

LAW ON REFERENDUM AND OTHER FORMS OF DIRECT VOTE OF CITIZENS

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I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Law shall regulate the manner and procedure for scheduling and carrying out a referendum, raising citizen's initiative, calling and holding gathering of the citizens, as well as other issues relevant to the direct vote of the citizens.

Article 2

The referendum shall be a form of direct vote of the citizens when deciding on particular issues within the competence of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, regarding issues within the competence of the municipalities, the City of Skopje and the municipalities in the city of Skopje, as well as other issues of local importance.

Article 3

(1) Citizens' initiative shall be a form of direct vote of the citizens when deciding by raising initiatives with the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, the councils of the municipalities, the City of Skopje and the municipalities in the city of Skopje.

(2) Citizens' initiative may be started for submitting a proposal on amending the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: the Constitution), proposal on adopting law and initiation of a referendum at state level (hereinafter: citizen's initiative at state level).

(3) Citizens' initiative may be started even for adopting particular regulation of the municipalities, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje for settling particular issues within the competence of the councils of the municipalities, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje and for scheduling a referendum at local level (hereinafter: citizens' initiative at local level).

Article 4

The gathering of citizens shall be a form of direct vote of the citizens when deciding on issues of local importance for the municipalities, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje and important for the local self-government the certain issue refers to.

Article 5

A tax shall not be paid for the activities, acts, submissions and other documents for carrying out the referendum and the other forms of direct vote of the citizens and all the activities in the procedure shall be exempted from payment of all types of taxes.

II. REFERENDUM

Article 6

(1) Referendum may be scheduled for the whole territory of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: referendum at state level).

(2) Referendum may also be scheduled for the region of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities in the city of Skopje (hereinafter: referendum at local level).

Article 7

(1) At the referendum the citizens shall vote directly by secret voting.

(2) The citizens that have electoral rights and are entered in the Electoral register (hereinafter: the citizens) shall have the right to vote at referendum.

(3) No one can be held liable for voting, i.e. not voting at referendum.

Article 8

(1) The referendum shall be scheduled for the purpose of deciding of the citizens or consulting the citizens.

(2) The decision adopted at referendum for deciding shall be mandatory.

(3) The decision adopted at referendum for consulting shall not be mandatory.

Article 9

Referendum shall be scheduled by a decision containing:

- the body that schedules the referendum;
- the territory or the region being subject to scheduled referendum;
- the title of the regulation, that is the issue or issues the citizens decide upon at referendum;
- explanation of the regulation, that is the issue or issues being subject to scheduled referendum;
- referendum issue or issues, that is one or more propositions of regulations the citizens decide upon;
- the day of the referendum and
- the type of the referendum.

Article 10

(1) Sunday shall be determined as referendum day.

(2) One or more referendums may be held on the same day (Sunday).

(3) The citizens shall be notified on referendum by public invitation.

Article 11

(1) The referendum shall be carried out at electoral places as determined by law.

(2) The municipal electoral commissions shall publicly announce the electoral places for conducting the referendum voting at latest within five days before the referendum.

Article 12

(1) The authorized proposer may initiate public propaganda regarding the referendum, at his/her own expense.

(2) The public propaganda regarding the referendum must be completed at latest 48 hours before the day of voting.

Article 13

(1) The voting at the referendum shall start at 7.00 a.m. and it shall continuously last until 7.00 p.m.

(2) The voting place shall be closed at 7.00 p.m. and the citizens at the moment of closing found within the voting facility shall be allowed to vote.

(3) The voting place where all the citizens registered in the certificate of the Electoral list have already voted may be closed even before the expiry of the time period referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article.

Article 14

The decision for scheduling referendum, the name of the regulation being decided upon at the referendum that is the title of the issue or issues the citizens decide upon at the referendum shall be displayed at the voting place.

Article 15

(1) It shall be voted by ballot at the referendum.

(2) The ballot shall contain the issue considered at the referendum, instructions regarding the manner of voting and the serial number of the ballot paper in the part that remains on the block.

(3) If it is voted for more issues, it shall be voted for each issue at a separate ballot.

(4) The issue on the ballot must be precisely formulated and unambiguous, so that the citizen at the referendum may answer by "FOR" or "AGAINST".

Article 16

(1) The ballot for referendum at state level shall be printed in Macedonian language and in its Cyrillic alphabet.

