

INOFFICIALLY CONSOLIDATED TEXT

LAW

on National Councils of National Minorities ¹

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This law governs the competences of the national councils of national minorities (hereinafter referred to as national councils) in the areas of culture, education, information, official use of language and script, electoral procedures for national councils and their funding, as well as other issues of importance for national councils.

Article 2

In order to accomplish their rights to self-government in culture, education, information and official use of language and script, the members of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia may elect their national councils.

A national minority shall be represented by its national council in the fields of education, culture, information in the language of a national minority, as well as in the official use of language and script, participate in the decision making process or decide on issues related to these fields and also establish institutions, undertakings and other organisations in the fields mentioned.

Article 3

A national council shall be entered in the Register of National Councils (hereinafter: Register) kept by the ministry in whose purview are affairs relating to human and minority rights (hereinafter: Ministry).

A national council shall be entered into the Register on the basis of a registry application submitted by the president of a national council to the Ministry within five days of the first session of the national council during which the president of the national council was elected.

The registry application shall be filed together with minutes from the meeting at which the first session of a national council had been constituted, as well as with two copies of the national council's statute and the decision on the election of the president of the national council.

¹ "Official Gazette of the RS", No 72/09, 20/14 – CC and 55/14

By registering itself with the Register, a national council shall acquire the status of legal entity.

Information in the Register shall be public.

Procedures relating to entry in the Register, recording data changes in the Register, keeping the Register and maintaining the content and appearance of the registry application shall be prescribed by the Minister responsible for human and minority rights (hereinafter: Minister).

Article 4

A decision arbitrating on a registry application to the Register shall be made within 30 days upon receipt of the valid application.

A decision adjudicating on a registry application to the Register shall be final and administrative proceedings may be initiated against it.

A national council shall be entered into the Register on the same day when a decision on entry in the Register is adopted.

The following are entered into the Register: name and headquarters of the national council; name and surname, residence and personal identification number of the president of the national council; date of enactment of the statute and the date of amendment to the statute; number and date of decision on registration and number and date of decision on changes in information within the Register.

A decision on registration of a national council shall be submitted with a copy of a statute, which the Ministry authenticates with its seal and on the basis of an authorised state official's signature, thus confirming correspondence with the copy of the statute kept at the Ministry.

Article 4a

A national council is required to submit an application for registration of changes of data entered in the Register within ten days of the change.

Evidence of change shall be submitted together with an application for registration of change of data, whilst minutes of a meeting at which statute amendments were adopted and two copies of a decision amending a statute must be filed with the application for registration of statute amendments.

A decision adjudicating on an application for registration of date change shall be final and administrative proceedings may be initiated against it.

Article 4b

A national council shall be removed from the Register as follows:

- 1) If it is dissolved due to the suspension of an election procedure within the national council;
- 2) If it is dissolved because the number of its members has fallen below half.

A national council shall be removed from the Register on the same day the Ministry issues a decision on removal from the Register.

A decision on removal from the Register is final and administrative proceedings may be initiated against it.

A national minority whose national council has been removed from the Register shall be entitled to elect a new national council on election day for members of all national councils.

Article 5

A national council may acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property, and based on a decision of a competent authority, it may also be a beneficiary of public property, in accordance with the law.

Article 6

A national council shall have a statute.

The following issues shall be governed by a statute:

- 1) Activities of the national council;
- 2) Number of members of the national council in accordance with the law;
- 3) Headquarters of the national council;
- 4) Name, symbol and seal of the national council;
- 5) Jurisdiction, appointment procedure and term of office of the president of the national council;
 - 5a) Authorities, election procedure, number of members and mandate of executive board;
 - 6) Powers, electoral procedure, number of members and mandate of committees and other working bodies of the national council;
 - 7) Recognitions and ways of awarding them, and
 - 8) Other issues of importance for the activities of the national council.

A statute of a national council must be adopted at the first session of a national council within ten days of constitution.

II. ISSUES REGARDING THE STATUS OF NATIONAL COUNCILS

1. INTERNAL ORGANISATION OF NATIONAL COUNCILS

Article 7

A national council shall have a president, executive board, committees for education, culture, information and official use of language and script.

Previous paragraph 2 deleted (Article 5 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

The president of a national council shall represent and act on behalf of the national council.

The president of the national council shall be elected from among its members.

Former paragraph 5 deleted (Article 5 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

A national council shall elect its president and members of its executive board from among its own ranks on the proposal of the president of the national council.

A national council may delegate to an executive board decision-making on certain matters within the competence of the national council.

Decisions that are so issued by an executive board shall be subject to approval at the next meeting of the national council and are approved if more than half of the members of the national council voted in favour. If a national council does not approve a decision of an executive board, the executive board's mandate shall be terminated and the decision remains in force.

Article 8

The work of a national council shall be public.

A national council shall adopt binding decisions at sessions in which more than half of the members of the national council are present.

The statute, financial plan and final accounts of a national council shall be adopted if more than half of the members of the national council voted in favour.

The president of a national council and the president and members of an executive board shall be elected if more than half of the members of the national council voted for them.

The president of a national council and the president and members of an executive board shall be dismissed if more than half the members of the national council voted in favour of dismissal.

A national council adopts other decisions by a majority vote of members present.

2. Number of Members of a National Council

Article 9

A national council shall consist of at least 15 members but not of more than 35 members.

A national council shall have 15 members in case a national minority has less than 10,000 members according to the latest census.

In case a national minority has more than 10,000 members but less than 20,000 according to the latest census, the national council shall have 19 members.

In case a national minority has between 20,000 and 50,000 members according to the latest census, it shall have 23 members.

A national council shall have 29 members in case a national minority has between 50,000 and 100,000 members according to the latest census.

In case a national minority has more than 100,000 members according to the latest census, it shall have 35 members.

Previous paragraphs 7 and 8 deleted (Article 7 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 9a

The mandate of a national council commences from the constitution of the national council and lasts until the expiration of four years from its constitution.

Prior to expiration of the period for which a national council has been constituted, its mandate shall be terminated by dissolution.

The mandate of a national council constituted after the dissolution of a national council shall last for the remainder of the term of the disbanded national council.

A national council whose mandate has ended performs current and urgent tasks under the competences of the national council until the inauguration of a new national council.

III. COMPETENCES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

1. General Competences

Article 10

In compliance with law and its statute, and through its bodies, a national council shall independently:

- 1) Adopt and amend the statute of the national council;
- 2) Adopt a financial plan, financial report and annual financial statement;
- 3) Manage its property;
- 4) Decide about the name, symbols and seal of the national council;
- 5) Establish proposals of national symbols, emblems and holidays of a national minority;

- 6) Establish institutions, associations, funds and undertakings in the fields of culture, education, information and official use of language and script;
- 7) Propose a representative of the national minority in the council for inter-ethnic relations within a unit of local self-government;
- 8) Determine and award recognitions;
- 9) Initiate the adoption of and monitor the implementation of laws and other regulations in the fields of culture, education, information and official use of language and script;
- 10) Participate in the preparation of regulations and submit motions for amendments and supplements to regulations prescribing national minority rights guaranteed by the Constitution in the fields of culture, education, information and official use of language and script;
- 11) Submit motions for the adoption of special regulations and provisional measures in domains in which the right to self-government is accomplished in order to achieve full equality between members of a national minority and citizens belonging to the majority population;
- 12) Initiate proceedings before the Protector of Citizens, the Provincial Ombudsman, local ombudsmen and other competent bodies if it assesses that there has been a violation of rights and freedoms of national minorities' members guaranteed by the Constitution and law;
- 13) Initiate the proceedings referred to in item 12) of this Article on behalf of members of a national minority on the grounds of a previously granted written power-of-attorney;
- 14) Take positions, launch initiatives and undertake measures in respect of all issues directly related to the status, identity and rights of a national minority;
- 15) Decide on other issues entrusted to it pursuant to the law.

2. Competences in the Field of Education

Right of Establishment

Article 11

A national council may, in accordance with the law, establish educational institutions standardised for pupils and students and exercise the rights and obligations of the founder.

The institutions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be established by the national council independently or in co-operation with the Republic, an autonomous province, a local self-government unit or another legal entity in accordance with the law.

The Republic, autonomous province and local self-government unit, acting as the founders of the institutions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, may delegate their rights to establishment to a national council, either entirely or partially.

Participation in Institutional Management

Article 12

At pre-school educational institutions and primary and secondary educational institutions, which are founded by the Republic, autonomous province or local self-government unit wherein the educational activities are also performed in the language of a nationality minority, or wherein the speech, language or culture of a national minority are studied as a special school subject, a national council shall:

1) Give opinion on proposed candidates for membership in the management board, i.e. the school board to representatives of the local self-government unit;

2) Propose to representatives of the local self-government unit members of the management board, i.e. the school board in institutions where in the majority of classes teaching is performed in a national minority language;

3) Give opinion on the candidate running for the director of the institution referred to in paragraph 1, item 1 of this Article;

4) Give opinion on the procedure for dismissing the director and members of the management body in institutions referred to in paragraph 1, items 1 and 2 of this Article;

5) Is no longer valid (Decision of the CC - 20/2014-36)

In basic and higher educational institutions founded by the Republic, autonomous province or local self-government unit, a national council shall:

1) Propose a member – a representative of the founder and give opinion on other candidates running for seats in the management board of a basic education institution with headquarters in the territory of a local self-government unit wherein the language of a national minority is in official use. If more than one national minority language is in official use in a local self-government unit, concerned national councils shall propose a joint candidate for membership in the management board;

2) Give an opinion on candidates running for the management boards of higher education institutions with headquarters in the territory of the local self-government unit wherein the language of a national minority is in official use;

3) Give an opinion on the electoral procedure for appointing directors of basic and higher education institutions with headquarters in the territory of the local self-government unit wherein the language of a national minority is in official use;

4) Give an opinion on the procedure for dismissing the director and members of the management board referred to in paragraph 2, items 1-3 of this Article.

