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Law No. (9) of 2006 Amending Certain Provisions of Legislative Decree No. (55) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulations of the Shura Council

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

Having reviewed the Constitution,

And Legislative Decree No. (55) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulations of the Shura Council,

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 (3), (8), (15), the first paragraph of (19), the last paragraph of (21), (23), the second paragraph of (30), the second paragraph of (35), the first paragraph of (51), (79), (101), (115), (116), (118), (124), (125), (141), and the third paragraph of (189) of Legislative Decree No. (55) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulations of the Shura Council shall be replaced with the following texts:

Article (3):

- a. The ceremonies marking the commencement of the National Council shall begin with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran.
- b. The regular session of the National Council, composed of both the Shura and Representatives Councils, shall open in accordance with Articles (71), (73), and (74) of the Constitution by listening to the Royal Address, following which the meeting shall be adjourned.

Article (8):

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives constitute the Kingdom of Bahrain's delegation in international parliamentary conferences.

The delegation shall have an executive committee, constituted at the beginning of each legislative term, chaired by the Speaker of the Council of Representatives and consisting of eight members, with each Council electing four members from its ranks.

Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Speaker of each Council within the period designated by him, after which the Speaker shall announce the nominations, and elections among candidates shall be held through secret ballot under the supervision of a committee formed for this purpose.

If no nominations are received other than the required number, the candidates shall be elected unopposed.

The executive committee shall establish the rules governing the functioning of the delegation, which shall be communicated to all members of the delegation.

Article (15):

The Council's Bureau shall comprise the Chair and his two deputies and shall include the heads of the specialized committees specified in Clauses One, Two, Three, Four, and Five of the first paragraph of Article (21) of this Regulation, as soon as they are elected.

Article (19) First Paragraph:

The Council's Bureau shall convene upon the invitation of its Chair, and its meetings shall be deemed valid with a majority attendance of its members, including either the Chair or one of his deputies.

Article (21) Last Paragraph:

The Council may form additional permanent specialised committees within the timeframe specified in the first paragraph or temporary committees as needed, all within the limits of its authority. Each committee shall have no more than seven members, and the Council may issue any special provisions it deems necessary for each committee. A temporary committee shall terminate upon completing its designated purpose.

Article (23):

Each member must serve on one of the five specialised committees of the Council specified in the first paragraph of Article (21) of this regulation, and may also serve on one additional permanent committee formed by the Council.

Committees that collaborate on a single subject may hold joint meetings after notifying the Chair of the Council. In this case, the chairmanship shall be assigned to the eldest of the committee presidents or one of the deputies of the Chair. For the joint meeting to be valid, a majority of members from each committee must attend independently.

Decisions of the joint committee shall be made with the approval of the majority of the members present.

Article (35) Second Paragraph:

Each member of the Council may attend committee meetings even if they are not a member thereof, provided the committee approves this, and they shall not interfere in discussions or voting, nor make any remarks unless requested by the committee.

Article (51) First Paragraph:

Discussion of items not on the agenda is permitted only for urgent matters and under the item "New Business," upon request from the government, the Chair, or a written request by at least three members. In all instances, Council approval of the request is necessary, and the relevant minister may request postponing the consideration of a newly raised subject, even if its discussion has started.

Article (79):

Every member must express their opinion on any subject presented for consideration; however, a member may abstain from expressing their opinion and may present the reasons for their abstention to the Council after the opinion has been taken and before the result is announced.

Article (101):

The Chair shall notify the Prime Minister within fifteen days following the commencement of the first session of each legislative term of the draft laws left unresolved by the former Council.

If the government does not request the Chair to continue considering the mentioned projects submitted by it within two months from the date of notifying the Prime Minister, they shall be deemed non-existent.

If the government requests consideration, the Council shall refer them to the relevant committee, which may suffice with the conclusions reached by the previous committee if it has prepared a report on them.

Article (115):

Any member who has submitted a legislative proposal may withdraw it through a written request to the Council Chair, even during its discussion. The Council shall not continue reviewing it unless another member or members sign it or a member submits a written request to the Chair for its continuation.

Article (116):

Legislative proposals submitted by members who have lost membership shall lapse unless signed by other members, except for those the Council has already approved, and It has been decided to refer them to the government to draft as a law; they must continue their formulation and be referred to the Representatives Council of Representatives.

Article (118):

All legislative proposals shall lapse at the end of the legislative term, except those the previous Council approved and referred to the government for drafting. Committees shall resume reviewing proposals referred in previous sessions unless the original submitters request withdrawal from the Chair within thirty days of the new session's start, with the Chair notifying the committees of this request.

Article (124):

The Chair shall notify the Council of treaties or agreements concluded by decrees in accordance with the provisions of the first paragraph of Article (37) of the Constitution, along with the accompanying government statement, which shall be read in session. The treaty or agreement and its annexes are to be deposited with the Council's secretariat. After notification of the Representatives Council's review, the Council may express any observations it deems appropriate regarding these treaties or agreements without deciding on them.

Article (125):

The Chair shall refer the treaties and agreements specified in the second paragraph of Article (37) of the Constitution to the relevant committee for consideration and to present a report on them to the Council.

The Council may approve them, reject them, or postpone their consideration; it may not amend their texts.

In the event of rejection or postponement, the Chair shall notify the Prime Minister with a statement including the texts or provisions contained in the treaty or agreement that led to the rejection or postponement.

Article (141):

Any amendment proposed by the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee to budget appropriations must be agreed upon with the government, and this agreement should be recorded in its report.

The subject shall be deemed urgent if requested by the government, the Chair of the Council, or at least five members of the Council.

Article Two

A new Article numbered (94 bis) shall be added to Legislative Decree No. (55) of 2002 regarding the Internal Regulations of the Shura Council, with the following text:

“Any member who has submitted a proposal for a law, prior to the relevant committee submitting its report regarding the proposal referred to it, may request in writing from the Chair of the Council to postpone the consideration of the relevant committee for the proposal for one time only, for up to thirty days from the postponement request date, with reasons provided. The proposer may request continuation of the study during this period; otherwise, the postponement request shall be considered a withdrawal according to Article (115) of this regulation”

Article Three

The phrase "except with the approval of the government" shall be removed from the text of the second paragraph of Article (94), and the phrase "and Islamic Affairs" shall be removed from the text of the first paragraph of Article (147) of the aforementioned Legislative Decree No. (55) of 2002.

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:

1 Jumada al-Awwal 1427 AH

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