(2) In the municipalities and the City of Skopje where besides the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet another official language and its alphabet are in official use, the ballot shall be printed in Macedonian language and in its Cyrillic alphabet and in the official language and the alphabet being in official use in that certain municipality and the City of Skopje.

Article 17

(1) The ballot for referendum at local level shall be printed in Macedonian language and in its Cyrillic alphabet.

(2) In the municipalities, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje where besides the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet another official language and its alphabet are in official use, the ballot shall be printed in Macedonian language and in its Cyrillic alphabet and in the official language and the alphabet that are in official use in that municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje.

Article 18

The citizen shall state his/her opinion at the referendum by circling the word "FOR" or "AGAINST" on the ballot.

Article 19

Referendum for the same issue can not be repeated earlier than two years after the day of the organized referendum.

1. Referendum at state level

Article 20

(1) Referendum at state level shall be scheduled by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: the Assembly).

(2) The Assembly shall schedule referendum at state level on its own initiative and on a proposal of at least 150.000 citizens.

Article 21

(1) The proposal on initiation of referendum at state level shall be submitted together with an explanation to the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: president of the Assembly).

(2) The Assembly shall be obliged to decide upon the scheduling of referendum within 30 days from the day of the submission of the proposal referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article.

Article 22

(1) The decision for scheduling a referendum at state level shall be published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" and in other mass media.

(2) Neither less than 60 days nor more than 90 days can pass from the day of the publication of the decision for scheduling a referendum at state level in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" until the day of its organization.

Article 23

Referendum at state level must be scheduled for adopting a decision in the Assembly for changing the border of the Republic of Macedonia and for decision on joining in or joining out of an association or community with other states.

Article 24

Referendum at state level may also be scheduled in case of a need of ratification of international agreements and other issues within the competence of the Assembly (previous referendum) and decisions adopted by the Assembly or for the purpose of citizens stating their opinion regarding other issues the Assembly has already decided upon (additional referendum).

Article 25

Referendum at state level may be scheduled for issues that shall be regulated by law (previous referendum) or for the purpose of re-evaluating a law being previously adopted (additional referendum).

Article 26

(1) Previous referendum may be scheduled for:

- particular issue that shall be regulated by law and
- regulation of particular issue not regulated by law.

(2) Additional referendum may be scheduled for the purpose of re-evaluating a previously adopted law.

Article 27

For the purpose of prior consultation with the citizens regarding issues of wider importance for the Republic of Macedonia, referendum at state level may be scheduled for consulting the citizens (referendum for consultation).

Article 28

(1) Referendum at state level can not be scheduled for issues that refer to the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia and the final account of the Budget, public expenditures, the reserves of the Republic of Macedonia, the issues on elections, the appointments and the dismissals and amnesty.

(2) Referendum at state level can not be scheduled for issues that refer to the defense, the military and state of emergency and the decrees adopted with legal force during military or state of emergency.

(3) Referendum at state level can not be scheduled for issues the Assembly shall decide upon by majority votes from the present members of the Assembly, and it is obligatory for the majority votes of the present members of the Assembly to belong to the communities not being majority in the Republic of Macedonia.

Article 29

(1) The decision for changing the border of the Republic of Macedonia and the decision for joining in and joining out of an association or community with other states shall be adopted at referendum if the majority of the total number of citizens registered in the Electoral list has voted them at the referendum.

(2) The decision referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article adopted at referendum shall be compulsory.

Article 30

(1) The decisions from the referendum at state level shall be considered adopted if it has been voted by the majority of the total number of citizens, by more than half of the total number of citizens registered in the Electoral list, unless otherwise determined for particular issues by the Constitution and this Law.

(2) The Assembly shall be obliged to regulate the issue, i.e. the law being subject to deciding at the referendum within 60 days from the announcement of the results from the referendum, in accordance with the results from the referendum.

2. Bodies for conducting referendum at state level

Article 31

Bodies for conducting referendum at state level shall be:

- the State Electoral Commission;
- the municipal electoral commissions for conducting elections for representatives in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (Municipal Electoral Commissions) and
- electoral boards.

