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**Law No. (31) of 2010 Amending Certain Provisions of Legislative  
Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the  
Council of Representatives**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution,

Legislative Decree No. (15) of 2002 regarding the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, amended by Legislative Decree No. (30) of 2002,

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

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

And Law No. (60) of 2006 Reorganising the Legal Affairs Directorate,

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives have approved the following Law, which we have ratified and enacted:

**Article One**

The texts of Articles (12) paragraph two, (18) clauses (a) and (b), (19) paragraphs one and two, (21), (23), (27) paragraph two, (36), (48), (51) paragraph one, (56) paragraph two, (78) paragraph one, (79), (95), (101), (102), (117), (119), (132) paragraph two, (140), and (217) paragraph three of Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the Council of Representatives shall be replaced with the following texts:

## Article (12) Second Paragraph

The President opens the sessions, presides over them, maintains order, announces their conclusion and adjournment, manages discussions, grants permission to speak, directs questions, announces voting results, and may speak at any time if deemed beneficial for the order or clarification of the discussion.

## Article (18) Paragraphs (a) and (i)

a. Preparing the agenda for the Council's sessions, prioritizing the inclusion of draft laws submitted by the government that have been reviewed by the relevant committees, as well as significant current topics. The President shall announce the agenda and notify the members and the government at least two days before the regular session.

i. Discussing any other matter that the President of the Council or any member of the office deems appropriate for consultation.

## Article (19) First and Second Paragraphs:

### First Paragraph

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article (14), the Office of the Council shall convene at the invitation of its President or, in their absence, one of the deputies. Meetings shall be valid with the presence of a majority of its members, provided that either the President or one of the deputies is among them.

## Paragraph Two

Decisions shall be issued by a majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the side supported by the President of the meeting shall prevail.

## Article (21)

During the first week of the commencement of a regular session, the following specialised committees shall be formed to examine matters within the Council's jurisdiction:

First - The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, composed of eight members. This committee is tasked with reviewing draft laws to ensure their compliance with the Constitution, assisting the Council and other committees in drafting legislative texts, handling member-related matters, examining cases of membership revocation, granting permission to lift immunity, and addressing all matters outside the scope of other committees.

Second - The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, composed of eight members. This committee is responsible for reviewing construction projects for economic and social development within the state budget, evaluating economic plans and offering observations on them, as well as examining financial and economic aspects of the work of various ministries and agencies, particularly budgets and final accounts.

Third - The Foreign Affairs, Defence, and National Security Committee, composed of seven members. This committee is tasked with examining the international situation, developments in global politics, the foreign policy of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and international agreements and treaties. It is also

responsible for reviewing all matters related to internal security, crime prevention, and external state security.

Fourth - The Services Committee, composed of seven members. This committee is tasked with matters related to education at all levels and forms, vocational training, literacy programmes, and issues pertaining to social, sports, cultural, health, media, and labour services.

Fifth - The Public Utilities and Environment Committee, composed of seven members. This committee is tasked with studying matters related to housing, postal services, electricity, water, agriculture, transportation, roads, municipalities, and environmental issues. The Council may, upon a request submitted by at least five members, form additional specialised permanent or temporary committees, as required by the needs of its work and within its jurisdiction. The number of members in any such committee shall not exceed five. The Council may also establish specific provisions governing the work of each committee. Permanent committees not outlined in the first paragraph of this article shall dissolve at the end of the legislative term, while temporary committees shall dissolve upon fulfilling the purpose for which they were formed. Each committee shall be equipped with the necessary advisors to assist in executing its responsibilities.

#### Article (23)

A member must participate in one of the five committees of the Council as specified in Article (21) of this Regulation. They may also join other permanent or temporary committees formed by the Council. However, the Chair of a permanent specialised committee may not chair any other

#### Article (27) Second Paragraph

If the majority of the committee members are not present, the Chair or, in their absence, the Deputy shall adjourn the meeting to a subsequent session to be determined by them. However, in cases where the Council decides to consider a matter urgently, the committee meeting may be rescheduled to a later time on the same day, with members being notified accordingly. A meeting shall be considered valid in the adjourned session with the attendance of one-third of its members. If the number of attendees is less than this, the Chair or Deputy must refer the matter to the President of the Council.

#### Article (36)

The relevant Minister may attend committee meetings when a matter concerning their ministry is under discussion. They may be accompanied by one or more senior officials or experts, or delegate any of them to attend on their behalf. Neither the Minister nor their accompanying persons or delegate shall have the right to vote, but their opinions shall be documented in the report. The committee may, through the President of the Council, request the attendance of the relevant Minister to discuss the matter at hand. In such cases, the Minister or their delegate must attend.

