ISRAEL'S
WRITTEN CONSTITUTION

VERBATIM ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND OF THE BASIC LAWS, CONSOLIDATED AND UPDATED AS OF MARCH 1, 1995

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INTRODUCTION

Israel’s first national elections, held in early 1949, were intended primarily to determine the composition of a Constituent Assembly, rather than of a national legislature. The declared intention at that time was for the newly chosen representatives to buckle down to the immediate formulation of a constitution for the reborn Jewish National Home.

However, experience very quickly showed that expectation to have been unrealistic. In order to agree on a constitution, it would have been necessary to resolve issues of fundamental ideological, rather than immediate practical importance. The very discussion of those questions would have stressed controversy, and that at a time of crisis when national harmony was of vital importance. In such a debate, the religiously orthodox would have clashed with convinced secularists, Western style liberals would have argued endlessly with more or less doctrinaire Socialists, and everybody would have devoted precious hours to long speeches. When it was realized that there was no way of reaching agreement on fundamental principles, it became equally obvious that not all the basic precepts in dispute were fully relevant - to put it mildly - to the issues at hand.

Fortunately, Israel’s leaders at that time were wise and responsible people, who recognized facts and acted on them. With the enemy at the gate and hundreds of thousands of homeless refugees clamoring for admission, they agreed to lay questions of principle aside - many perhaps in the belief that they did so "for just a little while" - and to do without a formal constitution.

Instead, they based their efforts on that ad hoc consensus, which proved itself capable of mastering the problems of their day; most then accepted that the formal reconciliation of fundamental beliefs with the reality of rewon political independence would be accomplished just a few years later, after peace had been established and all homeless Jews resettled in Israel.

National constitutions serve a two-fold purpose. The first is to establish the framework of government, to set up the necessary institutions, to define their powers, responsibilities and mutual relations, and to provide ways and means for the orderly election,
appointment and replacement of the necessary office holders. A modern constitution's second, equally important role lies in its definition and assurance of the citizens' basic rights - human, civil, economic, and political.

The pragmatic approach adopted by Israel's founders worked quite well in both respects. Not only did Government institutions evolve and function, but their essentially democratic character was imprinted on them from the start. That was proven most obviously by the crucial test of free institutions; twice in Israel's short history have the "ins" transferred power to the "outs", in unquestioning obedience to the voters' decision.

There also never was any real doubt about basic human freedoms and rights; those were assured by the public will, by the principles that guided the founders of Jewish statehood, and by an ever watchful judiciary. In some cases, when no basis for elemental human rights could be found in the Law books, the courts invoked the democratic and human rights principles enumerated in the Declaration of Independence. Although it never was formally given the status of legislation, that Declaration may justifiably be considered the preamble to the country's constitution.

In spite of the efficacy of those ad hoc solutions, there has long been a widespread demand for the adoption of a formal constitution, in order to strengthen Israel's democratic foundations. Thus, when it became clear that all outstanding constitutional questions could not possibly be resolved at one fell swoop, the country's elected leaders adopted a less spectacular, but effective piecemeal approach: whenever a consensus could be hammered together on a subject of constitutional significance, it was given formal recognition by the Knesset, which legislated it as a "Basic Law". This designation refers to enactments, which stand above other Laws and which generally can be adopted, amended or repealed only by a special majority.

The time has come to recognize that those partial efforts already add up to very substantial aggregate results; Israel's Declaration of Independence and the eleven Basic Laws now on the books cover most of what one would expect of a written constitution.

It is equally important, however, to realize that the edifice is still incomplete. Even now Knesset committees are working on at least two important constitutional measures. One of those is expected to bring all the provisions on human rights - the assurance of the basic freedoms, of each individual's dignity and of the freedom of occupation - within the framework of a single Basic Law; the other is intended to define the principles and practices of the legislative process. The latter, observers believe, will also clearly and generally establish the preeminence of Basic Laws over other enactments, and it may set up a special Constitutional Tribunal. Other constitutional measures have not yet reached the stage even of preliminary drafts; one of the subjects long debated among the Israel public concerns an
extensive and fundamental structural reform of the time honored system of proportional representation, which many no longer consider satisfactory.

We here present the Second Edition of this publication, updated to include new legislation and amendments of Basic Laws, which were adopted until March 1, 1995.

As we do with all our Law translations, we have exerted great efforts to present fair and clear translations of the various measures included in this volume, and to ascertain their correctness, completeness and relevance. In spite of that fact, the translator, editor, publishers and distributors have made no warranty and can assume no responsibility whatsoever on that account.

Readers are also cautioned that no translation of Israel legislation has any standing under Israel legal practice; the courts and other authorities will concern themselves only with the original and official Hebrew text. For this and other reasons readers are advised to consult qualified professional counsel before making any decision in connection with enactments, which are here published in translation for their general information only.


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DECLARATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Eretz-Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews in every successive generation strove to reestablish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, ma'apilim and defenders made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community, controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring to independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the Jewish people's right to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, and reaffirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgent need to solve the problem of its homelessness by reestablishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open widely the gates of the homeland to every Jew and to confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the comity of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and

Eretz-Israel (Hebrew) - the Land of Israel, Palestine.
Ma'apilim (Hebrew) - immigrants who entered Eretz-Israel in defiance of the British Mandate authorities' restrictive legislation
never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War, this country's Jewish community contributed its full share to the struggle of freedom and peace loving nations against the forces of Nazi evil and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take the steps necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist Movement, are here assembled on the day of termination of the British Mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel.

We declare that, with effect from the moment of termination of the Mandate, tonight, Sabbath eve, the 6th Iyar 5708, May 15, 1948, until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than October 1, 1948, the People's Council shall act as Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel".

The State of Israel will be open to Jewish immigration and to the Ingathering of Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The State of Israel is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of November 29, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of all of Eretz-Israel.
We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

We appeal - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to keep the peace and to participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

We appeal to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally around the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

Placing our trust in the Almighty, we affix our signatures to this Proclamation at this session of the Provisional Council of State, on the soil of the Homeland, in the City of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath Eve, the 5th of Iyar, 5708 (May 14, 1948).

Dr. Chaim Weizmann
David Ben-Gurion

Daaiel Auster
Mordekhai Bentov
Yitzchak Ben-Zvi
Eliahu Berline
Fritz Bernstein
Rabbi Wolf Gold
Meir Grabovsky
Yitzchak Gruenbaum
Dr. Abraham Granovsky
Gokla Myerson
Shmuel Mikunis
Nachum Nir-Rafalkes
Zvi Segal
Rabbi Yehuda Leib Hacohen-Fishman
David Zvi Pinkas
Aharon Zisling
Moshe Kolodny
Eliezer Kaplan

Eliyahu Dobkin
Herzl Vardi
Zerach Wahrhaftig
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Saadia Kobashi
Rabbi Yitzchak Meir Levin
Meir David Loewenstein
Zvi Luria
Dr. Abraham Katzenelson
Felix Rosenblueth
David Remez
Berl Repetur
Mordekhai Shattner
Ben-Zion Sternberg
Bekhor Shalom Shitreet
Moshe Shapira
Moshe Shertok
BASIC LAW: HUMAN DIGNITY
AND FREEDOM

Fundamental principles
1. Basic human rights in Israel are founded on the recognition of the worth of the human being, of the sanctity of his life and of the fact that he is free, and they shall be respected in the spirit of the principles enunciated in the Declaration on the Establishment of the State.

Purpose
1A. The purpose of this Basic Law is to protect human dignity and freedom, in order to lay down the ethical values of the State of Israel, as a Jewish and democratic state, in a Basic Law the

Protection of human life, limb and dignity
2. The life, limb and dignity of a human being must not be injured, because he is a human being.

Protection of human property
3. A human being's property must not be harmed.

Defense of human life, limb and dignity
4. Every person is entitled to the protection of his life, limb and dignity.

Personal freedom
5. No person's freedom may be taken or restricted by arrest, imprisonment, or extradition, or in any other manner.

Exit from and entry into Israel
6. (a) Every person is free to leave Israel.
    (b) Every citizen of Israel who is abroad is entitled to enter Israel.

Privacy
7. (a) Every person is entitled to privacy and to the confidentiality of his life.
    (b) The private domain of an individual must not be entered, except with his permission.
    (c) The private domain, the body and the belongings of a person must not be searched.
    (d) The confidentiality of a person's conversation, correspondence and writings must not be violated.
Infringement of rights
8. Rights under this Basic Law must not be infringed, except by a Law appropriate to the ethical values of the State of Israel, which has a valid purpose, and then to an extent that does not exceed necessity, or under an aforesaid Law by virtue of an explicit authorization in it.

Restriction in respect of Security Forces
9. Rights under this Basic Law of persons who serve in the Israel Defense Forces, in the Israel Police, in the Prisons Service and in other security organizations of the State, shall not be restricted and shall not be made conditional, except by Law and to an extent that does not exceed what is made necessary by the nature and character of the service.