Article 32

(1) The State Electoral Commission shall:

- take care of the legal preparation and conduct of the referendum at state level;
- appoint a president, members and their deputies in the municipal electoral commissions;
- undertake technical preparations for conducting the referendum at state level;
- prescribe the forms for conducting the referendum at state level and publish them in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia";
- determine the form, size, color and serial numbers of the ballot;
- hand over the voting material to and receive it from the municipal electoral commissions;
- determine unified standards for the voting material;
- inform the citizens regarding the manner and technique of voting and the manner of fulfillment of the electoral right;
- provide material conditions for conducting the referendum at state level;
- determine the manner of handling and keeping the voting material;
- organize the printing of the voting material;
- submit report to the Assembly regarding the conducted referendum at state level within three days from the day of its conduct;
- adopt a Rulebook and Guidelines on compensation for the bodies for conducting the referendum

at state level and submit financial report to the Assembly;

- prescribe the type of device to mark and check for marks the persons who have already voted (UV lamp, spray and graphite pad);
- form assistant bodies for performing organizational and technical works;
- announce the descriptions of the electoral places in the daily press;
- perform the works determined by the Law on Electoral List for Conducting the Referendum at State Level;
- decide upon complaints;
- determine and announce the result from the referendum at state level and
- perform other works as determined by law.

(2) The work of the State Electoral Commission shall be public.

Article 33

The municipal electoral commission shall:

- take care of the legal conduct of the referendum at state level;
- appoint the composition of electoral boards and give instructions on their work;
- educate the members of the electoral boards;
- undertake technical preparations for conducting referendum at state level according to the instructions of the State Electoral Commission;
- inform the citizens of the manner and technique of voting;
- hand over the voting material to and receive it from the electoral boards;
- sum up the results from the voting at the voting places;
- hand over the voting material to the State Electoral Commission within three hours after receiving the voting material from the electoral board and
- perform other works as determined by law.

Article 34

(1) The electoral board shall be formed for each electoral point.

(2) The electoral board shall consist of a president, two members and their deputies.

(3) The electoral boards shall be formed at latest 20 days before the day envisaged for holding a referendum at state level.

Article 35

The electoral board shall:

- directly manage the voting at the voting place;
- provide correct and secret voting;
- provide free and peaceful organization of the voting;
- sum up the voting results at the voting place;
- hand over the voting material to the Municipal Electoral Commission within three hours after the closing the voting and
- perform other works as determined by law.

3. Referendum at local level

Article 36

(1) Referendum at local level shall be scheduled by the Council of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities in the city of Skopje (hereinafter: the Council) upon its own initiative and on a proposal of at least 20% of the citizens from the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities in the city of Skopje.

(2) The council may schedule referendum at local level regarding issues within its competence being subject to authorization by law.

Article 37

(1) The decision for scheduling referendum at local level shall be published in the official journal of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities in the city of Skopje and through the public information media in a manner determined by the statute.

(2) Neither less than 25 nor more than 40 days can pass from the day of publishing the decision for scheduling referendum in the official journal of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities in the city of Skopje until the day of holding the referendum at local level.

Article 38

Referendum at local level may be scheduled for the purpose of adopting regulation, for issues that shall be regulated by the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities in the city of Skopje (previous referendum) or for re-evaluation of a previously adopted regulation (additional referendum).

Article 39

(1) Previous referendum at local level may be scheduled for:

- particular issue supposed to be regulated by a regulation and
- regulation of particular issue not being regulated by regulation.

(2) Additional referendum may be scheduled for the purpose of re-evaluating a previously adopted regulation.

Article 40

(1) Referendum at local level can not be scheduled for issues referring to the budget and the final account of the budget of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje and the organization of the municipal administration.

(2) Referendum at local level can not be scheduled for issues being subject to decisions from the Council by the majority votes from the present members of the council including majority votes from the present members of the council that belong to the communities not being majority population in the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje.

Article 41

(1) The decisions from the referendum at local level shall be considered adopted if they are voted by the majority of the total number of citizens who have voted, by more than half of the total number of citizens registered in the certificate from the Electoral list of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje where the referendum is conducted.

(2) The council of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje shall be obliged to regulate the issue being subject to decision at the referendum in accordance with the results from the referendum within 60 days after the announcement of the results from the referendum.

4. Bodies for conducting the referendum at local level

Article 42

Bodies for conducting the referendum at local level shall be:

- municipal electoral commissions and the Electoral commission of the City of Skopje for conducting the local elections (electoral commission) and
- electoral boards.