Previous paragraph 3 (Decision of the CC - 20/2014-36) is no longer valid

In higher education institutions founded by the Republic, autonomous province or local self-government unit, a national council shall give opinion on proposed candidates running for membership in the management bodies of a higher educational institution where teaching is performed in the language of a national minority, either entirely or partially.

Teaching Syllabi

Article 13

A national council shall:

- 1) Propose to the National Education Council general platforms of pre-school syllabi, primary and secondary school curricula, as well as basic programmes of instructions, for contents expressing specific features of a national minority, especially in the fields of history, music and art;
- 2) Propose to the National Education Council primary and secondary school syllabi for a national minority language, and language, or dialect, of a national minority with elements of national culture;
- 3) Give an opinion to the National Education Council with regard to syllabi for Serbian as the second language;
- 4) Recommend to the minister in charge of educational affairs measures and an educational programme for basic education institutions, which refer to the affirmation of inter-ethnic tolerance and multiculturalism;
- 5) Comment on the school syllabi of institutions, which have been defined as of particular importance for a national minority.

Textbooks and Teaching Aids

Article 14

If educational activities are performed in the language of a national minority, the National Education Council shall propose to the minister in charge of educational affairs to approve the use of textbooks and teaching aids with contents which express the specific features of a national minority, under the previous consent of its national council.

Acting upon a national council's proposal, the minister in charge of educational affairs shall give approval for the use of national or imported textbooks in the language of a national minority in educational activities.

Other Competences in the Field of Education

Article 15

In accordance with the law, a national council shall:

- 1) Propose at least one candidate for the joint electoral list of candidates for the election of members of the National Education Council;
- 2) Give an opinion on the procedure for the adoption of an enactment governing the network of pre-school institutions and primary schools in a local self-government unit

wherein the language of a national minority is used officially or wherein the educational activities are performed in the language of a national minority;

3) Determine educational institutions of particular importance for education of a national minority. If the total number of institutions exceeds four, not more than a fourth of the total number of institutions which perform educational activities in the language of a national minority may be declared to be institutions of particular importance. If the total number of such institutions is less than four, then one of the institutions performing or partially performing educational activities in the language of national minority may be declared an institution of particular importance. In cases where a national minority is not provided with classes in their language, the regulations referred to in this item shall be accordingly applied to institutions where language or speech with elements of national minority culture are taught;

4) Give an opinion to the minister in charge of educational affairs in the process of establishing a network of secondary schools and basic and higher education institutions;

5) Give an opinion to the minister in charge of educational affairs in the process of giving consent to a school functioning outside the location of the school wherein teaching is performed in the language of a national minority;

6) Recommend to the founder, the Republic, autonomous province or local self-government unit independence for the separate school classroom wherein teaching shall be performed in the language of a national minority;

7) Is no longer valid (Decision of the CC - 20/2014-36)

8) Give an opinion to the minister in charge of educational affairs in the procedure of giving approval for the opening of a class wherein teaching is performed in the language of a national minority for less than 15 students;

9) Give an opinion to basic and higher education institutions in respect of distribution of positions at those institutions;

10) Give an opinion in the procedure of distribution of budgetary funds of the Republic, autonomous province and local self-government unit, which are allocated to institutions and associations in the field of education through public tenders;

11) Establish scholarships out of its own resources, prescribe in its enactments the criteria and procedure related to their granting and implement the procedure of their granting;

12) Nominate a representative in the National Education Council who shall participate in its operations with no decision making power, if teaching in the language of a national minority is performed within the educational system and when the National Education Council considers issues of importance for education of a national minority;

13) Nominate its representative in the National Council for Higher Education who shall be a full member of this Council if university teaching is performed in the language of a national minority, either entirely or partially;

14) Perform other activities in this field envisaged by the law or other regulations.

3. Competences in the Field of Culture

Right of Establishment

Article 16

The national council may, in accordance with the law, establish cultural institutions for the purpose of preserving, improving and developing cultural specific features and safeguarding the identity of a national minority and it may exercise the rights and obligations of the founder.

The institutions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be established by the national council independently or in co-operation with the Republic, autonomous province, local self-government unit or another legal entity in accordance with the law.

The Republic, autonomous province and local self-government unit, acting as the founders of the institutions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, may delegate their right to establishment to a national council, either entirely or partially.

Participation in Institutional Management

Article 17

In cultural institutions founded by the Republic, autonomous province or local self-government unit, which have been declared by a national council to be of particular importance for the preservation of the identity of a national minority, a national council shall:

- 1) Appoint a member of the institution's management board;
- 2) Give an opinion on the appointed members of the institution's management board;
- 3) Give an opinion on the procedure for the election of the institution's director.

If several national councils establish that an institution in the field of culture has particular importance for the preservation, improvement and development of special features and the national identity of a national minority, the national councils in question shall each appoint their member in the management board referred to in paragraph 1, item 1 of this Article.

Other Competencies in the Field of Culture

Article 18

A national council shall:

- 1) Determine which institutions and events in the field of culture have special importance in the preservation, improvement and development of special features and the national identity of a national minority;
- 2) Establish the cultural development strategy of a national minority;
- 3) Determine which movable and immovable cultural goods are of particular importance for a national minority;

4) Initiate a procedure before a competent body or institution to establish the status of movable and immovable cultural goods protected by the law of particular importance for a national minority;

5) Suggest taking measures for the prevention, recovery and reconstruction of the cultural goods referred to in paragraph 1, item 4 of this Article;

6) Give opinions and proposals in the procedure of preparing spatial planning and urban development plans in a local self-government unit where cultural goods referred to in paragraph 1, item 3 of this Article are located;

7) Suggest the suspension of spatial and urban development plans if these are considered detrimental to cultural goods referred to in paragraph 1, item 3 of this Article;

8) Give the previous opinion to the competent body in the process of issuing a licence for relocation of immovable cultural goods referred to in paragraph 1, item 3 of this Article to another site;

9) Give an opinion in the procedure of opening or closing libraries or their organisational units that collect books in the language of a national minority;

10) Give proposals how to distribute resources allocated through public tenders from the budget of the Republic, autonomous province or local self-government unit to institutions, manifestations and associations of a national minority in the field of culture;

11) Propose at least one candidate for the joint list of candidates in the elections for the National Council of Culture;

12) Nominate its representative in the National Council of Culture, who shall participate in its activities without the power to make decisions when issues important for the culture of a national minority are discussed;

13) Adopt decisions on other issues entrusted to it by law, or by an enactment of an autonomous province or local self-government unit.

4. Competences in the Field of Information

Right of Establishment

Article 19

A national council may, as prescribed by the law, either independently or in co-operation with another legal entity, establish institutions and undertakings to perform activities involving newspaper-publishing and radio-television broadcasting, printing and reproduction of recorded media and exercise rights and obligations of the founder.

The previous paragraph 2 (Decision of the CC - 20/2014-36) is no longer valid.

Participation in Institutional Management

Article 20

A national council shall:

- 1) *Has ceased to be valid (Decision of the CC - 20/2014-36)*
- 2) *No longer valid (Decision of the CC - 20/2014-36)*
- 3) *Has ceased to be valid (Decision of the CC - 20/2014-36)*
- 4) *No longer valid (Decision of the CC - 20/2014-36)*

5) Give an opinion on candidates for the editor-in-chief of programmes broadcast in languages of national minorities in a broadcasting institution where the editor-in-chief is appointed for more than one programme broadcast in languages of national minorities.

Other Competencies in the Field of Information

Article 21

A national council shall:

- 1) Adopt a strategy for the improvement of information dissemination in the language of a national minority in accordance with the strategy of the Republic of Serbia;
- 2) Give suggestions to the Republic Broadcasting Agency when designing the Broadcasting Development Strategy;
- 3) Give suggestions regarding the distribution of resources allocated through public tenders from the budget of the Republic, autonomous province or local self-government unit to legal entities and natural persons disseminating information in the language of a national minority;
- 4) Consider reports of the management and the programme boards of Serbia's and Vojvodina's broadcasting agencies and give suggestions and recommendations regarding programmes broadcast in the language of a national minority;
- 5) Give an opinion and recommendations to the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency regarding the communication of information in the language of a national minority;
- 6) Appoint a representative in the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency to participate in its activities without the right to make decisions on information issues in the language of a national minority;
- 7) Perform other activities in this field as defined by the law and other regulations.