Preservation of enactments
10. This Basic Law shall not derogate from the effect of any enactment, which was in effect immediately before this Basic Law came into effect.

Validity
11. Each and every Governmental authority must respect the rights under this Basic Law.

Constancy of this Law
12. Emergency Regulations cannot change this Basic Law, suspend its effect temporarily or set conditions for it; however, when a state of emergency exists by virtue of a declaration under section 9 of the Law and Administration Ordinance 5708-1948, emergency regulations that deny or restrict rights under this Basic Law may be made under the said section, on condition that the denial or restriction be for an appropriate purpose and period, and that to an extent that does not exceed what is necessary.
BASIC LAW:
FREEDOM OF OCCUPATION

Freedom of occupation
1. Every citizen or resident of the State is entitled to engage in any occupation, profession or line of work; this freedom may only be restricted by Law for a worthy purpose and for reasons of public welfare.

Reasons for licensing
2. If an occupation is conditional upon the receipt of a license, then the right to a license shall not be denied except under Law and for reasons of national defense, public order, the public’s welfare and health, safety, quality of the environment or protection of public morality.

Applicability
3. Every Governmental agency must respect the freedom of occupation of every citizen or resident.

Constancy of this Law
4. Emergency regulations cannot change this Basic Law, and they cannot suspend its effect temporarily or make it conditional.

Permanence of this Law
5. This Basic Law may be changed only by a Basic Law adopted by a majority of the Knesset's members.

Ad hoc provision
6. Any legal provisions in effect when this Basic Law went into effect, which conflicts with its provisions, shall remain in effect until the end of two years after this Basic Law went into effect; however, the said provisions shall be interpreted in the spirit of this Basic Law.

Note: This Basic Law was adopted on July 17, 1991, and repealed on March 9, 1994, when a new Basic Law on the same subject and with the same title was adopted. For the new text, see page 13. - Tr.
members of the Knesset and if it states explicitly that it is in effect in spite of this Basic Law; the effect of a said Law shall lapse four years after it went into effect, unless an earlier date is set in it.

Repeal
9. The Basic Law - Freedom of Occupation is repealed.

Ad hoc provision
10. Any provision of any enactment, which would have been valid immediately before this Basic Law went into effect, if not for the provisions of this Basic Law or of the Basic Law repealed as said in section 9, shall remain in effect for two years after this Basic Law went into effect, unless repealed earlier; however, the said provisions shall be interpreted in the spirit of this Basic Law.

Amendment of the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom
11. The effect of this amendment has been incorporated in the said Law - Tr.
BASIC LAW:
FREEDOM OF OCCUPATION

Fundamental principles
1. Basic human rights in Israel are founded on the recognition of the worth of the human being, of the sanctity of his life and of the fact that he is free, and they shall be respected in the spirit of the principles enunciated in the Declaration on the Establishment of the State.

Objective
2. The objective of this Basic Law is to protect freedom of occupation, in order to lay down the ethical values of the State of Israel, as a Jewish and democratic state, in a Basic Law.

Freedom of occupation
3. Every citizen or resident of the State is entitled to engage in any occupation, profession or line of work.

Infringement of freedom of occupation
4. This freedom may be infringed upon only by Law that conforms to the ethical values of the State of Israel, the objective of which is a proper and which does not exceed necessity, or under an aforesaid Law by virtue of an explicit authorization in it.

Applicability
5. Every Governmental agency must respect the freedom of occupation of every citizen or resident.

Constancy
6. Emergency regulations cannot change this Basic Law, and they cannot suspend its effect temporarily or make it conditional.

Permanence
7. This Basic Law can only be changed by a Basic Law adopted by a majority of the members of the Knesset.

Effect of divergent Law
8. A provision of any Law that infringes on freedom of occupation shall be valid, even if it does not conform to section 4, if it is part of a Law adopted by a majority of the
BASIC LAW: JERUSALEM,
CAPITAL OF ISRAEL

Jerusalem - Capital of Israel
1. Jerusalem, entire and united, is the capital of Israel.

Seat of President, Knesset, Government and Supreme Court
2. Jerusalem is the seat of the President, the Knesset, the Government and the Supreme Court.

Protection of Holy Places
3. The Holy Places shall be protected against desecration and any other violation, and against anything that is liable to interfere with freedom of access by members of different religions to the places they hold sacred, or that is liable to offend their feelings toward those places.

Development of Jerusalem
4. (a) The Government shall provide for the development and prosperity of Jerusalem and for the well being of its inhabitants, through the allocation of special funds, including a special annual grant to the Municipality of Jerusalem (Capital City Grant), with the approval of the Knesset Finance Committee.
   (b) Jerusalem shall be assigned special priority within the activities of State authorities, in order to further its development in economic and other matters.
   (c) The Government shall set up one or more special bodies for the implementation of this section.
BASIC LAW:
THE STATE PRESIDENT

Status
1. A President shall stand at the head of the State.

Place of residence
2. The place of residence of the State President shall be Jerusalem.

Election and period of tenure
3. The State President shall be elected by the Knesset for five years. His term of office shall be reckoned according to the Jewish calendar.

Eligibility
4. Every Israel citizen who is a resident of Israel is qualified to be a candidate for the office of State President. A person who has held office as State President for two successive periods shall not be a candidate in the election for the period immediately following.

Date of election
5. The election of the State President shall be held not earlier than ninety days and not later than thirty days before the expiration of the period of tenure of the President in office. If the place of the State President falls vacant before the expiration of his period of tenure, the election shall be held within 45 days after the day on which the place fell vacant. The Knesset Chairman, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman, shall set the day of the election and shall communicate it to all Knesset Members in writing at least 20 days in advance. If the day of election is not during one of the Knesset’s session terms, the Knesset Chairman shall convene the Knesset in order to elect the State President.

Proposal of candidates
6. (a) When the day of the election has been fixed, any ten or more Knesset members may propose a candidate. The proposal shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Knesset Chairman, together with the candidate’s written or telegraphed consent, not later than ten days before the day of the election. A Knesset member shall not sponsor the proposal of more than one candidate.

(b) The Knesset Chairman shall inform all Knesset members, in writing not later than seven days before the day of the election, of every candidate proposed and of the names of the Knesset members who proposed him, and he shall announce the candidates at the opening of the meeting at which the election is held.
Voting
7. The election of the State President shall be by secret ballot at a Knesset meeting dedicated only to that purpose.

Election by majority of votes
8. The candidate who receives the votes of a majority of Knesset members is elected. If no candidate receives such a majority, a second ballot shall be held. If there is no majority as aforesaid at the second ballot, voting shall be continued. At the third and every subsequent ballot, the candidate who at the preceding ballot received the lowest number of votes shall no longer stand for election. The candidate who at the third or any subsequent ballot receives a majority of the votes of participating Knesset members, who voted for one of the candidates, is elected. If two candidates receive the same number of votes, voting shall be repeated.

Declaration of allegiance
9. The President Elect shall make and sign before the Knesset the following declaration of allegiance:

"I pledge myself to bear allegiance to the State of Israel and to its Laws and to exercise faithfully the office of State President".

Making of declaration and beginning of period of tenure
10. The President Elect shall make his declaration of allegiance and begin to hold office upon the expiration of the period of tenure of the preceding State President. If the place of the preceding State President fell vacant before the expiration of his period of tenure, the President Elect shall make his declaration of allegiance as soon as possible after his election and shall begin to hold office when he has made his declaration of allegiance.

Tasks and powers
11. (a) The State President shall -
   (1) sign every Law, other than a Law that relates to his powers;
   (2) take action to achieve the formation of a Government and shall receive the resignation of a Government in accordance with Law;
   (3) receive from the Government reports on its meetings;
   (4) accredit the diplomatic representatives of Israel, receive the credentials of diplomatic representatives sent to Israel by foreign states, empower consular representatives of Israel and confirm the appointments of consular representatives sent to Israel by foreign states;
   (5) sign conventions with foreign states, which have been ratified by the Knesset;
   (6) perform every task assigned to him by Law in connection with the appointment and removal from office of judges and other office holders.

(b) The State President shall have power to pardon offenders and to lighten penalties by their reduction or commutation.
(c) The State President shall perform every other task and have every other power assigned to him by Law.

Countersignature
12. The signature of the President of State on an official document, other than a document connected with the formation of a Government, must be countersigned by the Prime Minister or by another Minister, as the Government may decide.

Immunity in connection with performance of tasks
13. (a) The State President shall not be accountable to any court or tribunal, and he shall be immune from any legal act, in respect of anything connected with his tasks or powers.

(b) The State President shall not, in giving evidence, have to disclose anything which came to his knowledge in the performance of his tasks as State President.

(c) The immunity of the State President under this section shall continue when he no longer is State President.