Article 43

(1) The electoral commission shall:

- take care of legal preparation and conduct of the referendum at local level;
- appoint the president, members and their deputies of the electoral boards;
- harmonize the work and give instructions to the electoral boards;
- undertake technical preparations for conducting the referendum at local level;
- prescribe the forms for conduct of referendum at local level and publish them in the official journal of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje;
- determine the form, size, color and serial numbers of the ballot;
- hand over the voting materials to and receive them from the electoral boards;
- determine unified standards for the voting material;
- inform the citizens of the manner and technique of voting and implementation of the electoral right;
- determine the manner of keeping and handling the voting material;
- organize the printing of the voting material;
- determine the compensation for the bodies for conducting the referendum at local level and submit financial report to the Council in regard to the referendum conducted at local level;
- determine and announce the result from the referendum at local level within two days after the organization of the referendum;
- decide upon complaints and
- perform other works as determined by law.

(2) The work of the electoral commission shall be public.

Article 44

(1) The electoral boards shall be formed at latest five days before the day envisaged for holding the referendum at local level.

(2) The provisions referred to in Articles 34 and 35 of this Law shall be appropriately applied to the composition and competence of the electoral boards when conducting the referendum at local level.

III CONDUCTING REFERENDUM

Article 45

(1) The provisions of the Law on Election of Representatives in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia shall be applied when conducting the referendum at state level, unless otherwise determined by this Law.

(2) The provisions of the Law on Local Elections shall be applied when conducting the referendum at local level, unless otherwise determined by this Law.

IV ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS FROM THE REFERENDUM

Article 46

After closing the voting, the electoral board shall immediately start assessing and summing up the results at the voting places.

Article 47

(1) The electoral board shall compose minutes regarding the voting at the referendum.

(2) The following data shall be inserted in the minutes of the voting at the referendum:

- the number of the voting place;
- the composition of the electoral board;
- the total number of citizens entered in the certificate from the Electoral list;
- the total number of citizens that have voted;
- the total number of unused ballots;
- the total number of valid ballots;
- the total number of invalid ballots;
- the total number of votes "FOR";
- the total number of votes "AGAINST" and
- the total number of votes for each proposal when voting for more proposals.

(3) The notes given by the members of the electoral board shall also be inserted in the minutes.

Article 48

(1) The minutes from the voting shall be signed by the president and the members of the electoral board.

(2) The minutes from the voting shall be considered valid if signed by the majority of the members of the electoral board.

(3) The president of the electoral board shall state the reasons for not signing the minutes by a member of the board.

(4) If the minutes is not signed by the majority members of the electoral board, the same shall be composed and signed by the Municipal Electoral Commission on the basis of the total voting material.

Article 49

The electoral boards shall submit the minutes and the whole voting material to the Municipal Electoral Commission within three hours after completing the voting.

Article 50

The Municipal Electoral Commission, after receiving the minutes and the whole voting material from the electoral boards, shall sum up the results from the voting at the electoral places within its region.

Article 51

(1) The Municipal Electoral Commission shall compose minutes for conducting the referendum.

(2) The following data shall be inserted in the minutes for conducting the referendum:

- the number of the electoral places in its region;
- the composition of the Municipal Electoral Commission;
- the total number of citizens entered in the certificate from the Electoral list regarding the electoral places;
- the total number of citizens who have voted;
- the total number of unused ballots;
- the total number of valid ballots;
- the total number of invalid ballots;
- the total number of votes "FOR";
- the total number of votes "AGAINST" and
- the total number of votes for each proposal when voting for more proposals.

(3) The notes given by the members of the Municipal Electoral Commission shall also be inserted in the minutes.

Article 52

(1) The minutes for conducting the referendum shall be signed by the president and the members of the Municipal Electoral Commission.

(2) The minutes shall be considered valid if signed by the majority of the members of the electoral commission.

(3) The president of the Municipal Electoral Commission shall state the reasons for not signing the minutes by a member of the commission.

(4) If the minutes is not signed by the majority members of the Municipal Electoral Commission, the minutes shall be composed and signed by the State Electoral Commission on the basis of the whole voting material.

Article 53

The Municipal Electoral Commission shall submit the minutes and the whole voting material to the State Electoral Commission within 12 hours after receiving it from the electoral boards.