5. Competences in the Field of Official Use of Language and Script

Article 22

A national council shall:

1) Determine the traditional names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographical terms in the language of a national minority if this language is in official use in the territory of the local self-government unit or settlement. The names determined by a national council shall become officially used terms together with the Serbian names and shall be published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" or in the "Official Gazette of the AP Vojvodina" for national councils located in AP Vojvodina;

2) Propose to the competent body to display the names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographical terms in the language of a national minority;

3) Propose the establishment of the language and script of a national minority as an official language and script in a local self-government unit;

4) Propose the alteration of the names of streets, squares, city blocks, hamlets, other parts of settlements and institutions declared to be of particular importance for a national minority;

5) Give an opinion on the procedure for establishment of the names of streets, squares, city blocks, hamlets and other parts of settlements if the language of a national minority is officially used in the territory of a local self-government unit or a settlement;

6) Propose that the competent body supervises the official use of a national minority's language and script;

7) Recommend to the competent body measures and activities for improving translations of regulations into the languages of national minorities in official use;

8) Take measures and activities to improve the official use of the language and script of a national minority;

9) Decide on other related issues in this field entrusted to it by the law, by an enactment of an autonomous province or local self-government unit.

6. Invalidity of Enactments

Article 23

Has ceased to be valid (Decision of the CC- 20/2014-36)

7. Transfer of Right of Establishment

Article 24

Has ceased to be valid (Decision of the CC- 20/2014-36)

IV. RELATIONS WITH REPUBLIC, AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT UNIT AUTHORITIES

Relation with State Authorities

Article 25

A national council may submit its proposals, initiatives and opinions regarding issues under its jurisdiction to state authorities and special organisations.

An opinion shall be requested from a national council by authorities referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article before consideration and adoption of decisions on issues in the fields referred to in Article 2 of this law.

Previous paragraph 3 (Decision of the CC- 20/2014-36) is no longer valid.

A national council may submit an initiative to the Government to repeal, i.e. to quash regulations of state authorities and special organisations, which are not in compliance with provisions of this law and other laws and regulations related to national minorities.

Relation with the Authorities of the Autonomous Province and the Local Self-Government Units

Article 26

National councils shall submit suggestions, initiatives and opinions to authorities of the autonomous province and local self-government units on issues relating to the status of national minorities and preservation of national minorities' specific features.

Previous paragraphs 2 to 4 (Decision of the CC- 20/2014-36) are no longer valid.

V. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Article 27

A national council shall, in accordance with the law, co-operate with international and regional organisations, organisations and institutions in its native countries, as well as with national councils or similar bodies of national minorities in other countries.

The representatives of a national council shall participate in negotiations or be consulted in respect of negotiations on the conclusion of bilateral agreements with native countries in the part directly related to the rights of national minorities.

The representatives of a national council shall participate in the activities of mixed intergovernmental bodies that have the aim of supervising over the implementation of bilateral intergovernmental agreements on the protection of rights of a national minority concerned.

Article 28

The representatives of national minorities, through the Council of National Minorities of the Republic of Serbia, shall take part in the conclusion of international agreements, i.e. in the process of accession to international or regional agreements related to the status of national minorities and protection of their rights.

VI. ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILS

1. Common Provisions

Article 29

Members of a national council are elected through direct elections or electoral assemblies.

Direct elections for members of a national council shall be held when 24 hours before announcing elections more than 40% of the members of a national minority according to the last census have been registered in the special electoral roll of the national minority.

In order to determine whether the conditions for direct elections have been achieved, the Ministry temporarily concludes special electoral rolls of national minorities 24 hours before the announcement of elections.

Elections through electoral assembly shall be held if conditions have not been met for direct elections and if after the dissolution of a national council new elections are announced within 60 days of its dissolution.

Principles of Election of National Councils

Article 30

Elections of national councils shall be based on the principles of freedom of choice, equality of voting rights, periodicity of elections and principle of secret ballot.

The elections shall be especially based on voluntariness, proportionality and democracy.

Right to Vote

Article 31

The voting right of members of national minorities to elect national councils implies the right of a member of a national minority to: elect members of a national council, to be elected as a member of a national council, propose candidates for membership in a national council, be informed on elections of national councils, candidates for membership and their

programmes, be registered in the special electoral roll of a national minority, vote at elections of a national council and have the right to protection of voting rights in relation to the election of a national council.

Active Right to Vote

Article 32

A national minority member shall acquire the right to elect the members of a national council once he/she has fulfilled the general conditions relating to the acquisition of active right to vote as prescribed by the Constitution and the law.

Registration in the special electoral roll of a national minority shall be a special condition to acquire the active right to vote in direct elections for members of a national council, in accordance with provisions of this law.

The status of the elector shall be a special condition to acquire the active right to vote in elections for a national council of a national minority through electoral assembly, in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Passive Right to Vote

Article 33

A member of a national minority who meets the requirements referred to in Article 32 of this law and does not hold the position of a judge, prosecutor or a judge of the Constitutional Court may be elected as a member of a national council.

Special Voting Provisions

Article 34

Voting for the election of members of a national council shall only be organised in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Calling Elections

Article 35

Elections for members of a national council shall be announced by a decision adopted by the Minister.

The decision to call elections for members of a national council shall be made no earlier than 120 and no later than 90 days before the expiry of the mandate of a national council that was constituted last.

When a national council is dissolved, new elections for its members shall be called within 60 days of the dissolution and be held in the next 45 days. Exceptionally, if less than a year is left between the dissolution of a national council the expiry of its mandate, the Minister announces new elections for members of the national council simultaneously when announcing the election of members of all national councils with the aim of holding them on the same day.

Elections shall not be announced if a national council is disbanded due to the cancellation of the election procedure of members of a national council or due to the number of its members falling below half.

The decision to call elections includes: method of choice (direct elections or elections through electoral assembly), the number of members of a national council to be elected, provisions on commencement of deadlines for electoral activities and election day.

The decision to call elections shall be published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" and shall be submitted to the Republic Electoral Commission.

Time of Elections

Article 36

Elections for members of all national councils and for the members of the first assembly of a national council shall be held on the same day, except after the dissolution of a national council when new elections are announced within 60 days of the dissolution.

Elections must be held no later than 15 days before the expiry of the mandate of the national council constituted last.

Election Expenses

Article 37

Previous paragraph 1 deleted (Article 13 of the Law- 55/2014-3).

Funding for elections of a national council shall be provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, according to the specification of the total projected cost jointly determined by the Ministry and the Republic Electoral Commission.

Suspension of a National Council's Election Procedure

Article 37a

The Ministry shall adopt a decision on suspension of the procedure for the election of a national council if the legally prescribed minimum number of electors is not confirmed. The decision shall be adopted 25 days before the electoral assembly and published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia".

The decision of the Ministry shall be final and administrative proceedings may be initiated within 24 hours of the publication of the decision. The Administrative Court shall decide on the complaint within 48 hours of its receipt.

Authorities implementing the elections suspend the procedure for electing a national council through a decision if:

- 1) The legally prescribed minimum number of electors is not present at the electoral assembly;
- 2) A single electoral list does not apply for the election of members of a national council;
- 3) No reported electoral list is declared;
- 4) A collective electoral list is not established on the basis of statutory grounds of this law.

When a decision to suspend the procedure for the election of a national council adopted by an authority responsible for conducting elections becomes valid, the Ministry must be informed.

Organisation of Elections

Article 38

All activities regarding the organisation and implementation of elections of national councils shall be carried out by the Ministry and authorities in charge of implementing elections, in accordance with this law.

Obligations of Public Information Services Regarding Elections of National Councils

Article 39

Public information services shall be obliged to monitor electoral activities and report on the elections of national councils, in accordance with the law.

The laws governing public information on electoral procedure shall be also applied to public information concerning elections of national councils.

Dissolution of a National Council and Provisional Management Body

Article 40

The Ministry shall dissolve a national council if:

- 1) The new session of a national council is not constituted within 30 days of the determination of the election's final results;

- 2) The procedure for the election of a national council has been suspended;
- 3) A national council is not in session for more than six months;
- 4) A national council does not elect a president within 30 days of its constitution or from the date of termination of its president's mandate;
- 5) The number of members of a national council falls below half.

A national council shall be disbanded when the Ministry issues a decision on such a matter.

A decision to dissolve a national council is final and administrative proceedings may be initiated against it.

The Ministry shall adopt a decision establishing a provisional management body of a national council comprised of members of the national council, taking into account the representation of candidate lists from which members of the national council had been elected. The interim management body of a national council consists of a president and four members.

Until the new session of a national council, current and urgent tasks under the authority of the national council shall be conducted by the temporary management body of a national council.

The decision to establish an interim management body of a national council is final and administrative proceedings may be initiated against it.

A provisional management body of a national council shall not be formed when the national council is disbanded due to the suspension of the procedure of electing the national council or due to the number of its members falling below half.

The Mandate of National Council Members and the Termination of Membership in a National Council

Article 41

A national council member's mandate shall last as long as the mandate of the national council in which he/she has been elected.