Immunity from criminal proceedings
14. The State President shall not be criminally prosecuted. The period during which the State President cannot be prosecuted for an offense by virtue of this section shall not be included in calculating the period of prescription of that offense.

Evidence
15. If the State President is required to give evidence, his evidence shall be taken at a place and time determined with his agreement.

Salary and other payments
16. The salary of the State President and other payments to be made to him during his period of tenure shall be fixed by Knesset resolution, which may empower the Finance Committee to do so. Resolutions under this section shall be published in Reshumot.

President to hold no other office
17. (a) Save with the approval of the Knesset House Committee, the State President shall hold no post and perform no task other than the post and tasks of State President.

(b) The State President shall be exempt from any compulsory service.

Leaving the country
18. The State President shall not leave the territory of the State, save with the approval of the Government.
Resignation
19. The State President may resign his office by submitting a letter of resignation to the Knesset Chairman. The letter of resignation does not have to be countersigned. The place of the State President shall become vacant 48 hours after the letter of resignation reaches the Knesset Chairman.

Removal of President from office
20. (a) The Knesset may, by resolution, remove the State President from office if it finds that he is unworthy of his office, because of conduct that does not become his status as State President.

(b) The Knesset shall not remove the State President from office, unless a complaint was brought before the House Committee by at least twenty Knesset members and unless the proposal was passed by a majority of three fourths of the members of the House Committee. A resolution by the Knesset to remove the President from office shall require a majority of three fourths of the Knesset members.

(c) The House Committee shall not propose removal of the State President from office before he has been given an opportunity to refute the complaint in accordance with procedure prescribed by the Committee with the Knesset's approval, and the Knesset shall not resolve to remove the State President from office before he has been given an opportunity to be heard in accordance with procedure prescribed by the House Committee with the Knesset's approval.

(d) The State President may be represented before the House Committee and before the Knesset by an authorized representative. A Knesset member shall not act as the President's representative. The House Committee and the Knesset may summon the State President to be present at proceedings under this section.

(e) Knesset proceedings under this section shall be at a meeting or at successive meetings dedicated solely to that purpose. The proceedings shall begin not later than twenty days after the resolution of the House Committee. The time set for their beginning shall be communicated by the Knesset Chairman to all Knesset members in writing at least ten days in advance. If the proceedings are not slated to begin during a Knesset session term, the Knesset Chairman shall convene the Knesset for the proceedings.

Post vacated for reasons of health
21. (a) The Knesset may declare, by a resolution adopted by a majority of its members, that the State President is permanently unable to perform his tasks because of reasons of health.

(b) The Knesset shall not pass an aforesaid resolution, unless the House Committee passed such a proposal by a majority of two-thirds majority of its members, based on a medical opinion given in accordance with rules prescribed by the Committee.

(c) If the Knesset resolves as aforesaid, the State President's post shall become vacant on the day of the resolution.
Temporary cessation of exercise of office

22. (a) The State President shall temporarily cease to perform his tasks and to exercise his powers, if -

(1) he leaves the territory of the Israel - from the time of his departure until his return;

(2) he informs the House Committee that, because of reasons of health, he is temporarily unable to perform his tasks and the Knesset Committee approves his notification by a majority of votes - from the time of the notification's approval until the end of the period set by the Committee in its resolution, or until the State President notifies the House Committee that he is no longer unable to perform his tasks, whichever is earlier;

(3) the House Committee resolves, by a majority of two-thirds of its members based on a medical opinion given in accordance with rules prescribed by the Committee, that the State President is temporarily unable to perform his tasks because of reasons of health - from the time of the resolution's adoption until the end of the period set by the House Committee in the resolution, or until the House Committee resolves that the President is no longer unable to perform his tasks.

(b) The House Committee shall not set a period of more than three months under subsection (a)(2) or (3). It may extend the period without interruption for up to three additional months at the most. Any further extension shall require a resolution of the Knesset, adopted by a majority of Knesset members upon a proposal by the House Committee.

Interim President and Acting President

23. (a) When the place of the State President has fallen vacant, the Knesset Chairman shall hold office as Interim State President as long as the new President has not yet begun to hold office.

(b) During a period in which the State President has temporarily ceased to perform his tasks and to exercise his powers, the Knesset Chairman shall hold office as Acting State President.

(c) While holding office as Interim or Acting State President, the Knesset Chairman shall perform the tasks assigned to the State President by Law and he shall exercise the powers vested in the State President by Law.

Notices in Reshumot

24. (a) The Knesset Chairman shall publish notifications in Reshumot, that -

(1) the tenure of a State President has begun;

(2) the office of State President has fallen vacant;

(3) the tenure of the Knesset Chairman as Acting State President under section 22(a)(2) and (3) has begun or ended.

(b) The Prime Minister shall publish a notice in Reshumot about the President's departure from the territory of the State and about his return.
Law not to be affected by emergency regulations
25. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Law, this Law cannot be changed, suspended or made subject to conditions by emergency regulations.

Repeal
26. (a) The following are hereby repealed -
(1) sections 2(c), 6 and 7 of the Transition Law 5709-1949;
(2) the State President (Tenure) Law 5712-1951;
(b) The State President, Government Members and Chief Rabbis of Israel (Fixing of Salaries) Law 5711-1950 shall no longer apply to the salary of the State President or to payments due to him or his survivors.

Transitional provision
27. The State President elected by the Knesset on May 21, 1963 shall be deemed to have been elected and to hold office under this Law.
BASIC LAW: THE KNESSET

What is the Knesset
1. The Knesset is the parliament of the State.

Seat of the Knesset
2. The Knesset sits in Jerusalem.

Composition
3. Upon its election the Knesset shall consist of one hundred and twenty members.

Electoral system
4. The Knesset shall be elected by general, national, direct, equal, secret and proportional elections, in accordance with the Knesset Elections Law; this section cannot be amended, except by a majority of Knesset members.

The right to vote
5. Every Israel citizen, aged eighteen years or more, shall have the right to vote in Knesset elections, unless a court has deprived him of that right by virtue of any Law; the Elections Law shall determine the time at which a person shall be deemed to have reached age eighteen for the purpose of exercising his right to vote in Knesset elections.

The right to be elected
6. (a) Every Israel citizen, who reached age 21 by the day on which a list of candidates that includes his name is admitted, shall have the right to be elected to the Knesset, unless a court has deprived him of that right by virtue of any Law, or unless he was sentenced to a term of at least five years of actual imprisonment for an offense against the security of Israel, such as is specified for that purpose by the Knesset Elections Law, if five years have not yet passed from the day on which his term of imprisonment ended.

(b) If an Israel citizen is also a citizen of another country, and if the Laws of that country make it possible to give up that citizenship, then he shall not be a candidate for the Knesset unless he did everything required of him to relinquish that citizenship before the list of candidates that includes his name was submitted, to the satisfaction of the Chairman of the Central Knesset Elections Committee; for this purpose a person shall be deemed a citizen of another country only if he held, at any time, a passport from that country or another document that certifies his citizenship of that country.

Restriction on candidacy of Knesset member who left his faction
6A. (a) If a Knesset member left his faction and did not resign from office immediately after so leaving, then he shall not be included - in elections to the following Knesset - in a list of candidates submitted by a faction in the outgoing Knesset; the
provisions of this section shall not apply to the split of a faction, on terms specified in the Knesset Elections Law.

(b) For purposes of this section -
"left his faction" - including a vote in the plenum otherwise than in accordance with the faction's position on an expression of confidence or non-confidence in the Government; however, an aforesaid vote shall not be deemed leaving the faction, if the Knesset member did not receive any consideration for his vote;
"consideration" - whether direct or indirect, by promise or future obligation, including the promise of a place on a list of candidates for the Knesset, or the appointment of the Knesset member himself or of another person to any position.

Who shall not be a candidate
7. The following shall not be candidates for the Knesset:
   (1) the State President;
   (2) the two Chief Rabbis;
   (3) a judge (shofet), as long as he holds office;
   (4) a judge (dayan) of a religious court, as long as he holds office;
   (5) the State Comptroller;
   (6) the Chief of the Israel Defense Forces General Staff;
   (7) rabbis and Ministers of other religions, as long as they hold office for remuneration;
   (8) senior Government employees and senior army officers, of grades, ranks and tasks that shall be determined by Law.

Disqualification of list of candidates
7A. A list of candidates shall not participate in Knesset elections, if its objectives or acts include, explicitly or implicitly, one of the following:
   (1) denial of the existence of the State of Israel as the state of the Jewish people;
   (2) denial of the democratic nature of the State;
   (3) incitement to racism.

Term of office
8. The term of office of the Knesset shall be four years from the day on which it is elected.