Article 54

The State Electoral Commission, after receiving the minutes and the whole voting material from the Municipal Electoral Commissions, shall assess and announce the result from the voting at the referendum at state level within 24 hours.

Article 55

(1) The State Electoral Commission shall prepare a report regarding the results from the voting at the referendum at state level.

(2) The report on the results from the voting at the referendum shall contain data regarding:

- the total number of citizens entered in the Electoral list;
- the total number of citizens who have voted;
- the total number of unused ballots;
- the total number of invalid ballots;
- the total number of valid ballots;
- the total number of votes "FOR";
- the total number of votes "AGAINST" and
- the result from the referendum.

Article 56

(1) The State Electoral Commission shall publish the result from the voting at the referendum at state level in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" within 15 days from the day of holding the referendum.

(2) The State Electoral Commission shall submit the report on the result from the voting at the referendum at state level to the Assembly.

Article 57

The provisions of this Law that refer to the referendum at state level shall be appropriately applied for the purpose of determining the results from the voting at the referendum at local level.

Article 58

The Municipal Electoral Commission, after receiving the minutes and the whole voting material from the electoral boards, shall determine and announce the result from the voting at the referendum at local level within 24 hours.

Article 59

(1) The electoral commission shall submit the report on the result from the voting at the referendum at local level to the Council of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje within three days from the day of its conduct.

(2) The electoral commission shall publish the result from the voting at the referendum at local level in the official journal of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje within ten days from the day of its conduct.

Article 60

The Assembly, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the State Statistical Office, the General Affairs Service within the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and their regional units, as well as the municipalities, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje shall be obliged to provide technical and other conditions for work for the bodies for conducting the referendum.

V FUNDS FOR CONDUCTING THE REFERENDUM

Article 61

(1) The funds for conducting referendum at state level shall be provided from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.

(2) The funds for conducting the referendum referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be at disposal of the State Electoral Commission.

Article 62

(1) The funds for conducting the referendum at local level shall be provided from the budget of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje.

(2) The funds for conducting the referendum referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be at disposal of the Electoral Commission.

VI PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE WHEN CONDUCTING REFERENDUM

Article 63

(1) The procedure for protection of the right to vote at referendum shall be urgent.

(2) The appeals regarding the protection of the right to vote shall be submitted to the competent bodies, through the first instance bodies.

(3) The second instance decisions of the competent bodies shall be final.

1. Protection of the right to vote when conducting referendum at state level

Article 64

(1) Each citizen shall have the right to lodge an appeal to the State Electoral Commission due to irregularities in the voting procedure, summing up and assessing the results from the voting within 24 hours from the day of holding the referendum at state level.

(2) The State Electoral Commission shall be obliged to reach a decision within 24 hours after receiving the appeal.

(3) An appeal may be lodged to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia against the determination of the State Electoral Commission within 48 hours from the day of the receiving the determination.

(4) The Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia shall be obliged to act according to the appeal within 48 hours.

2. Protection of the right to vote when conducting referendum at local level

Article 65

(1) Each citizen shall have the right to lodge an appeal to the Electoral commission due to irregularities in the procedure for voting, summing up and assessing the results from the voting within 24 hours from the day of holding the referendum at local level.

(2) The Electoral commission shall be obliged to reach a determination within 24 hours after receiving the complaint.

(3) An appeal may be lodged to the Basic Court whose local competence refers to the municipality region that is the City of Skopje, against the determination of the Electoral Commission, within 48 hours from the day of receiving the determination.

(4) The Basic Court shall be obliged to act on the appeal within 48 hours.

VII CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

1. Citizen's initiative at state level

Article 66 2

(1) Citizens' initiative at state level shall be started on a proposal of 100 citizens.

(2) The citizens' initiative at state level shall be conducted in regard to issues referred to in Article 3 paragraph (2) of this Law.

(3) The proposal for raising citizens' initiative at state level shall be lodged by an authorized proposer and it shall refer to an issue within the competence for deciding of the Assembly.

(4) An authorized proposer, in terms of paragraph (3) of this Article, shall be the first signatory of the proposal for raising citizens' initiative.

Article 67

(1) The proposal for raising citizens' initiative at state level shall be submitted to the president of the Assembly.