The mandate of a national council's member shall be terminated prior to the expiration of a national council's mandate in which he/she has been elected as follows:

- 1) Resignation;
- 2) Loss of one of the general conditions for obtaining active voting rights;
- 3) If he/she did not attend meetings of a national council more than a year;
- 4) If he/she ceases to reside in the territory of the Republic of Serbia;
- 5) If the final decision of the competent authority removes him/her from the special electoral roll of the national minority;

6) If a final judgement of conviction involving criminal offence imprisons him/her for a term exceeding six months;

7) In the event of death.

A member of a national council shall certify resignation before the authority responsible for the verification of signatures and submit it to his/her national council within three days of certification, either directly or by registered mail.

Termination of a national council member's mandate shall be noted by a national council at its next meeting after receipt of notice on the occurrence of reasons for termination.

The president of a national council shall inform the Republic Electoral Commission and the Ministry on the termination of a national council member's mandate before the expiry of a national council's mandate of which he/she is a member.

When the mandate of a national council's member is terminated before the expiry of the mandate of the national council of which he/she is a member, the mandate shall be awarded to the first next candidate from the electoral list of the member whose mandate has ended.

A member of a national council shall be elected for a term of four years and he/she may be re-elected to a national council.

A national council member's mandate ends with the constitution of a new session of the national council.

Title under Article 42 deleted (Article 17 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 42

Deleted (Article 17 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Appropriate application of other laws

Article 43

The provisions of the Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament, the Law on General Administrative Procedure and the Law on Administrative Disputes shall be applied to elections of national councils and issues not covered by this law.

2. Direct Elections of National Councils' Members

Electoral Rolls

Article 44

A special electoral roll of a national minority (hereinafter: special electoral roll) shall be established by the Ministry, upon request for establishment of a special electoral roll, which must be supported by at least 5% of the adult members of a national minority according to the latest census, provided that their number may not be less than 300.

A statement supporting the demand for establishment of a special electoral roll shall be given in a prescribed form and certified by the competent authority for verification of signatures.

The form and content of the declarations form on support for establishing a special electoral roll shall be prescribed by the Minister.

The Ministry shall adopt a decision regarding the request for establishing a special electoral roll.

The Ministry shall reject a request for the establishment of a special electoral roll if the applicant is not considered a national minority in accordance with the law, or if the application is not supported by the required number of persons belonging to a national minority.

A decision issued by the Ministry concerning a request for the establishment of a special electoral roll is final and administrative proceedings may be initiated against it.

The request and authentication of signatures shall not be subject to payment of taxes.

Article 45

The Ministry shall through the media inform members belonging to national minorities referred to in Article 44 of this law that the establishment of a special electoral roll has begun.

Article 46

Deleted (Article 20 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

General Rules Governing Special Electoral Rolls

Article 47

A special electoral roll represents official records in which minority members who are entitled to vote may register.

A special electoral roll shall be ongoing and updated regularly.

A member of a national minority shall be registered in the special electoral roll solely on personal request.

Article 48

A special electoral roll shall be maintained by the Ministry.

Keeping a special electoral roll includes: analysing data from a special electoral roll, taking measures to ensure mutual coherence and accuracy of data and entry of changes in the

special electoral roll (deletions, modifications, amendments or updates) until the conclusion of the special electoral roll, as well as performing other duties prescribed by this law.

In the part of the special electoral roll for an area under the jurisdiction of a local self-government, registration and changes in the special electoral roll (deletions, modifications, amendments or updates) shall be performed by the municipal or city government entrusted with such work until the conclusion of a special electoral roll. In a local self-government unit in which the language and script of a national minority for which a special electoral roll has been established is in official use, registration and changes in the special electoral roll shall also be carried out in its own language and script, in accordance with the law.

Special electoral rolls shall be maintained and updated as a single electronic database.

Changes in a special electoral roll shall be *ex officio* or upon request.

Authorities maintaining official records of citizens are obliged to provide the Ministry and the municipal or city governments data that affects the accuracy of a special electoral roll.

Article 49

Deleted (Article 23 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 50

A special electoral roll contains: a serial number, personal name, personal identification number, sex, national affiliation, year of birth, place of residence (street and house number, village, hamlet, settlement) and space for notes.

Article 51

Data from a special electoral roll shall enjoy special protection.

Any use of data from the special electoral roll shall be prohibited and punishable, except for election purposes and for the purpose of exercising other rights of national minorities, if it is prescribed by law.

Article 52

The members of a national minority shall be entered in a special electoral roll upon the fulfilment of general conditions prescribed by the law.

A member of a national minority may be registered in only one special electoral roll.

Every citizen, member of a national minority, who has the right to vote, may submit a written request contained in a special form for registration into a special electoral roll.

A member of a national minority shall submit to a local self-government unit a written request to be registered in a special electoral roll according to his/her place of residence, hand-written and signed in a special form issued by the Minister.

Previous paragraphs 4 and 5 have been deleted (Article 25 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 53

Deletion from a special electoral roll shall be *ex officio* or upon request.

Removal from the special electoral roll *ex officio* shall be carried out in the event of death of a registered member of a national minority, or if a registered member of a national minority (hereinafter: voter) loses the right to vote because he ceased to fulfil one of the general conditions for the acquisition of voting rights under the law.

A voter shall submit a personally signed request for removal from a special electoral roll to the administration authority of a local self-government according to his/her place of residence, on a separate form prescribed by the minister.

Article 54

Deleted (Article 27 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 55

The Minister shall prescribe the manner of maintaining a special electoral roll and other issues of importance for complete, accurate and timely management of a special electoral roll.

Article 56

If the administrative body of a local self-government unit, which is in charge of keeping an electoral roll, refuses to enter a voter into a special electoral roll or delete his/her name from it, the voter shall have the right to file a complaint with the Ministry. The decision of the Ministry shall be final and administrative proceedings may be initiated against it.

The Ministry shall decide on the complaint within 15 days.

Article 57

Upon the completion of a special electoral roll, any entries, deletions, amendments, supplements and corrections in the electoral roll may be carried out by the Ministry, on the basis of a decision it has adopted not more than 72 hours before election day.

The decision of the Ministry shall be final and administrative proceedings may be initiated against it.

Article 58

Deleted (Article 30 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 59

Enforcement of regulations governing the conduct of special electoral rolls in local self-government units shall be supervised by the Ministry, through the administrative inspection service.

If the Ministry determines that the special electoral roll is not maintained as provided by law and other regulations, it shall demand from the competent authority to correct the established irregularities.

Authorities Responsible for Implementing Elections

Article 60

Direct elections for members of a national council shall be carried out by authorities that conduct elections for MPs.

The work of authorities tasked with the conduct of elections may be monitored by representatives of the proclaimed electoral lists' proposers.

Title above Article 61 deleted (Article 33 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 61

Deleted (Article 33 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Competences of the Republic Electoral Commission

Article 62

Competences of the Republic Electoral Commission (hereinafter Commission) shall be as follows:

- 1) To ensure that the elections are conducted according to the law;
- 2) To arrange technical preparations for the elections;
- 3) To monitor the application of this law and provide explanations regarding its application in relation to elections;
- 4) To prescribe forms and rules for implementation of electoral procedures foreseen by this law;
- 5) To determine polling stations and publish them in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", no later than 20 days before the election;
- 6) To establish election committees and appoint the chairmen and members of electoral committees and their deputies;
- 7) To prepare and certify ballots;
- 8) To determine whether an electoral list has been compiled and submitted in accordance with the law and declare it;

9) To determine the collective electoral list;

10) To adopt a decision on the suspension of election of national council members if not a single electoral list has applied for the election of members of a national council, if no registered electoral lists are declared and if on the basis of present statutory grounds a collective electoral list is not established;

11) To determine the method of storing and handling of election materials;

12) To determine and announce the overall and final results of elections;

13) To determine the number of seats belonging to each electoral list;

14) To submit data to the authorities who are responsible for the collection and processing of statistical data;

15) To adopt guidelines for the conduct of elections and perform other duties stipulated by this law.

The Commission is obliged to publish the forms referred to in paragraph 1, item 4 of this Article within a period of five days from the decision to call elections.

For work on the implementation of elections, members of the Commission are entitled to monthly compensation in the amount of two average net salaries without taxes and contributions paid in the Republic of Serbia during the month preceding the month in which the decision was made to call the elections.

Title above Article 63 deleted (Article 35 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 63

Deleted (Article 35 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Title above Article 64 deleted (Article 35 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 64

Deleted (Article 35 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Composition of Polling Boards

Article 65

A polling board shall consist of a president and not less than four members.

The president and members of a polling board shall have their deputies.

The Commission shall form a polling board and appoint the president, members and their deputies.

Members of a polling board, working bodies of the Commission and professional workers in the National Assembly's Service who participate in the work of the body that conducts elections shall have the right to remuneration determined by the Commission.

Competences of Polling Boards

Article 66

A polling board shall directly conduct voting at a polling station, ensure regularity and secret ballot, determine voting results at a polling station and perform other activities stipulated by this law.

A polling board shall ensure order at a polling station during voting.

The Commission shall prescribe detailed rules on the activities of a polling board.

Polling Stations

Title above Article 67 deleted (Article 38 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 67

Voting at elections shall take place in polling stations to be established by the Commission.