Date of elections
9. Elections to the Knesset shall be held on the third Tuesday in the month of Cheshvan in the year in which the tenure of the outgoing Knesset ends, but if the year before that year was a leap year, then the elections shall be held on the first Tuesday of that month.
Extension of a term of office
9A. (a) The Knesset shall not extend its term of office, except by a Law adopted by a majority that numbers eighty Knesset members and if special circumstances prevailed to prevent elections from being held on time; the period of extension shall not be longer than is made necessary by the special circumstances; a said Law shall set the date for elections.

(b) Without derogating from the provisions of section 34, the Knesset may advance the election date set under subsection (a) by the vote of a majority of its members, provided that the new date not be earlier than the date for Knesset elections under section 9.

Election day to be a day of rest
10. Election day shall be a day of rest, but transport services and other public services shall operate normally.

Publication of election results
11. Election results shall be published in Reshumot within 14 days after the election day.

Convening the Knesset
12. The Knesset shall convene for its first meeting at four o'clock in the afternoon of the Monday in the second week after the week in which the election results were published, or - if that day is a festival or the eve of a festival - on the workday immediately after the festival.

Opening the Knesset
13. The Knesset shall be opened by the State President or, in his absence, by the oldest Knesset member present: if the State President opens the Knesset, he shall hand over the Chairmanship of the meeting to the oldest Knesset member present.

Declaration of allegiance by Knesset members
14. When the oldest Knesset member has opened the first meeting of the Knesset or has taken over its Chairmanship, he shall make his declaration of allegiance as a Knesset member; the declaration shall read as follows: "I pledge allegiance to the State of Israel and to perform faithfully my mandate in the Knesset." When the oldest Knesset member has made his declaration of allegiance, he shall read the text once more to the Knesset members and each of them in turn shall rise and declare: "I pledge".

Declaration after the opening meeting
15. A Knesset member who was not present at the opening meeting, or who became a Knesset member after that meeting, shall make his declaration of allegiance at the first meeting which he attends; the Chairman of the meeting shall read the text of the declaration to him, and the member shall rise and declare: "I pledge."
Failure to make declaration
16. When the Knesset Chairman has called on a Knesset member to make his declaration of allegiance and the member has not done so, the member shall not enjoy the rights of a Knesset member so long as he has not made the declaration.

Immunity of Knesset members
17. Knesset members shall have immunity; particulars shall be prescribed by Law.

Immunity of Knesset buildings
18. Knesset buildings shall have immunity; particulars shall be prescribed by Law.

Procedure and rules
19. The Knesset itself shall prescribe its own procedure; as far as such procedure has not been prescribed by Law, the Knesset shall prescribe it by rules; as long as procedure has not been prescribed as aforesaid, the Knesset shall follow its accepted custom and practice.

Chairman and Vice Chairmen
20. The Knesset shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairmen from among its members

Acting Chairman and Interim Chairman
20A. (a) Whenever the Knesset Chairman leaves the territory of Israel, a Vice Chairman shall serve as Acting Chairman until his return.

(b) When the Knesset Chairman informs the House Committee or when the House Committee decides that, because of reasons of health, the Knesset Chairman is temporarily unable to perform his tasks, then a Vice Chairman shall serve as Acting Chairman until the Knesset Chairman informs the House Committee or until the House Committee decides that the Knesset Chairman is no longer unable to perform his tasks.

(c) When the post of Knesset Chairman has fallen vacant - because the Chairman resigned or died or the House Committee decided that, because of reasons of health, he is permanently unable to perform his tasks - then a Vice Chairman shall serve as Interim Chairman until the Knesset elects a new Chairman.

(d) The Vice Chairman who serves as Acting Chairman or as Interim Chairman shall be elected to that position by the House Committee.

(e) While serving as Acting Chairman or Interim Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall serve in every capacity and perform every task assigned to the Knesset Chairman by Law, and shall exercise every power vested in the Knesset Chairman by Law.

(f) The provisions of this section shall also apply, mutatis mutandis, when circumstances envisaged in subsections (a), (b) or (c) in respect of the Knesset Chairman occur in respect of a Vice Chairman, who acts as Acting Chairman or as Interim Chairman.

Committees
21. (a) The Knesset shall elect permanent committees from among its members,
and it may elect committees for specific matters from among its members; the tasks, powers and procedures of those committees shall - as far as they are not prescribed by Law - be prescribed by the Rules.

(b) The by-laws may prescribe rules on the powers of committees to summon an office holder or the holder of a position in the Government service, in local authorities, in religious councils, in bodies corporate set up by Law or in Government companies, and to obligate him to present information in his possession on the activity of the body in which he holds a position, unless such disclosure constitutes an offense against any Law, against a professional obligation or against any loyalty which he owes under any Law, and he shall be vouchsafed the rights of a witness in a court of Law; the summons shall be through and in coordination with the Minister concerned with the matter, and of a person not in the Government service - through the head of the body in which the summoned person serves; however, the Minister in charge or the head of that body may inform the committee that he will appear in person, instead of the summoned individual.

(c) Repealed

Commissions of inquiry
22. The Knesset may appoint commissions of inquiry - either by empowering one of the permanent committees for that purpose or by electing a commission from among its members - to investigate matters designated by the Knesset; the powers and tasks of a commission of inquiry shall be prescribed by the Knesset; every commission of inquiry shall also include representatives of party groups which do not participate in the Government, according to the relative strength of those party groups in the Knesset.

Government member who is not a Knesset member
23. A member of the Government who is not a Knesset member shall - on anything that relates to the Knesset - have the same status as a member of the Government who is a Knesset member, except that he shall not have the right to vote.

Quorum
24. The Knesset shall hold debates and adopt decisions, whatever the number of members present, except as otherwise provided by Law.

Majority
25. Except as otherwise provided by Law, the Knesset shall adopt its decisions by a majority of those who participate in the vote - abstentions not being reckoned as participating - and the voting procedure shall be prescribed by the Rules.

Meetings
26. The meetings of the Knesset shall be held at its abode; however, under special circumstances the Knesset Chairman may - in consultation with the Vice Chairmen - convene the Knesset elsewhere. Knesset meetings shall be held on workdays.
Open to the public
27. Sessions of the Knesset shall be public.

Publication of open meetings
28. The publication of proceedings and of utterances at Knesset sessions is not restricted and does not entail any criminal or civil liability.

Publication of closed meetings
29. The publication of proceedings and of utterances at a closed meeting is prohibited, to the extent that it has not been permitted in the manner prescribed by the Rules.

Prohibited publication
30. If a person publishes anything, the publication of which is prohibited under the preceding two sections, he is liable to the penalties prescribed by Law.

Sessions
31. (a) The Knesset shall hold two sessions a year; one of them shall open within four weeks after the Feast of Tabernacles and the other within four weeks after Independence Day; the aggregate duration of the two sessions shall not be less than eight months.
(b) If a Knesset was elected on a date other than the date prescribed in section 9, then the House Committee shall set times for the two terms in the year in which it was elected.

Opening times
32. If the Knesset has not been convened within the four weeks said in the preceding section, it shall convene on Monday in the fifth week, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

Out of session meetings of the Knesset
33. In addition to the aforesaid sessions, the Knesset Chairman shall convene the Knesset on the demand of thirty Knesset members or upon a demand by the Government.

Dissolution of the Knesset
34. The Knesset may decide to dissolve itself before the end of its term of office only by adopting a Law for that purpose by a majority of the members of the Knesset.

Date of elections after dissolution of the Knesset
35. A Law on dissolution of the Knesset shall include a provision on the date of elections to the next Knesset.

Term of office of the Knesset after dissolution
36. If the Knesset decides on its own dissolution, then the term of office of the next
Knesset shall run until the month of Cheshvan after four years have passed from the day of its election.

Continuity of Knesset
37. The outgoing Knesset shall continue to hold office until the incoming Knesset is convened.

Extension of validity of enactments
38. Any enactment due to expire during the last two months of the term of office of the outgoing Knesset, or within four months after the Knesset has decided to dissolve itself, or during the first three months of the term of office of the incoming Knesset shall remain in effect until the end of the said three months.

Remuneration of Knesset members
39. Knesset members shall receive remuneration as provided by Law.

Resignation of Knesset members
40. A Knesset member may resign his office; resignation shall be by personal presentation of a letter of resignation by the resigning member to the Knesset Chairman or, if the member is unable to present the letter of resignation in person, by its transmission in the manner prescribed by the Rules; the letter of resignation shall be signed on the day on which it is presented or transmitted.

Consequences of resignation
41. If a Knesset member tenders his resignation, his membership in the Knesset shall cease 48 hours after the letter of resignation reaches the Knesset Chairman, unless the member withdraws his resignation before then.

Termination of tenure of Knesset member
42. If a Knesset member is elected or appointed to one of the posts, the holders of which are debared from being candidates for membership in the Knesset, then his membership in the Knesset shall cease upon his said election or appointment.