(2) When the president of the Assembly shall determine the initiative to be in accordance with Article 66 of this Law, (s)he shall notify the authorized proposer for it within three days.

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(4) *abolished*

(5) When the president of the Assembly determines the initiative to be disorderly, (s)he shall put the issue in relation to the initiative on the agenda at the first following session of the Assembly, not later than 15 days from the day of determining the disorderliness of the initiative.

(6) The Assembly shall, by conclusion, determine whether the initiative is orderly.

(7) The President of the Assembly shall notify the authorized proposer for the conclusion of the Assembly within three days from the day of its adoption.

Article 68

(1) When the President of the Assembly determines the initiative to be orderly, (s)he shall notify the state administration body competent for recording the electoral right through the President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

(2) In the cases when the initiative is orderly, the deadline for the procedure to collect signatures shall start 20 days from the day of delivering the notification from the President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to the state administration body competent for recording the electoral right.

Article 69

(1) The proposer shall be obliged to conduct the proposed citizens' initiative at state level within three months from the day of the receiving the notification of its orderliness.

(2) If the proposed citizens' initiative at state level is not conducted within the time frame referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, it shall be considered that the initiative is not started.

Article 70

(1) The signatures of the citizens regarding the citizens' initiative at state level shall be given in a Form before the state administration body competent for recording the electoral right, within the frameworks of the working hours.

(2) The Form referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall contain the proposal being subjected to collecting signatures of the citizens and the data for the ordinal number, name and surname, personal identification number and space for the citizens to sign.

(3) The citizens shall sign the Form personally.

(4) The Form on which the citizens' signatures are given shall be verified by a seal and signature of the official person in front of whom they sign.

(5) In the municipalities and the City of Skopje where besides the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet another official language and its alphabet are in official use, the Form referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article shall be printed in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in the official language and the alphabet being in official use in that certain municipality and the City of Skopje.

Article 71

(1) A state level citizens' initiative regarding a submission of a proposal for amending the Constitution and for scheduling a referendum shall be considered started if at least 150.000 citizens have supported the initiative with their signatures.

(2) A citizen's initiative regarding adoption of a law shall be considered started if at least 10.000 citizens have supported the initiative with their signatures.

Article 72

The authorized representative of the proposer shall submit the Form with the signatures of the citizens regarding the proposal for the state level initiative to the President of the Assembly within three days after completing the giving of signatures.

Article 73

(1) The Assembly without dispute shall adopt a decision upon the citizens' initiative referred to in Article 71 paragraph (1) of this Law.

(2) The Assembly, regarding the initiative referred to in Article 71 paragraph (2) of this Law, shall be obliged to decide within 30 days from the day of receiving the proposal.

(3) The Assembly shall inform the citizens regarding the decision on the proposal referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article.

(4) The citizens shall be informed through the mass media.

2. Citizens' initiative at local level

Article 74

(1) The local level citizens' initiative shall be started with the Council of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje.

(2) The citizens' initiative at local level shall be conducted by giving signatures of the citizens regarding issues referred to in Article 3 paragraph (3) of this Law.

(3) The citizens' initiative at local level can not be started regarding financial and personnel issues.

Article 75

- (1) The citizens' initiative at local level shall be started on a proposal of 100 citizens.
- (2) The proposal for raising citizens' initiative at local level shall be submitted to the President of the council.
- (3) The proposal for initiating citizens' initiative at local level shall be submitted by an authorized proposer and shall refer to an issue within the competence for deciding of the Council of the municipality, of the City of Skopje and of the municipalities of the city of Skopje.
- (4) An authorized proposer, in terms of paragraph (3) of this Article, shall be the first signatory of the proposal for raising citizens' initiative.

Article 76

- (1) The President of the council, upon receiving the proposal for citizens' initiative, within three days shall examine whether the proposal is submitted by an authorized proposer and whether it refers to an issue within the competence for the council to decide.
- (2) When the President of the council determines the initiative to be in accordance with Article 75 paragraph (3) of this Law, (s)he shall notify the authorized proposer for it within three days.
- (3) When the President of the council determines the initiative not to be orderly, (s)he shall put the issue in relation to the initiative on the agenda at the first following session of the council, not later than 15 days from the day of the determining the disorderliness of the initiative.
- (4) The council, by conclusion, shall determine whether the initiative is orderly.
- (5) The president of the council shall notify the authorized proposer of the conclusion of the council within three days from the day of its adoption.