Establishment of Polling Stations

Article 68

A polling station shall be established for voting of not less than 100 and not more than 2,500 voters registered in special registers of voters.

Exceptionally, a polling station may also be established for the voting of less than 100 voters if, due to distance or an unfavourable geographical position, voters would find it very difficult to vote at another polling station.

Polling stations shall, as a rule, be premises in public ownership, and only exceptionally premises in private ownership.

A polling station may not be in a facility owned by a political party or used by a political party, or in a facility owned by a candidate for the member of a national council, or by a member of candidate's family. A member of the candidate's family shall include his/her parents, children and his/her spouse.

When establishing a polling station, account shall be taken of the fact that a polling station is accessible to persons with disabilities.

Title above Article 69 deleted (Article 40 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 69

Deleted (Article 40 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Arrangement of Polling Stations

Article 70

Rules related to the arrangement of a polling station shall be prescribed by the Commission.

Nomination – Electoral Lists

Title above Article 71 deleted (Article 41 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 71

Under conditions prescribed by this law, electoral lists may be proposed by a group of voters entered into the special electoral roll, associations whose objectives are achieved in the field of protection of rights of a national minority and a registered political party of a national minority (hereinafter referred to as the nominator).

A group of voters shall consist of not less than three voters with a written agreement certified by a body competent for the certification of signatures. The agreement on establishment of a group of voters shall contain objectives of the established group of voters, data on persons who established the group (name and surname, personal identification number and place of residence, according to the data from the ID card). The agreement shall appoint a person who shall represent a group of citizens.

An electoral list must be supported by the signatures of at least 1% of voters and not less than 50 voters entered in the special register of voters.

With his/her signature, a voter may support an electoral list of only one nominator.

Supporting signatures shall have to be certified by a body competent for the certification of signatures. A certified signature shall not be subject to a fee.

An electoral list may be submitted by a representative of the electoral list's nominator or by a person authorised by the nominator.

A person authorised to submit an electoral list shall be authorised to conduct other activities in elections on behalf of the nominator of an electoral list, unless otherwise determined by the nominator of an electoral list.

Electoral List – Structure

Article 72

An electoral list must contain at least one third of candidates from the number of members of a national council that are being elected, and the maximum number of candidates shall be equal to the number of members of a national council that are being elected.

A candidate may only be a person entered in the special electoral roll.

The name and surname of a candidate shall be stated in an electoral list in accordance with the Serbian alphabet and Cyrillic script, and may also be stated in accordance with the alphabet and script of a national minority, whilst the order shall be determined by the electoral list nominator.

The nominator shall appoint the holder of an electoral list and the order of candidates.

An electoral list must contain at least one candidate – a member of the less represented gender, after every third candidate in the order on the list (first three places, second three places and so on, until the end of the list).

Withdrawal of Electoral List

Article 73

The nominator of an electoral list may withdraw the electoral list until the date of establishment of the collective electoral list.

Previous paragraph 2 deleted (Article 43 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Title of Electoral List

Article 74

An electoral list shall bear a title to be determined by the electoral list nominator.

If an electoral list is proposed by a group of voters, the title of the electoral list shall contain the title prescribed by the agreement on the establishment of a group of voters. The title of an electoral list may contain the name and surname of a person appointed by a group of voters the electoral list nominator. The title of an electoral list of a group of voters may not contain word “association” and “party” in any case, or a name of a registered association or a registered political party.

If an electoral list is proposed by an association, the title of the electoral list may contain the name of the association, which shall be stated according to the name of the association from its registration act. The title of an electoral list may include the name and surname of a person appointed by the association for the electoral list holder.

If an electoral list is proposed by a political party of a national minority, the title of an electoral list must contain the name of the political party stated in its registration act. The title

of an electoral list may include the name and surname of a person appointed by a political party of a national minority for the electoral list holder.

The title of an electoral list proposed by a group of voters or an association may not refer to the name of a church and religious community.

The title of an electoral list shall be stated in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script, and may also be stated in the language and script of a national minority.

Title above Article 75 deleted (Article 45 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 75

Deleted (Article 45 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Delivery of Electoral Lists

Article 76

An electoral list shall be delivered to the Commission 15 days prior to the election date at the latest.

In addition to an electoral list, the Commission shall also deliver:

- 1) A certified statement of a candidate expressing his/her acceptance of candidacy for a member of a national council;
- 2) Consent of the electoral list holder (if appointed) to be the electoral list holder;
- 3) Authorisation of a person authorised by the nominator to deliver an electoral list;
- 4) Certified statements of voters supporting an electoral list;
- 5) A list of voters supporting an electoral list, created in writing and in an electronic form (CD or DVD), so that the list in both forms is identical and signed by a person delivering the electoral list;
- 6) A certified agreement on the establishment of a group of voters, if an electoral list is proposed by a group of voters;
- 7) A certified copy of the statute of an association, if an electoral list is proposed by an association.

Announcement of Electoral List

Article 77

The Commission shall announce an electoral list of the nominator immediately upon receipt of the electoral list and related documents and not later than 24 hours from the receipt of the electoral list.

The Commission shall, without delay, deliver to the nominator a decision on the announcement of the electoral list referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Deficiencies of Electoral List

Article 78

If the Commission establishes that an electoral list has not been delivered in time, the Commission shall adopt a decision rejecting the electoral list.

If the Commission establishes that an electoral list contains deficiencies hindering the announcement of an electoral list, the Commission shall, within 24 hours upon receipt of the electoral list, adopt a conclusion instructing the nominator of the electoral list to eliminate the deficiencies within 48 hours following the delivery of the conclusion. The conclusion delivered to the electoral list nominator shall prescribe the manner of elimination of such deficiencies.

If the Commission establishes that an electoral list contains deficiencies, namely, if it establishes that the deficiencies had not been eliminated, or that they had not been eliminated within a specified time limit, the Commission shall adopt a decision to dismiss the announcement of such an electoral list within the next 48 hours.

Collective Electoral List

Article 79

The Commission shall establish the collective electoral list for each national minority separately, ten days prior to elections.

The collective electoral list shall include all electoral lists for each national minority as well as personal names of all candidates, years of birth, occupation and residence.

The order of electoral lists in the collective electoral list shall be determined in accordance with the order of announcement of electoral lists.

The collective electoral list for each national minority shall be published by the Commission in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia".

The electoral list nominator shall be entitled to review, within 48 hours from publication of the collective electoral list, related documents submitted with announced electoral lists through a person authorised by him/her.

The Commission shall not establish the collective electoral list if the number of candidates on announced electoral lists is smaller than the number of members of a national council that are being elected.

Article 80

The ministry shall conclude the special electoral roll with a decision 15 days prior to elections.

A decision on conclusion of the special electoral roll shall determine the total number of voters for each national minority, and the number of voters at polling stations, and the total number in every polling station, classified per national minorities.

The ministry shall publish a decision on conclusion of the special electoral roll in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" within 24 hours from the adoption of the decision, and submit it to the Commission.

The decision of the ministry shall be final and administrative proceedings may be initiated against it within 24 hours from the publication of the decision.

The Administrative Court shall be obliged to decide on a complaint within 48 hours from the date of receipt of the complaint.

The ministry shall prepare certified excerpts from the special electoral roll for every polling station and deliver them to the Commission within 48 hours from the date of conclusion of the special electoral roll.

An excerpt from the special electoral roll shall, in addition to the data referred to in Article 50 of this law, also contain the name of the body that created it, date of creation and reference of the polling station for which the excerpt was created.

The ministry shall submit to the Commission all the decisions on registrations, deletions, modifications, amendments and corrections in the special electoral roll adopted since the date of conclusion of the electoral roll up to 72 hours before the election date.

The Commission shall take into consideration only those decisions of the ministry prepared at least 48 hours before the date of elections and use them as a basis for entering changes in excerpts from the special electoral roll and immediately determine and publish in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" the final number of voters for each national minority, as well as the number of voters per polling stations, i.e. the total number for each polling station, classified per national minorities.

Article 81

State bodies, bodies of the autonomous province, bodies of local self-government units, public institutions and other bodies shall be obliged to issue, at a voter's request, identification papers relevant for exercising the right to vote, not later than a day after submission of a request.

Article 82

The Ministry and bodies of local self-government units shall be obliged to enable authorised representatives of applicants of approved electoral lists to review the special electoral roll, as well as to review official documents based on which the body in charge of keeping the special electoral roll shall make entries, deletions, changes, amendments or corrections in the register of voters.

The review of documents shall be carried out at the premises of bodies where official documents are stored.

Article 83

Deleted (Article 49 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Conducting Elections

Voting

Article 84

A voter shall vote at the polling station where he/she had been registered in an excerpt of the special electoral roll.

Exceptionally, a voter may vote outside the polling station referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article in the manner provided by the Law on Election of Deputies.

The method of voting outside a polling station as well as the number of voters to vote this way shall be recorded in the minutes of activities of a polling board.

Information to Voters on Voting

Article 85

Not later than five days before the election date, each voter shall receive a notification indicating the date and time of elections, the number and address of a polling station and the number of an excerpt from the special electoral roll he/she had been registered in.

The body in charge of keeping the electoral roll shall deliver the notification referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article to voters.