Knesset member who was convicted
42A. (a) The Knesset may, by resolution, remove a Knesset member from office, if it finds that he is unworthy of his office because he was convicted - by final judgment - of a criminal offense and was sentenced to a penalty of actual imprisonment of one year or longer.

(b) The Knesset shall not remove a Knesset Member from office, unless a complaint was brought before the House Committee by at least ten Knesset members and unless the removal was proposed by the House Committee. A resolution by the Knesset to remove a Knesset Member from office shall require a majority of two thirds of the Knesset members.
(c) The House Committee shall not propose and the Knesset shall not resolve to remove a Knesset Member from office before he has been given an opportunity to be heard.

Suspension
42B. (a) When a Knesset member has been convicted of a criminal offense, the House Committee may, upon the proposal by any Knesset Member, suspend him from office as Knesset Member for a period, during which his judgment is not final.

(b) When a Knesset member has been convicted of a criminal offense and sentenced to imprisonment, then the House Committee may, upon the proposal by any Knesset Member, suspend him from office as Knesset Member for the period during which he serves his period of imprisonment.

(c) The House Committee shall not pass a resolution under this section before the Knesset member has been given an opportunity to be heard.

Replacement of Knesset member
43. (a) When the seat of a Knesset member falls vacant, it shall be filled by that candidate on the list of candidates which included the name of the former member, which appears immediately after the last of the elected candidates.

(b) When a member’s membership in the Knesset has been suspended, his seat shall be vacant for the period of his suspension and his place shall be taken by the candidate said in subsection (a). If he resumes his office, then the last of the list of candidates who became a Knesset member shall cease to hold office, but that shall not affect his right to become a Knesset member again at a later date under the provision of subsection (a).

Law not to be affected by emergency regulations
44. Notwithstanding the provision of any other Law, emergency regulations cannot change this Law, suspend it or make it subject to conditions.

Entrenched sections
45. Section 44 or this section cannot be changed, except by a majority of eighty Knesset members.

Applicability of entrenchment
45A. The provision of section 45 shall also apply to an amendment of section 9A(a).

When is special majority required
46. The majority prescribed by this Law for any amendment of sections 4, 9A, 34, 44 or 45 shall be required for decisions of the Knesset plenum at the first reading, the second reading and the third reading. In this section, "amendment" - both explicit and by implication.
BASIC LAW: THE GOVERNMENT

What is the Government
1. The Government is the executive authority of the State.

Seat of Government
2. The seat of the Government is Jerusalem.

Source of authority
3. The Government holds office by virtue of the confidence of the Knesset.

Responsibility
4. The Government is collectively responsible to the Knesset. A Minister is responsible to the Prime Minister for the functions with which the Minister is charged.

Composition and eligibility
5. (a) The Government consists of a Prime Minister and other Ministers.
   (b) The Prime Minister shall be a member of the Knesset. Other Ministers need not be members of the Knesset, but must be citizens and residents of Israel. If a person becomes a Minister while he holds one of the offices, holders of which are debarred from being candidates for the Knesset, then his tenure of that office ceases when he becomes a Minister.
   (b1) If a Knesset member left his faction, but did nor resign from the Knesset immediately thereafter, then he shall not become a Minister during the term of that Knesset. This provision shall not apply to the split of a faction, on conditions set in the Knesset Elections Law; for purposes of this subsection, "left his faction" - within its meaning in section 6A of the Basic Law: The Knesset.

Note: Two enactments with the same name are on the books, with the older of the two in effect at the time these lines are being written, while the latter will begin to come into effect at the elections to the Fourteenth Knesset, presumably in 1996.

The first Basic Law: The Government was passed on August 13, 1968, and has been amended eight times; the last Amendment was only adopted on December 19, 1994. All eight amendments are incorporated in the present translation.

The second Basic Law: The Government was passed on March 18, 1992, providing for fundamental changes in the way the Prime Minister is to be chosen and constitutes his Government. That Basic Law provides that its provisions on the election process will go into effect at the elections to the Fourteenth Knesset, and others when the first Prime Minister so elected takes office. The "first" Basic Law will then, presumably, be repealed.

Our translation of that "second" Basic Law follows below, beginning on page 39.
(c) A Minister shall be in charge of a Ministry; however, he may be a Minister without portfolio.

(d) A Minister who is a member of the Knesset may be Deputy PM.

(e) One or two of the Ministers may be Deputy Prime Ministers.

Assigning the task of forming a Government
6. When a new Government has to be formed, the State President shall - after consultation with representatives of the party factions in the Knesset, assign the task of forming the Government to a Knesset member who notified him - within three days after he was asked - that he is prepared to accept the task.

Period for formation of Government
7. The Knesset member, whom the President charged with the formation of a Government, shall have 21 days for the fulfillment of the task. The President may extend the period by additional periods which shall not add up to more than 21 days.

Assigning the task to another
8. (a) When the periods said in section 7 have passed and the Knesset member has not notified the State President that he has formed a Government, or if he informed him earlier that he is unable to form a Government, then the President may charge another Knesset member, who informed him that he is prepared to accept the task, with the task of forming a Government.

(b) The State President may do again as set out in subsection (a), as often as the situation described there recurs.

(c) Before assigning the task of forming the Government under this section, the President may again consult with representatives of party factions in the Knesset.

(d) A Knesset member, to whom the task of forming a Government has been assigned under this section shall have the period specified in section 7 for the fulfillment of the task, and the President may extend the period as said in that section.

Assignment of task at request of party factions
9. (a) If the State President has not assigned the task of forming a Government under section 8, or if he assigned it under that section, and if the Knesset member did not inform him within 21 days that he has formed a Government, or if he informed him earlier that he is unable to form a Government, then representatives of party factions in the Knesset whose members constitute a majority of Knesset members may request the President in writing that he assign the task to a specific member of the Knesset.

(b) When an aforesaid request, accompanied by the candidate's written consent, has been submitted to the President, then the President shall assign the task of forming the Government to that Knesset member.

(c) A Knesset member, to whom the task of forming a Government has been assigned under this section shall have a period of 14 days its fulfillment.

(d) If an aforesaid request was submitted to an additional period allowed
to the Knesset member, to whom the President assigned the task under section 8, then the President shall inform that Knesset member of the request and upon that notification the task of the Knesset member shall terminate.

Notice that no Government has been formed

10. (a) When the President assigned the task of forming a Government under sections 6 or 8, and if the period allowed to the Knesset member for the fulfillment of the task elapsed without his informing the President that he has formed a Government, or if he earlier informed the President that he is unable to form a Government, then the President may inform the Chairman of the Knesset that he does not see any way of achieving the formation of a Government.

(b) Notification to the Chairman of the Knesset shall not prevent the application of section 9.

Discontinue efforts to form a Government

11. When a Law for the dissolution of the Knesset has been adopted, then efforts to form a Government shall cease.

Preliminary proceeding for formation of Government

12. When a new Knesset has been elected, then the State President may open proceedings for the formation of a Government after results of the elections have been published in Reshumot and before the new Knesset has convened. In this case the consultations said in section 6 shall be held with representatives of lists of candidates.

Notifications in connection with formation of Government

13. (a) When the State President has assigned the task of forming a Government to a Knesset member, he shall so inform the Chairman of the Knesset, and the Chairman of the Knesset shall inform the Knesset.

(b) When a Knesset member has formed a Government, he shall so notify the State President and the Chairman of the Knesset, and the Chairman of the Knesset shall inform the Knesset.

Restrictions of agreements

13A. (a) No agreement shall be concluded and no undertaking shall be given on the position of any person as Minister or Deputy Minister, except by authorized representatives of Knesset factions, which are parties to the agreement.

(b) In cases where an enactment provides the authority to discharge any person from his position in the Knesset, in the Government, in the Government service, in a body corporate set up by a Law, in a Government company or in any other public body, no agreement shall be concluded and no undertaking shall be given that that person will not be discharged from his position.

(c) No surety shall be provided - directly or indirectly, in cash, in kind, for
services or for any other benefit - to assure the implementation of an agreement or an undertaking said in this section, and such surety shall not be valid.

Agreement to be made public
13B. (a) When a faction has made a written agreement, or when a written agreement has been made in its name concerning the formation of a Government or concerning the expression on non-confidence, then it shall deliver the full text of the agreement to the Knesset secretary within three days after it was signed, but not later than noon on the day before the Government is presented to the Knesset or before the non-confidence vote; rest days under any enactment shall not be included in the number of days.

(b) After the time said in subsection (a) no agreement shall be concluded on the matters said there, unless the time for the presentation of the Government or for the non-confidence vote was postponed at the request of the person who was charged with the formation of the Government or of the person who requested the non-confidence vote, as the case may be, the new time making it possible to comply with the provision of subsection (a).

(c) The Knesset secretary shall inform the members of the Knesset of every agreement delivered to him under this section immediately after it was delivered, before the Government is presented or before the non-confidence vote.