Article 77

- (1) The proposer shall be obliged to conduct the proposed citizens' initiative at local level within one month from the day of receiving the notification of its orderliness.
- (2) If the proposed citizens' initiative at local level is not conducted within the time frame referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, the same shall not be as started.

Article 78

The signatures of the citizens regarding the citizens' initiative at local level shall be given before the state administration body competent for recording the electoral right and in a manner as determined in Article 70 of this Law.

Article 79

The citizens' initiative at local level shall be considered started if at least 10% of the citizens entered in the certificate of the Electoral list of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje have supported the initiative with their signatures.

Article 80

The authorized representative of the proposer shall submit the Form with the signatures of the citizens regarding the proposal being subject of the initiative at local level to the President of the council within three days after completing giving of signatures.

Article 81

- (1) The council shall be obliged to decide within 30 days after receiving the proposal.
- (2) The council shall inform the citizens for the decision on the proposal.
- (3) The citizens shall be informed through the public information media in a manner determined by the statute.

VIII GATHERING OF CITIZENS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

Article 82

- (1) The gathering of citizens shall be called for the purpose of citizens stating their opinion on particular issues being relevant to the local self-government and for the purpose of initiation of initiatives regarding the settlement of issues with local importance.
- (2) At the gathering the citizens shall consider issues, take stands and make proposals upon issues of direct and everyday importance for the life and the work of the citizens in the municipality region that is the local self-government.

Article 83

At the gatherings of citizens, the citizens with residence in the region where the meeting is organized shall have the right to decide.

Article 84

- (1) A gathering of citizen may be called for the region of the whole municipality or for the region of the local self-government the issue refers to.
- (2) The gathering of the citizens shall be called by the Mayor of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje (hereinafter: the Mayor) upon his/her own initiative, at the request of the council or at the request of at least 10% of the citizens entered in the certificate of the Electoral list of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje, i.e. the local self-government for which the meeting is called.

Article 85

- (1) The request for calling a gathering of citizens shall contain signatures of citizens being entered in the certificate of the Electoral list for the region the gathering is called for.
- (2) The request for calling a gathering of citizens shall be submitted to the Mayor.
- (3) The Mayor shall be obliged to call the gathering of citizens within 30 days after receiving the request.

Article 86

- (1) The Mayor shall adopt a decision on calling gatherings of citizens.
- (2) The citizens shall be informed in regard to the gathering of citizens through the mass media in a manner as determined by the statute of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje.

Article 87

- (1) The citizens with electoral right shall decide at the gatherings of citizens.
- (2) The gathering of citizens shall be conducted by the Mayor or a person from the municipal administration, i.e. the administration of the City of Skopje authorized by the Mayor.
- (3) The Mayor, and if necessary representatives of the municipal administration and the administration of the City of Skopje, shall inform regarding the issue being discussed at the gathering of citizens.
- (4) The statute of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje shall in details regulate the organization of the meeting of citizens.

Article 88

- (1) The gathering of citizens may adopt conclusions regarding the work of the bodies of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje.
- (2) The gathering of citizens shall adopt the conclusions by the majority votes of the present citizens at the gathering.

Article 89

The bodies of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje shall be obliged to consider the conclusions within 90 days from the day of holding the gathering and inform the citizens of the determinations through the public information media in a manner determined by the statute of the municipality, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje.

IX TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 90

The procedures for referendum and other forms of direct vote being initiated and not completed on the day this Law enters into force shall be completed according to the provisions of this Law.

Article 91

The municipalities, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje shall harmonize the provisions of the statutes of the municipalities, the City of Skopje and the municipalities of the city of Skopje with the provisions of this Law within three months from the day this law enters into force.

Article 92

As of the day this Law enters into force the Law on General Principles of the Referendum and the Other Forms of Decision by Personal Vote (“Official gazette of SRM” number 19/79), the Law on Procedure for Collecting Signatures of the Electors Regarding the Proposal on Adoption of a Law, Initiation of Referendum and Submission of a Proposal on Amending the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” number 16/96) and the Law on Referendum and Citizens’ Initiative (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” number 24/98) shall cease to be valid.

Article 93

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day of its publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”.