Method of Voting

Article 86

A voter shall cast his/her ballot personally.

A voter shall vote only once during elections.

Voting is secret.

Voting is done on certified ballot papers.

Display of any election campaign documentation shall be prohibited at a polling station and 50 metres from a polling station.

If in the course of voting the rules referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Article are violated, a polling board shall be dismissed and voting at such a polling station shall be repeated.

The use of mobile phones and other communication devices shall be prohibited at a polling station.

The Commission shall prescribe detailed instructions on measures ensuring the secrecy of ballot.

Time of Voting at Polling Stations

Article 87

Polling stations shall be opened at 7 a.m. and closed at 8 p.m. A polling station must be constantly opened during this period.

The voters present at a polling station at the moment of closing shall be allowed to vote.

The members of a polling board or their deputies must be present at a polling station in the course of voting.

Keeping Order at Polling Stations

Article 88

If order is violated at a polling station, a polling board may interrupt voting until order is restored. The reasons for and duration of the interruption shall be entered into the minutes of activities of a polling board.

If voting is interrupted for more than one hour, it shall be prolonged for as much time as the interruption lasted.

The number of voters present in a room where elections take place shall correspond to the number of voting booths ensuring the secrecy of ballot.

Persons having no rights or obligations related to the conduct of elections stipulated by this law shall not be allowed to stay at a polling station.

The members of police forces on duty may only enter a polling station at the request of the polling board president if order and peace have been violated at a polling station.

If the provisions referred to in paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Article are violated, an objection may be filed with the Commission, which shall determine whether voting at such a polling station should be repeated.

Electoral Documents

Language and Script of Electoral Documents

Article 89

All electoral material and documents shall be printed in two languages, in the Serbian language and the Cyrillic script and in the language and script of a national minority whose national council is being elected, if its language and script are officially in use in at least one local self-government unit.

Ballot Paper

Article 90

A ballot paper shall contain:

- 1) A serial number placed in front of the title of an electoral list;
- 2) Titles of electoral lists according to the order determined in the collective electoral list including the personal name of an electoral list holder;
- 3) A note that only one electoral list is voted for by encircling a serial number in front of the title of an electoral list.

The Commission shall prepare and certify ballot papers.

The Commission shall determine the number of ballot papers which must be equal to the number of voters registered in the special electoral roll.

Ballot papers shall be printed at one location on papers protected with water seals.

An electoral list nominator shall provide the Commission with the name of a person authorised to attend printing, counting and packing of ballot papers and their delivery to the bodies in charge of conducting elections.

The Commission shall specify the form and appearance of ballot papers, the manner and control of their printing as well as the delivery and handling of ballot papers.

Previous paragraph 7 deleted (Article 51 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

The Commission shall be obliged to prepare voting documents in due time for each polling board, especially the required number of ballot papers, the collective electoral list, an excerpt from the special electoral roll and the form of minutes of activities of polling boards.

The acceptance of electoral documents shall be done within 48 hours before the election date at the latest.

The local self-government unit administration shall organise polling stations and prepare the required number of ballot boxes for each polling board including accessories for their sealing and stationery.

On election day, before the commencement of voting, a polling board shall establish whether the electoral documents prepared for the polling station concerned are complete and correct, whether the polling station is arranged so as to ensure secrecy of ballot and whether voting may commence. The mentioned data shall be specified in the minutes of activities.

The general electoral list of each national minority must be visibly displayed at a polling station in the course of voting.

Previous paragraph 13 deleted (Article 51 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

The representatives of the nominators of electoral lists shall have the right to review electoral documents. The review shall be performed at the premises of the Commission. The review of electoral documents may be performed within five days from the election date.

Keeping Electoral Documents

Article 91

Electoral documents shall be kept for at least four years.

The Commission shall prescribe the method of review and keeping of electoral documents.

Voting

Article 92

A polling board shall check a ballot box in the presence of a voter who first comes to the polling station. It shall be checked whether the ballot box is proper, empty and adequate to ensure the safety and secrecy of the content of a ballot paper. The result of control shall be entered into a control ballot paper, which is to be signed by the members of a polling board and the voter who had first come to the polling station.

A control ballot paper shall be inserted into a ballot box, which is then sealed in the presence of the first voter and this shall also be entered into the minutes of activities of a polling board.

After opening a ballot box, it shall first be checked whether a control ballot paper is inside. If there is no control ballot paper in the ballot box, the polling board shall be dismissed and a new one appointed and the voting shall be repeated at that polling station.

The Commission shall prescribe the form of a control ballot paper and the manner of ballot box sealing.

Course of Voting

Article 93

A voter shall state to the polling board his/her personal name and hand in a notification on voting and prove his/her identity with an identity card or some other document.

A voter may not vote without having submitted evidence on his/her identity. Having determined the identity of the voter, the president of the polling board or a member shall encircle the serial number under which the voter had been registered in an excerpt from the special electoral roll and explain to him/her the manner of voting.

A voter shall sign the electoral roll and take a ballot paper.

Each voter who had voted and received electoral documents shall have his/her right hand index finger sprayed with a special liquid, as an indication that he/she had already voted. The liquid sprayed on the index finger shall last minimum 24 hours.

The members of a polling board may not influence the decision of any voter in any way.

The members of a polling board shall be obliged to explain the manner of voting to a voter if he/she so demands.

The members of a polling board shall be obliged to take care that no one disturbs a voter while he/she fills in a ballot paper and that the secrecy of a ballot is ensured.

On election day no modifications may be performed in excerpts from special electoral rolls.

If, in the course of voting, the provisions referred to in paragraph 5 to 8 of this Article are violated, the Commission shall dismiss the polling board, appoint a new one and arrange repeated elections at the polling station concerned.

Method of Voting

Article 94

A voter may vote for one electoral list only. Voting is done by encircling a serial number in front of the title of an electoral list.

A voter shall personally fold his/her ballot paper so that it shall not be visible who he/she has voted for and put it into a ballot box and leave the polling station.

Rules on the election of deputies shall be applied to voting outside a polling station.

Establishment of Election Results

Establishment of Election Results at Polling Stations

Article 95

Upon completion of voting, a polling board shall commence determining voting election results at a polling station.

A polling board shall determine the number of unused ballot papers and put them in a separate envelope which is then sealed and the number is entered into the minutes.

On the basis of an excerpt from the special electoral roll, a polling board shall determine the total number of voters who voted.

Once a ballot box is opened and the control ballot paper is checked, the valid ballot papers shall be separated from the invalid ones and the number of invalid ballot papers shall be entered into the minutes.

An invalid ballot paper is an empty ballot paper, a ballot paper filled in such way that it cannot be determined which electoral list received the vote, and a ballot paper on which more than one electoral list had been encircled.

If the name and surname of the first candidate in an electoral list is encircled, or the title of an electoral list, or part of its title is encircled, or, if both the serial number and the electoral list title and the full name and surname of the first candidate are encircled, such a ballot paper shall be deemed valid.

If it is determined that the number of ballot papers in a ballot box exceeds the number of voters who voted, the polling board shall be dismissed and a new one appointed and voting at such polling station shall be repeated.

Upon having determined election results, a polling board shall enter the following data into the minutes of its activities: the number of received ballot papers, the number of unused ballot papers, the number of invalid ballot papers, the number of valid ballot papers, the number of votes won by each of the electoral lists, the number of voters according to the excerpt from the special register of voters, and the number of voters who voted.

The minutes of activities of a polling board shall also contain remarks and opinions of the members of a polling board, of the nominators of an electoral list, as well as all other facts relevant for voting.

The minutes of activities of a polling board shall be signed by all the members of the polling board.

Minutes of Activities of a Polling Board

Article 96

Minutes of activities of a polling board shall be made in a prescribed form and printed in six copies.

The first copy of the minutes and electoral documents shall be delivered to the Commission.

The second copy of the minutes shall be displayed at a polling station for public review.

The four remaining copies of the minutes shall be immediately delivered to the representatives of nominators of electoral lists which won the largest number of votes at such a polling station if the nominator of an electoral list has a representative in the polling board,

and if there is no representative, the representative of the nominator of an electoral list may take over a copy of the minutes from the Commission within 12 hours upon completion of voting.

The remaining nominators shall be entitled, within 12 hours of delivery of the documents from the polling station to the Commission, to obtain a certified photocopy of the minutes from a polling station from the Commission.

Delivery of Voting Results from Polling Stations

Article 97

Once voting results had been established, a polling board shall, without any delay, and within 12 hours after the closing of polling stations at the latest, provide the Commission with: the minutes of activities; an excerpt from the electoral roll; unused ballot papers, invalid ballot papers and valid ballot papers in separately sealed envelopes, as well as all remaining electoral documents.

Determining and Announcing Election Results

Article 97a

On the basis of minutes of activities of polling boards, the Commission shall determine overall election results for each national council such as:

- 1) Number of voters registered in the special electoral roll;
- 2) Number of polling stations in which voting was conducted;
- 3) Total number of voters who voted;
- 4) Number of received ballot papers;
- 5) Number of unused ballot papers;
- 6) Number of used ballot papers;
- 7) Number of invalid ballot papers;
- 8) Number of valid ballot papers;
- 9) Number of votes won by each of the electoral lists;
- 10) Number of seats in the national council won by each of the electoral lists.