#### Article (48)

The General Secretariat shall prepare a suitable programme to regulate the process of recording members' attendance at Council sessions.

### Article (51) First Paragraph

Discussion of matters not listed on the agenda is only permitted for urgent issues, under the item "Any Other Business," and must be based on a request from the government, the President, or a written request submitted by at least five members. In all cases, the Council's approval is required. The relevant Minister may request a postponement of the consideration of a matter raised for the first time, as per the rules governing questions, even if its discussion has already begun.

### Article (56) Second Paragraph

Committee Chairs and rapporteurs have the right to speak during discussions on matters originating from their committees whenever they request permission from the President of the Council. Chairs of other committees that have provided an opinion on the matter under discussion shall also have the right to speak whenever they request permission from the President of the Council.

### Article (78)

Voting by roll call shall be conducted in the following cases:

- a. In cases requiring a special majority.
- b. If requested by the President of the Council.
- c. If at least five members submit a request before voting begins, provided the presence of the requesters in the session is confirmed.

Each member shall declare their vote during the roll call by stating "in favour," "against," or "abstaining," without further comment. In exceptional

circumstances, with the approval of the majority of the members present, voting may be conducted in secret. In all cases, the President shall cast their vote after all members have voted. In the event of a tie, the side supported by the President of the Council or their representative shall prevail.

#### Article (79)

Each member is required to express their opinion on any matter put to a vote. However, a member may choose to abstain and may provide their reasons for abstention to the Council after the vote has been conducted and before the results are announced.

#### Article (95)

The President shall refer the proposed law to the relevant committee for its opinion on the concept. The committee may consult the proposer before drafting its report. The committee shall prepare a report for the Council, stating whether to approve consideration of the proposal, reject it, amend it with the proposers' consent, or defer it for a specific, justified period. The committee may also advise the Council to reject the proposal for reasons pertaining to the subject matter in general. If the Council approves the proposal after discussing its principles and foundations, it shall refer it to the government to draft it as a law.

#### Article (101)

At the start of each regular session, committees shall resume deliberations on the bills in their possession on their own initiative, without requiring a new referral. In the case of a ministerial change, the Prime Minister may request the President of the Council to postpone committee discussions on some or

all bills for up to thirty days to enable the government to prepare for discussions or take constitutional steps to amend or withdraw the bills it initially submitted. As for reports on bills and proposals that the Council began considering in a previous session, they shall resume from the same status unless the Council decides to refer them back to the committee.

#### Article (102)

Within fifteen days of the opening of the first session of each legislative term, the President of the Council shall notify the Prime Minister of the bills unresolved by the previous Council. If the government does not request the President of the Council, within two months of the notification date, to continue deliberations on the draft laws it initially submitted, they shall be deemed null. Regarding draft laws proposed by members of the previous Council and formulated by the government as per Article (95) of this Regulation, the Council shall decide their fate. If the government requests deliberation of its initial proposals, or if the Council opts to consider proposals from members of the previous Council, these shall be referred to the relevant committee, which may rely on the previous committee's opinion if a report has been prepared.

#### Article (117)

Proposals for laws submitted by members whose membership has ceased shall lapse unless signed by a member or other members. However, this does not apply to proposals for laws previously approved by the Council and decided to be referred to the government for drafting as a law, which must continue to be drafted and referred to the Council of Representatives.

#### Article (119)

All proposals for laws shall lapse at the end of the legislative term, except for proposals that have previously been approved by the previous Council and decided to be referred to the government for formulation into a draft law.

#### Article (132) Second Paragraph

The proposals mentioned shall lapse with the cessation of their proposers' membership. However, the Council and committees shall continue to consider proposals that were not referred to the government at the start of the next session.

#### Article (140)

The procedures for questions outlined earlier do not apply to those addressed to Ministers during discussions of the budget or any matter before the Council. After receiving permission to speak, a member may verbally pose these questions during the session, provided they are relevant to the matter under discussion and comply with the substantive criteria set forth in Article (134) of this Regulation.

#### Article (217) Third Paragraph

A matter shall be considered urgent if requested by the President of the Council, at least five members of the Council, or the government.

#### Article Two

The phrases "or by any other means" and "or provocative phrase" shall be deleted from Article (65), the phrase "by one of the members" shall be

deleted from Article (85), and the phrase "or if the government requested it" shall be deleted from the end of Article (116) of Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the Council of Representatives.

#### Article Three

The phrase "or the government, subject to the provisions of Article (36)" shall be added to the end of paragraph two of Article (34), and the phrase "or deferral" shall be added to Article (126) after the word "rejection" and before the word "notified" of Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulation of the Council of Representatives.

#### Article Four

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

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

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On:

18 Rajab 1431 AH

Corresponding to:

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