Formation of Government and Prime Minister
14. The Knesset member who formed the Government shall head it.

Establishment of Government
15. When a Government has been formed, it shall present itself to the Knesset, announce the basic lines of its policy, its composition and the distribution of functions among the Ministers, and it shall ask for a vote of confidence. The Government has been established when the Knesset has expressed its confidence in it, and the Ministers shall thereupon assume office.

Pledge of allegiance
16. As soon as the Knesset has voted its confidence in the Government - or as soon as possible thereafter - the Prime Minister shall make the following declaration of allegiance before the Knesset:

"I, (name), as Prime Minister hereby pledge allegiance to the State of Israel and to its laws, that I will faithfully perform my functions as Prime Minister and that I will comply with the decisions of the Knesset."

and each of the other Ministers shall make the following declaration of allegiance:

"I, (name), as a member of the Government hereby pledge allegiance to the State of Israel and to its laws, that I will faithfully perform my functions as member of the Government and that I will comply with the decisions of the Knesset."
Change in distribution of functions
17. (a) The Government may change the distribution of functions among Ministers. The change shall require approval by the Knesset.
   (b) This section does not apply to the functions of the Prime Minister.

Cooption of Minister
18. Upon a proposal by the Prime Minister the Government may coopt a Minister to the Government. When the Government has decided to coopt a Minister, it shall inform the Knesset of that fact and of the function of the additional Minister. When that notification has been approved by the Knesset, the new Minister shall assume office, and he shall make his declaration of allegiance as soon after the approval as possible.

Acting Prime Minister
19. If the Prime Minister is absent from Israel or is temporarily unable to perform his functions, then the Government shall designate another of the Ministers - who is a Knesset member - to act in his place until he returns to Israel or until he again performs his functions.

Minister acting for another Minister
20. If a Minister, other than the Prime Minister, is absent from Israel or is temporarily unable to perform his functions, then the Government shall designate another Minister to act in his place until he returns to Israel or until he again performs his functions. As long as the Government has not done so, the Prime Minister shall act in place of that Minister.

Termination of tenure of Minister
21. (a) A Minister, other than the Prime Minister, may - after he notified the Government of his intention to do so - resign from the Government by submitting a letter of resignation to the Government. His tenure in the Government shall cease 48 hours after the letter of resignation reached the Government, unless he withdrew his resignation before then.
   (b) If a Minister who is a Knesset member resigns from the Knesset, then his tenure in the Government ceases on the day on which his membership in the Knesset ceases.
   (c) The tenure of a Minister in the Government ceases when he is elected or appointed to one of the positions, holders of which are barred from being candidates for the Knesset.
   (d) When the tenure of a Minister, other than the Prime Minister, ceases, then the Government shall designate another Minister to carry out his function; such a designation requires approval by the Knesset. As long as the Government has not done so, the Prime Minister shall perform the function of that Minister.
Removal of Minister from office
21A.  (a) The Prime Minister may remove a Minister from office, after notifying the Government of his intention to do so. The Minister's tenure in the Government shall cease 48 hours after the letter of removal was delivered to him, unless the Prime Minister reverses his decision before then.

(b) The Prime Minister shall inform the Knesset of the removal of a Minister from office.

Resignation of the Government
22.  (a) The Government may resign. When it has decided to do so, the Prime Minister shall submit its letter of resignation to the State President.

(b) When a new Knesset has been elected, the Government shall be deemed to have resigned on the day of the election.

Resignation or death of Prime Minister
23.  (a) After he notified the Government of his intention to do so, the Prime Minister may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the State President. The Prime Minister's resignation shall be deemed the resignation of the Government.

(b) If the Prime Minister dies, the Government shall be deemed to have resigned on the day of his death.

Vote of non-confidence in the Government
24.  If the Knesset expressed non-confidence in the Government, then the Knesset Chairman shall so inform the State President, and the Government shall be deemed to have resigned on the day on which non-confidence was expressed.

Continuity of Government
25.  (a) When a new Knesset has been elected, or when the Government has resigned, or when the Prime Minister has resigned or died, or when the Knesset has expressed non-confidence in the Government, then the State President shall begin proceedings for the formation of a new Government. The outgoing Government shall continue to perform its functions until a new Government has been established.

(b) A Prime Minister, who has resigned, shall continue to perform his functions until a new Government has been established. If the Prime Minister has died, then the Government shall designate another of the Ministers, who is a Knesset member, to be Interim Prime Minister until a new Government has been established.

(c) The provisions of sections 18 and 21(a) and (b) shall not apply, when a Government continues to perform its functions in accordance with this section.

Procedure
26.  The Government itself shall prescribe the procedure for its meetings and for its
work, the manner of its deliberations and of making decisions, either permanently or for a specific matter.

Cabinet Committees
27. (a) The Government may act through committees of Ministers, which may be permanent, temporary or for specific matters.

(b) As soon as a Government has been established, a Cabinet Committee on National Security shall function within it, composed of the Prime Minister, who shall be its chairman, of the Minister of Defense, the Foreign Minister and the Minister of Finance; the Deputy PM, if one has been appointed, shall be a member of the committee; upon the Prime Minister’s proposal, the Government may coopt members to the committee, but the number of committee members shall not exceed half the number of members of the Government.

(c) The Government shall have a permanent team of national security consultants, set up and activate by the Prime Minister; the Prime Minister may charge the team with additional fields of consultancy.

Secrecy
28. (a) The deliberations and decisions of the Government and of Cabinet Committees on the following subjects are secret, and their publication is prohibited:

1. the State’s security;
2. the State’s foreign relations;
3. any other category of matters, the secrecy of which the Government deems vital for the State and which it so declared, by order, for the purposes of this section;
4. a matter which the Government decided to keep secret; however the disclosure and publication of such a matter shall be prohibited only for persons who know of the decision.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to matters, if their publication has been permitted by the Government, by the Prime Minister or by a person authorized by him for that purpose, or if it is required under any Law.

Powers of Government
29. The Government is competent to perform - in the name of the State and subject to any Law - any act, with the performance of which no other authority is charged by Law.

Transfer of powers
30. Any power vested or any obligation imposed on a Minister under any Law may be transferred - entirely or in part - by the Government to another Minister; a decision under this section requires approval by the Knesset.
Delegation of powers
31. (a) A power vested in the Government under any Law may be delegated by it to one of its Ministers.

(b) A power vested in one of the Ministers under any Law or transferred to him under section 30 - other than a power to make regulations with legislative effect - may be delegated by him - entirely, in part or subject to restrictions - to a public servant.

(c) A power delegated to a Minister by the Government under subsection (a) - other than a power to make regulations with legislative effect - may be delegated by him - entirely, in part or subject to restrictions - to a public servant, if the Government authorized him to do so.

(d) Any reference in this section to a power vested in the Government or in a Minister shall be taken to include a obligation imposed.

(e) The provisions of this section shall apply, as far as no contrary intention arises out of the Law that confers the power or imposes the obligation

Assumption of powers
32. A Minister charged with the implementation of a certain Law may - as far as no contrary intention arises from that Law - assume any power - other than a power of a judicial nature - vested in any State employee under that Law; he may do so in respect of a specific matter or for a specific period.

Ministries
33. (a) The Government may merge, divide and abolish Ministries and it may set up new Ministries. A decision under this section requires approval by the Knesset.

(b) The Government may transfer areas of activity from one Ministry to another.

Appointment of Deputy Ministers
34. (a) A Minister in charge of a Ministry may - with the PM's consent and the Government's approval - appoint one or two Deputy Ministers for that Ministry from among Knesset members. A Deputy Minister shall assume office when the Government has announced his appointment in the Knesset. A Deputy Minister appointed by the Prime Minister shall be known as "Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office".

(b) Whoever left his faction shall not be appointed Deputy Minister during the term of that Knesset. This provision shall not apply to the split of a faction, on conditions set in the Knesset Elections Law; for purposes of this subsection, "left his faction" - within its meaning in section 6A of the Basic Law: The Knesset.

Functions of Deputy Minister
35. A Deputy Minister shall act - in the Knesset and in the Ministry for which he was appointed - in the name of the Minister who appointed him and within the scope of the matters entrusted to him by that Minister.
End of tenure of Deputy Minister
36. The tenure of a Deputy Minister shall terminate -
   (1) when he resigns by submitting a letter of resignation to the Minister who
   appointed him;
   (2) when that Minister ceases to be a Minister or to be in charge of that
   Ministry;
   (3) when the Government or the Minister decides to terminate his tenure;
   (4) when a new Government is established;
   (5) when he ceases to be a Knesset member.