The Commission shall publish a report with overall election results in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia” within 96 hours after the completion of voting.

During the period between the completion of voting and announcement of election results, the Commission shall announce temporary data on election results in the media.

Allocation of Seats per Electoral Lists

Article 98

Each electoral list shall have a number of seats proportional to the number of votes received.

The Commission shall allocate seats by applying the system of highest quotient.

Seats shall be allocated by dividing the total number of votes granted to each electoral list with numbers ranging from 1 up to the number of members of a national council that is being elected.

Obtained quotients shall be classified by size, and the number of the largest quotients to be taken in account shall depend on the number of members of a national council to be elected.

If two or more electoral lists obtain the same quotients which are used as a basis for allocating one seat, and there are no more seats that are not allocated, a seat will be allocated to an electoral list that obtained a larger number of votes.

When an electoral list obtains more seats than it has candidates for members of a national council, a mandate shall be allocated to the electoral list with the next highest quotient.

Seats that belong to an electoral list shall be allocated to the candidates from the electoral list according to their order in the electoral list, starting from the first candidate.

Within three days from determining final results of an election, the Commission shall adopt a decision on the allocation of seats to members of a national council.

The decision shall be submitted to the ministry and published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia".

An administrative procedure may be initiated against the decision on the allocation of seats to members of a national council within 24 hours from the publication of the decision.

The Administrative Court shall be obliged to decide on the claim within 48 hours from the receipt of the claim.

The Commission shall issue a certificate on election for a member in a national council to the candidates who were awarded with a seat*

Title above Article 99 deleted (Article 55 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 99

Deleted (Article 55 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

3. Election of Members of National Councils through Electoral Assembly

Title above Article 100 deleted (Article 56 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 100

An electoral assembly shall elect members of a national council if conditions for direct elections have not been fulfilled and if after the dissolution of the national council new elections are scheduled within 60 days after the dissolution.

The procedure for the election of members of national councils through the electoral assembly shall be initiated by a decision on scheduling elections.

Previous paragraph 3 deleted (Article 56 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

The date and place of the electoral assembly shall be published in the media, including a public invitation to all electors to submit in due time their complete written applications for participation in the electoral assembly.

Article 101

A person belonging to a national minority has the right to be an elector, if such person is entered into the special electoral roll and if his/her candidacy is supported, in writing, by at least:

1) 20 persons belonging to a national minority entered into the special electoral roll, in case of a national minority whose size is below 10,000 persons according to the latest population census;

2) 30 persons belonging to a national minority entered into the special electoral roll, in case of a national minority whose size is over 10,000 persons but below 20,000 persons according to the latest population census;

3) 45 persons belonging to a national minority entered into the special electoral roll, in case of a national minority whose size is over 20,000 persons but below 50,000 persons according to the latest population census;

4) 60 persons belonging to a national minority entered into the special electoral roll, in case of a national minority whose size is over 50,000 persons but below 100,000 persons according to the latest population census;

5) 100 persons belonging to a national minority entered into the special electoral roll in case of a national minority whose size is over 100,000 persons according to the latest population census.

The signatures in support of electors must be certified by a competent authority for the verification of signatures. Verification of signatures shall not be subject to payment of fees.

Article 102

A candidate for an elector shall submit an electoral application to the Ministry for approval.

The electoral application shall include a statement that the candidate wishes to apply for the electoral assembly of a national minority, the candidate's personal data and verified statements of voters supporting the candidacy of the elector, in written and electronic form (CD or DVD), so that the list in both forms is identical and signed by a person submitting the electoral application for approval.

A person belonging to a national minority may support only one elector.

The form and the content of the form for collection of voters' signatures in support of electors shall be prescribed by the Minister.

The electoral application shall be submitted to the Ministry not later than 30 days before the electoral assembly.

The Ministry shall decide on confirmation of electoral application within 48 hours after the receipt of the electoral application.

The decision of the Ministry shall be final and administrative proceedings may be initiated against the decision within 24 hours after the receipt of the decision. The Administrative Court shall decide on the appeal within 48 hours.

The Ministry shall forward a written invitation to the electoral assembly to all electors whose electoral applications have been confirmed.

Article 103

Deleted (Article 59 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 104

Deleted (Article 59 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 105

An electoral assembly may be held if more than one-half of the number of electors whose electoral applications have been confirmed is present.

Notwithstanding the provision of paragraph 1 of this Article, the electoral assembly shall not be held if the electoral assembly is not confirmed or attended by:

1) At least 20 electors in case of national minorities whose size is below 10,000 persons according to the latest population census;

2) At least 30 electors in case of national minorities whose size is over 10,000 persons but less than 20,000 persons according to the latest population census;

3) At least 45 electors in case of national minorities whose size is over 20,000 persons but below 50,000 persons according to the latest population census;

4) At least 60 electors in case of national minorities whose size is over 50,000 persons but below 100,000 persons according to the latest population census;

5) At least 100 electors in case of national minorities whose size is over 100,000 persons according to the latest population census.

Article 106

Elections at the electoral assembly shall be conducted by a board of three members (hereinafter referred to as the: Board), appointed by the Commission among those familiar with electoral procedures.

The Committee shall appoint the Board within three days from the date of receipt of the notice from the Ministry that the sufficient number of electors, prescribed by the Law, was confirmed for the electoral assembly.

The Board shall also adopt a decision to suspend the election of a national council if the electoral assembly is not attended by a minimum number of electors prescribed by the Law, if no electoral list is registered for the election of members of a national council, if no registered electoral list is announced and if no collective electoral list is determined due to reasons prescribed by the Law.

An elector may file an appeal to the Commission against any decision of the Board within three hours after the adoption of the decision.

The Commission shall decide on the appeal within 12 hours after the receipt of the appeal.

The Commission may file an appeal against the decision to the Administrative Court within three hours after the receipt of the decision and the Administrative Court shall decide on the appeal within 12 hours.

Members of the Board shall be entitled to remuneration, as determined by the Commission.

Article 107

An electoral assembly shall begin its activities once the Board establishes the number of attending electors, with the help of the list of electors whose electoral application is confirmed and submitted by the Ministry.

Previous paragraph 2 deleted (Article 62 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 108

An electoral assembly shall adopt its decisions by public majority of the present electors.

An electoral assembly shall elect the members of a national council by secret vote.

The electoral assembly may also adopt other decisions by secret vote if it so decides.

Organisation of Elections

Article 109

An electoral assembly shall elect members of a national council among voters who are registered in a special electoral roll.

An electoral assembly shall elect members of a national system by applying the proportional system.

A list of candidates (hereinafter referred to as the: List) for membership in a national council may be proposed by one quarter of the number of present electors.

A list of candidates shall be accompanied by a certified statement from voters approving the candidacy.

Every three candidates on the list according to their order (the first three seats, the next three seats and so on until the end of the list) must be followed by at least one candidate – a person belonging to the less represented gender on the list.

An elector can support only one list.

The list shall include not less than one-third of candidates from the number of members of the national council to be elected, and not more than the aggregate number of candidates to be elected as members of the national council. The sequence of candidates shall be determined by the nominator.

The electors shall vote secretly on ballot papers prepared in advance on which they shall write the name of the list holder and the number of the list.

The Board shall distribute the terms of office by applying the system of the largest quotient.

The terms of office shall be distributed by dividing the total number of voters obtained by each list by numbers from 1 to the number corresponding to the total number of members of a national council to be elected.

The quotients obtained shall be sorted out by size, taking into account the number of largest quotients that correspond to the number of members of a national council to be elected.

If two or more electoral lists obtain the same quotients on the basis of which one term of office is to be assigned and there are no more unassigned terms of office, the term of office shall be assigned to the list that had won a larger number of votes.

If a list shall receive more terms of office than the number of nominated candidates for the members of a national council, the term of office shall be assigned to the list having the next largest quotient.

The term of office belonging to a particular list shall be assigned to the candidates from the list according to their order, starting with the first candidate.

Within three days, once the final election results are established, the Board shall render a decision on the assignment of term of office for the members of a national council, submit it to the Ministry and publish it in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”.

VIa CONSTITUTIVE SESSION OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL

Article 109a

The constitutive session of a national council shall be convened by the Minister, and it shall be held within 20 days after the final election results have been established.

The term of office of members of a national council shall be confirmed at the constitutive session.

Confirmation of the term of office of members of a national council shall be made on the basis of certificates of election of a member of the national council and the decision on the assignment of the term of office of members of the national council.

A national council shall be constituted by confirming the term of office of all members of the national council.

The activities of the first convocation of a national council at the constitutive session shall be governed by the Provisional Rules of Procedure, adopted by the Ministry. In the absence of their own rules, other national councils shall also apply the Provisional Rules of Procedure.

Title above Article 110 deleted (Article 65 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 110

Deleted (Article 65 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

Article 111

Deleted (Article 66 of the Law - 55/2014-3).

VII. FUNDING OF ACTIVITIES OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL

Article 112

A national council shall adopt its annual financial plan, financial report and annual financial statement.

The annual financial plan of a national council shall specify all income and expenses of a national council for the calendar year.

