Article (217)

Urgent matters shall be discussed prior to others in the Council and its committees, and the provisions of the ordinary dates prescribed in this Regulation shall not apply to them.

The Council shall be entitled to decide to discuss urgent matters in the same session, provided that the competent committee shall submit its report to the Council in the same session. It shall also be permissible in this case for the Council to decide to take the final opinion on the draft law in the same session in accordance with Article (115) of this Regulation.

The matter shall be considered urgent if requested by the government or the Chairman of the Council.

Apart from what is stated in Article (87) of the Constitution, the Council shall be entitled, in all cases, to decide to refrain from urgency and follow the normal procedures. The status of urgency shall be stipulated in the referral decision to both the Council and the committees.

The provisions of this Article shall be without prejudice to any special provision for a state of urgency stipulated in the Constitution or in this Regulation.

Article (218)

The press and other media shall ensure accuracy in transmitting and summarizing the sessions of the Council. Each member shall have the right to request the Chairman of the Council to correct errors in a letter

sent by the Chairman to the newspaper or media outlet that distorted the facts. It shall publish or announce the book as soon as possible without comment. This shall not preclude the filing of a public lawsuit.

Article (219)

Law No. (4) of 1974 regarding the Internal Regulation of the National Council shall be repealed.

Article (220)

This Law shall come into force from 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: 17 Shaaban 1423 A.H. Corresponding to: 23 October 2002