Dismissal of Deputy Minister
36A. (a) The Prime Minister may dismiss a Deputy Minister, after he so informed
       the Government and the Minister in charge of the ministry in which the deputy Minister
       serves; the tenure of a Deputy Minister ceases 48 hours after the letter of dismissal was
       delivered to him, unless the Prime Minister retracted his decision earlier.
       (b) The Prime Minister shall inform the Knesset of any dismissal of a
       Deputy Minister.

Remuneration of Ministers and Deputy Ministers
37. Ministers and Deputy Ministers shall received remuneration and other payments,
    such as shall be set by decision of the Knesset. The Knesset may authorize the Finance
    Committee for that purpose.

Government Secretary
38. Upon the Prime Minister's proposal, the Government shall appoint a
    Government Secretary and prescribe his functions.

Evidence of Government acts
39. (a) A document issued by the Government shall be signed by the Prime
       Minister or by another Minister authorized to do so by the Government, or by the
       Government Secretary.
       (b) Written confirmation by the Government Secretary, that the Government
       has done a certain thing, shall be evidence that whatever is said in the confirmation was
       done.

Notifications to the Knesset
40. (a) The Government shall inform the Knesset of the following:
    (1) that an Acting Prime Minister or an Interim Prime Minister has
        been designated;
    (2) that the Government has resigned;
    (3) that the Prime Minister has resigned or died;
    (4) that a Minister has resigned or died;
that an area of activity has been transferred from one Ministry to another;
(6) that the tenure of a Deputy Minister has ended under section 36(1) or (3).

(b) Aforesaid notifications shall be made in the Knesset, or - while the Knesset is in recess - to the Chairman of the Knesset who shall inform the members of the Knesset.

Publication in Reshumot
41. (a) Notification of the following shall be published in Reshumot on behalf of the Knesset:

(1) the establishment of a Government, its composition and the distribution of function among the Ministers, under section 15;
(2) approval of a change in the distribution of function among the Ministers, under section 17;
(3) approval of the cooption of a Minister to the Government, under section 18;
(4) approval of a decision under section 30 or 33(a);
(5) a decision under section 37.

(b) Notification of the following shall be published in Reshumot on behalf of the Government:

(1) decisions by the Government under sections 19, 20, 21(d), 25(b), 31(a) or (b), or 33(a);
(2) an assumption of a power under section 31 for a designated period;
(3) the appointment of a Deputy Minister under section 34 and the end of his tenure under section 36(1) or (3);
(4) the appointment of a Government Secretary under section 38 and the end of his tenure.

Emergency regulations are not applicable
42. Notwithstanding any provision in any other Law, this Law cannot be changed, suspended or made conditional by emergency regulations. This section can be changed only by a majority of the members of the Knesset.
BASIC LAW: THE GOVERNMENT

What is the Government
1. The Government is the executive authority of the State.

Seat of Government
2. The seat of the Government is Jerusalem.

Source of authority and composition
3. (a) The Government consists of the Prime Minister and Ministers.
    (b) The Prime Minister holds office by virtue of having been elected by general, national, direct, equal and secret elections, in accordance with the Knesset and Prime Minister Elections Law.
    (c) The Ministers shall be appointed by the Prime Minister; their appointment requires the Knesset's consent.
    (d) If the Knesset rejects the Prime Minister's proposal on the Government's composition, it shall be deemed to have expressed non-confidence in the Prime Minister, and the provisions of section 19(b) shall apply.

Election date
4. Whenever elections to the Knesset are held - except for repeat elections in consequence of an appeal against elections - elections shall also be held for Prime Minister.

Special elections
5. On the occasions set in this Basic Law, separate elections shall be held for Prime Minister (hereinafter: special elections).

The right to vote
6. Every person entitled to vote in Knesset elections is entitled to vote in elections for Prime Minister.

Term of office
7. The term of office of the Prime Minister and the Ministers shall be the term of office of the Knesset, with which they were elected, and after special elections - the term of the Knesset which is then in office, all unless prescribed differently in this Basic Law.

Qualifications of candidates for Prime Minister
8. (a) A person who meets the following requirements is qualified to be a candidate for Prime Minister:
    (1) he is qualified to be a candidate for the Knesset, and on the day on which his candidacy is submitted he is at least thirty years old;

For an explanatory note on the two Basic Laws: The Government, see page 29
(2) if elections for Prime Minister are held on a day on which Knesset elections are held - he heads a list of candidates for that Knesset;
(3) if special elections are held - he is a Knesset member.

(b) If a person held the office of Prime Minister for seven consecutive years, he shall not be a candidate at the next elections for Prime Minister.

Right to propose a candidate
9. (a) The following may propose a candidate in elections for Prime Minister:
   (1) a faction in the outgoing Knesset, which has no fewer than ten members and which submitted a list of candidates for the Knesset;
   (2) several factions in the outgoing Knesset, who have no fewer than ten members in the aggregate and which submitted one or several lists of candidates for the Knesset;
   (3) 50,000 persons who have the right to vote.

(b) The following may propose a candidate in special elections: one or several Knesset factions with an aggregate of no fewer than ten Knesset members, as well as fifty thousand persons who have the right to vote.

Date for special elections
10. (a) If a cause arises under this Basic Law to hold special elections, then those elections shall be held on the last Tuesday before the end of sixty days after the day on which that cause arose.

(b) If a cause arises under this Basic Law to hold special elections, and if their date is one year or less before Knesset elections are to be held under section 9 of the Basic Law: The Knesset, then the Knesset elections shall be advanced, and elections both of the Knesset and of the Prime Minister shall be held on the date on which the special elections were to be held.

Postponement of election date because of days of rest
11. If, in pursuit of this Basic Law, the date for elections of the Knesset or of the Prime Minister falls on a day of rest, on the eve of a day of rest or on the day immediately after a day of rest, then the elections shall be held on the first following Tuesday which is not a day of rest, the eve of a day of rest or the day immediately after a day of rest.

Candidate who died or ceased to be candidate
12. (a) If a candidate for Prime Minister dies, or if health conditions come to prevent his candidature after the last day for the proposal of candidates, then the election of the Knesset and of the Prime Minister or the special elections, as the case may be, shall be postponed and they shall be held on Tuesday four weeks later; if a candidate dies or if health conditions come to prevent his candidature before the said day, that shall not cause the date of the elections to be postponed.

(b) If a candidate for Prime Minister resigns, whether before or after the date said in subsection (a), that shall not cause the date of the elections to be postponed.
(c) If a person, whose candidacy was lawfully proposed, ceases to be a candidate, then whoever proposed him may - within two weeks, but not later than 96 hours before the date of the elections - propose another candidate in his place; however -

(1) if the candidate was proposed by one or several factions of the outgoing Knesset, then the new candidate shall be a person proposed by that faction or those factions from among the persons on their lists of candidates for the Knesset, and he shall be deemed - for all intents and purposes - to be the first on the list of candidates in which he was included; in special elections the new candidate shall be proposed from among Knesset members;

(2) if the candidate was proposed by 50,000 voters, then the new candidate shall be the person who appears second on the list of candidates for the Knesset which the former candidate headed; in special elections the new candidate shall be proposed from among Knesset members.

Election of Prime Minister
13. (a) That candidate shall be elected Prime Minister who received more than half the valid votes and who is a Knesset member.

(b) If no candidate received the number of votes said in subsection (a), then a second round of elections shall be held two weeks after the results of the first elections were announced.

(c) The two candidates who received the largest numbers of votes in the first elections and who are Knesset members shall be candidates in the second round of elections; the candidate who receives the larger number of votes in the second round of elections shall be elected.

(d) If one of the candidates dies before the second round of elections takes place, or if health conditions come to prevent him from standing for election, then whoever proposed him may propose another candidate in his place, no later than 96 hours before the elections, and the provisions of section 12(c) shall apply, mutatis mutandis; if a candidate in the second round of elections resigns, then his place shall be taken by the candidate who received the next largest number of valid votes in the first elections and who is a Knesset member.

(e) If there is only one candidate, either at the first elections or in the second round of elections, then the elections shall be by a vote of for or against him, and he shall be elected if the number of valid votes for him is greater than the number of valid votes against him.

(f) If no candidate is elected as said in this section, then special elections shall be held.

(g) The outcome of elections for Prime Minister shall be published in Reshumot within 14 days after the elections.

Begin term of office
14. (a) The Prime Minister elect shall appear before the Knesset within 45 days after election results were published, present the Ministers in his Government, announce
the division of responsibilities between them and the principles of his Government's policy, and the Prime Minister and the Ministers shall take up their positions, on condition that the provisions of section 33(a) and (b) have been met; as soon as possible thereafter, the Prime Minister and the Ministers shall make their declaration of allegiance before the Knesset, as specified in subsection (c).

(b) The Prime Minister elect shall inform the Knesset Chairman in advance - and not later than seven days before the end of the period said in subsection (a) - that he is ready to appear before the Knesset; if this notification is delivered when the Knesset is not in session, then the Knesset Chairman shall convene the Knesset for this purpose.