The annual financial plan shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure and in a manner stipulated in the statute of a national council.

A national council shall be obliged to send to the Ministry a copy of the financial report or a copy of the financial statement within 15 days from the adoption of the financial report or final financial statement.

Utilisation of Funds

Article 113

The funds acquired in accordance with this Law may be used for funding the expenditures pertaining to:

- 1) Regular operations of a national council;
- 2) Operations of the institutions, foundations, companies and other organisations founded or co-founded by a national council, institution foundation, company or other organisation whose founder's rights had been assigned to a national council, either entirely or partially.

The regular operation expenditure includes, in particular:

- 1) Financing or co-financing of programmes and projects in the field of education, culture, information and official use of the language and script of a national minority;
- 2) Costs associated with renting and occupation of premises by a national council;
- 3) Salaries, taxes and social security contributions for the employees of a national council;
- 4) Fees and reimbursements for activities performed on behalf of a national council;
- 5) Travelling costs and allowances for business trips;
- 6) Procurement of office stationery and equipment for the activities of a national council.

Types of Funds

Article 114

Funds for the activities of national councils shall be provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, the budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the budget of local self-government units, donations and other sources.

Article 115

The amount of funds from public sources to be allocated for funding the activities of national councils shall be specified for each year according to the Law on Budget of the Republic of Serbia, i.e. the respective decisions on the budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and local self-government units.

The funds referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article to be provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia shall be allocated in the following manner: 30% of the funds shall be allocated among all registered national councils in the Republic of Serbia in equal shares and the remaining value (70%) shall be allocated proportionally to the number of members of a national minority represented by a national council and according to the total number of institutions of a national minority concerned in the field of culture, education, information and official use of the language and script and within the scope of activities of such institutions.

The decision on the allocation of funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia shall be rendered by the Ministry, taking into account the proposals filed by national councils.

The funds referred to in paragraph of this Article to be provided from the budget of the Autonomous Province shall be allocated pursuant to the decision rendered by a competent provincial authority to national councils seated in the territory of the Autonomous Province.

The funds referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article to be provided from the budget of local self-government unit shall be allocated pursuant to the decision rendered by a competent authority of local self-government unit to national councils representing national minorities whose members make up for at least 10% of the total population of the local self-government unit or whose language is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit.

Funding of Activities of Institutions whose Founders' Rights are Assigned to National Councils

Article 116

The funding of institutions or other organisations whose founders' rights are fully or partially assigned to national councils shall be carried out from the same sources and on the basis of the same normative provisions on which the institutions and organisations had been funded from before the assignment of founder's rights to national councils.

The financial liabilities of the previous founder towards the institutions or other organisations whose founder shall thereafter become the national council shall be regulated by the agreement on assignment of founders' rights.

A national council may provide additional funds for the operations and activities of institutions and other organisations whose founders' rights had been assigned to a national council.

Account of a National Council, Mandatory Accounting and Financial Control

Article 117

A national council shall have an account.

A national council shall keep accounting records of all income and expenses.

The accounting records shall be kept according to the origin, amount and structure of income and expenses in accordance with regulations governing accounting.

The accounting records of income and expenses of a national council are subject to an annual audit in accordance with regulations governing accounting, and may be subject to control by the competent authorities.

A national council shall keep special records of its property.

Responsible Person

Article 118

The statute of a national council shall appoint a person responsible for financial operations, reporting and bookkeeping of a national council.

Should a national council fail to specify a person responsible in its statute, the president of a national council shall perform this function.

Budgetary Fund of National Minorities

Article 119

National councils shall participate in the process of allocation of funds from the budgetary fund of national minorities, based on public competitions for programmes and projects in the field of culture, education, information and official use of the language and script of national minorities.

The budgetary fund of national minorities shall be managed by the Ministry.

VIII. MONITORING

Article 120

The legality of actions and acts of national councils shall be monitored by the Ministry in accordance with the Constitution and the Law.

A national council shall be obliged to forward any requested information, files and documents to the Ministry in charge of monitoring the legality of actions and acts of national councils, within eight days upon the Ministry's request.

The president of a national council shall be responsible for the submission of the requested information, files and documents.

Article 121

The competent ministry shall initiate the proceedings before the Constitutional Court for the assessment of the constitutionality and legality of a national council's statute, regulation and any other general act, if it considers that such an act is not in accordance with the Constitution, Law or another national regulation.

The competent authority of the Autonomous Province shall initiate the proceedings referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article if it considers that such an act is not in accordance with provincial regulations.

Article 122

The Ministry shall suspend the implementation of any act of a national council which is not compliant with the Constitution, Law or another regulation by adopting a decision which is published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia". The Ministry shall initiate the proceedings for the assessment of constitutionality and legality of an act before the Constitutional Court within five days from the date of publication of the decision.

If the Ministry fails to initiate the proceedings referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the decision on suspension of implementation shall expire.

IX. PUNITIVE PROVISIONS

Article 123

Fines from RSD 10,000 to RSD 30,000 shall be imposed on a person who:

1) Fails to enter voters or deletes voters from the special electoral roll contrary to provisions of Article 47 of this Law;

2) Makes use of the data entered into the special electoral roll belonging to national minorities for the purposes other than the purposes prescribed by this Law, contrary to Article 49 of this Law.

Article 124

A person using bleeper, mobile phone or other telecommunication devices at a polling station, which is contrary to Article 86, paragraph 7 of this Law, shall be fined for this offence from RSD 10,000 to RSD 30,000.

Article 125

A person violating order at a polling station and causing the voting to be terminated in accordance with Article 88 of this Law shall be fined from RSD 10,000 to RSD 30,000.

Article 126

A legal entity or a natural person violating or abusing the right to use national symbols shall be fined for this offence from RSD 10,000 to RSD 30,000.

Article 127

A responsible person of a national council shall be fined from RSD 500.00 to RSD 50,000 for the following offences:

1) If he/she fails to act in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 3 of this Law;

2) If he/she fails to submit the required information, files and documents, within 8 days after the receipt of the request, to the Ministry in charge for monitoring the legality of activities and documents, which is contrary to Article 120, paragraph 2.

Article 128

A national council shall be fined from RSD 50,000 to RSD 200,000 if:

1) Within 30 days from the day of adoption of amendments and supplements to the statute, it fails to notify the Ministry on amendments and supplements to the statute and submit them along with the minutes from the session at which they had been adopted;

2) If it fails to submit the required information, files and documents, within 8 days after the receipt of the request, to the Ministry in charge for monitoring the legality of activities and documents, which is contrary to Article 120 paragraph 2.

X. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 129

The Minister shall adopt a decision on the schedule of elections of national councils within 6 months after this Law enters into force.

From the day of issuance of the schedule of elections until the election date referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, a period of time is required of not less than 60 days and not more than 90 days.

The electoral assembly shall be held within a period of time that cannot be shorter than 60 days or longer than 90 days from the date of the decision referred to in Article 100 paragraph 2.

The manner of implementation of the elections shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 130

National councils shall adopt new or harmonise their current statutes and general acts with the provisions of this Law within three months from the date of their constitution.

Article 131

The provisions of this Law referring to the right to give proposals or opinions in the process of election, i.e. appointment of members of authorities established by the Republic of Serbia, autonomous province or local self-government unit shall apply as of the first subsequent process of election, i.e. appointment of members of these authorities.

Article 132

The Ministry shall appoint the permanent composition of the CEC within 30 days from the date of its entry into force.

Article 133

Regulations referred to in Article 4 paragraph 4, Article 52 paragraph 3, Article 55 and Article 102 paragraph 4 of this Law shall be adopted by the Ministry within 30 days after its entry into force.

Article 134

The Executive Board of the Union of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia shall function as a national council and the President of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia shall be a member of the Council of National Minorities of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 135

If a national council fails to determine traditional names referred to in Article 22 of this Law, within three months from its enactment, the traditional names shall be determined by the Government, i.e. the competent authority of the autonomous province, if a national council is located in the territory of the autonomous province, in cooperation with the local self-government units, organisations of national minorities and experts in the field of language, history and geography of a national minority concerned.

The provision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall not refer to a national council that had determined and published traditional names referred to in Article 22 of this Law before the enactment of this Law.

Article 136

For the purpose of certain elections, the Ministry may allow permanent residence, which is the condition to exercise an active or passive right to vote, to be replaced with temporary residence in case of persons residing in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija.

Article 137

After the enactment of this Law all national councils shall be elected, i.e. re-elected.

If half of the term of office of a national council has not expired on the date of schedule of election, its term of office shall be renewed and shall last as long as the term of office of national councils to be elected.

National councils elected before the enactment of this Law and whose term of office has expired shall continue to perform their activities until the elections, i.e. the constitution of a national council according to the provisions of this Law.

Article 138

On the day this Law enters into force, the following shall cease to be valid:

- 1) Article 24 of the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities. (“Official Gazette of FRY”, No 11/02);
- 2) Rulebook on the Method of Activities of Assemblies of Electors for the Election of National Minority Councils (“Official Gazette of FRY”, No 41/02).

Article 139

This Law shall enter into force eight days after its publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”.