(c) The Prime Minister's declaration of allegiance is as follows:

"I (his name), as Prime Minister, pledge allegiance to the State of Israel and its Laws, pledge to exercise faithfully the office of Prime Minister and to carry out the decisions of the Knesset."

The Ministers' declaration of allegiance is as follows:

"I (his name), as member of the Government, pledge allegiance to the State of Israel and its Laws, pledge to exercise faithfully the office of a member of Government and to carry out the Knesset's decisions."

**Failure to present Government on time**

15. (a) If no Government has been presented to the Knesset as said in section 14, then special elections shall be held.

(b) If a person, who was elected Prime Minister and failed to present a Government as aforesaid, is again elected and again presents a Government as aforesaid, then he shall not be a candidate at special elections held immediately thereafter.

**Qualifications of Ministers**

16. (a) No person shall be appointed Minister if he is not qualified to be a candidate for the Knesset; however, a person who held an office or position enumerated in section 7 of the Basic Law: The Knesset can be appointed Minister, provided he ceased to hold that office or position before his appointment.

(b) No person shall be appointed Minister if he was convicted of a nefarious crime and ten years have not yet passed since he finished serving his sentence.

(c) If a Knesset member resigned from his faction and did not resign from the Knesset immediately thereafter, then he shall not be appointed Minister during the term of that Knesset.

**Agreements to be published**

17. (a) If a written agreement is concluded in connection with the Prime Minister's election or the formation of the Government, or in connection with an expression of non-confidence in it, or in connection with the cooption of additional Ministers after the Government has been formed, or in connection with the appointment of a Deputy Minister, then the parties to the agreement shall deliver its complete text to the Knesset Secretary within three days after its signature, and no later than 48 hours before election day or 24
hours before a Government is presented or a no confidence vote is held, as the case may be; days of rest under Law shall not be included in the count of days and hours; if an agreement was concluded on behalf of a list of candidates for the Knesset, then the parties shall deliver it immediately to the Knesset Secretary.

(b) The Knesset Secretary shall immediately inform the Knesset members - and during an election period, also the representatives of election lists - of every agreement delivered to him under this section.

(c) No agreement on any of the matters said in subsection (a) shall be signed after the time said there, unless another time has been prescribed which makes it possible to publish the agreement as said in this section.

Restriction on agreements
18. (a) Wherever a Law provides the authority to remove a person from a position in the Knesset, the Government, in the Government service, in a body corporate set up by Law, in a Government company or in any other public body - no agreement shall be made and no undertaking shall be given that that person will not be removed from his position.

(b) No guarantee shall be provided, directly or indirectly, in money or in kind, by way of service or by way of any other benefit, to assure the implementation of an agreement or undertaking said in this section, and no such guarantee shall have any effect.

Motion of non-confidence
19. (a) The Knesset may - by a majority of its members - express non-confidence in the Prime Minister.

(b) A Knesset's vote of non-confidence in the Prime Minister shall be deemed a decision for the Knesset to dissolve itself before the end of its term of office.

Dissolution because Budget Law was not adopted
20. If no Budget Law has been adopted within three months after the beginning of the fiscal year, the Knesset shall - at the end of the said period - be deemed to have decided to dissolve itself before the end of its term of office.

Early elections
21. (a) When the Knesset has expressed non-confidence in the Prime Minister, or when no Budget Law has not been adopted as said in section 20, then elections for the Knesset and for Prime Minister shall be held on the last Tuesday before the end of sixty days after the day on which non-confidence was expressed or from the end of the period said in section 20.

(b) The provisions of sections 34 and 35 of the Basic Law: The Knesset shall not apply to the Knesset's dissolution under sections 19 and 20.

(c) The Knesset Chairman shall publish notification in Reshumot of an aforesaid expression of non-confidence or of an aforesaid failure to adopt the Budget Law.
Dissolution of the Knesset by Prime Minister

22. (a) When the Prime Minister realizes that there is a majority in the Knesset opposed to the Government, and that consequently the Government's orderly functioning has become impossible, he may - the State President concurring - dissolve the Knesset by an order published in Reshumot; a decision to dissolve the Knesset shall be treated like a decision by the Knesset to dissolve itself before the end of its term, and elections to the Knesset and for Prime Minister shall be held on the last Tuesday before the end of sixty days after the Knesset's dissolution.

(b) The Prime Minister must not use his powers under this section -

(1) between the beginning of the term of a new Knesset and the establishment of the new Government;

(2) from the day on which the Knesset House Committee decided to recommend that he be removed from his post, and until the Knesset plenum makes its decision on this matter, as said in sections 26 and 27.

Resignation of Prime Minister

23. (a) After the Prime Minister informed the Government of his intention to do so, he may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the State President; the resignation shall go into effect 48 hours after the letter of resignation has reached the President, unless the Prime Minister withdrew it earlier.

(b) When the Prime Minister has resigned, he shall so inform the Knesset Chairman, who shall inform the Knesset.

(c) When a Prime Minister has resigned, special elections shall be held.

Prime Minister who left Knesset

24. If a Prime Minister ceases to be a Knesset Member, he shall be treated like a Prime Minister who has resigned.

Investigation and indictment of Prime Minister

25. (a) No criminal investigation shall be initiated against a Prime Minister without the Attorney General's concurrence, and no indictment shall be filed against a Prime Minister, except by the Attorney General.

(b) An indictment against a Prime Minister shall be heard at the District Court in Jerusalem, and it shall be heard by a bench of three judges.

(c) If a court finds a Prime Minister guilty of an offense, it shall state in its judgment whether that offense is a heinous one.

Removal from office because of offense

26. (a) The Knesset may - by the vote of a majority of its members - remove from office a Prime Minister who was convicted of a heinous offense.

(b) The Knesset House Committee shall decide, within 30 days of the day on which the judgment has been made final, whether to recommend that the Prime Minister be removed from office; a committee decision to recommend a Prime Minister's removal
from office shall only be adopted by a majority of its members; when the House Committee has decided to recommend that the Prime Minister be removed from office, it shall bring its recommendation before the Knesset plenum; if the House Committee failed to make its recommendation during the said period, then the Knesset Chairman shall bring the matter before the plenum at the earliest possible time.

(c) The House Committee and the Knesset shall not decide on the removal of a Prime Minister from office before he has been given an opportunity to state his case before them.

(d) When the Knesset has decided to remove a Prime Minister from office, then special elections shall be held.

(e) The provisions of sections 42A and 42B of the Basic Law: The Knesset shall not apply to the Prime Minister.

Removal from office not because of offense

27. (a) The Knesset may remove a Prime Minister from office by a majority of eighty of its members.

(b) A proposal to remove a Prime Minister from office shall be submitted by at least forty Knesset members to the Knesset Chairman, and he shall bring it before the Knesset House Committee.

(c) The House Committee shall decide on the proposal and it shall bring its recommendation before the Knesset plenum within thirty days after the proposal was brought before it; if the House Committee failed to make its recommendation during the said period, then the Knesset Chairman shall bring the matter before the plenum at the earliest possible time.

(d) The House Committee and the Knesset shall not decide on the removal of a Prime Minister from office before he has been given an opportunity to state his case before them.

(e) When the Knesset has decided to remove a Prime Minister from office, then special elections shall be held.

Death of Prime Minister

28. If the Prime Minister has died, or if he is permanently unable to exercise his office, then special elections shall be held.

Acting Prime Minister

29. (a) If the Prime Minister has died, if he is permanently unable to exercise his office, or if he was removed from office, then the Government shall designate one of the Ministers who is a Knesset member to serve as Acting Prime Minister until the new Prime Minister enters office.

(b) The Acting Prime Minister shall have all the powers of the Prime Minister, except for the power to dissolve the Knesset.
Unable to serve

30. (a) When the Prime Minister is absent from Israel, meetings of the Government shall be called and chaired by one of the Ministers, who was appointed for that purpose by the Prime Minister.

(b) If the Prime Minister is unable to exercise his position temporarily and for a period of no more than 100 consecutive days, then his place shall be taken by a member of the Government who is a Knesset member and who was designated for this purpose by the Prime Minister; if no deputy was designated, or if one was designated, but is unable to serve, then the Prime Minister's place shall be taken by one of the Ministers who is a Knesset member and was elected therefor by the Government, and that until the Prime Minister or his permanent deputy returns to office.

(c) The provisions of subsection (a) shall apply to the Deputy Prime Minister during the period, in which he takes his place.

(d) When 100 successive days have passed during which the Prime Minister was unable to exercise his position and he has not returned to exercise it, he shall be deemed to be permanently unable to exercise his position, and the provisions of section 28 and 29 shall apply.

Continued service of Prime Minister and Ministers

31. (a) When a Prime Minister has resigned or when the Knesset has expressed non-confidence in him, he shall continue to exercise his position until the newly elected Prime Minister enters office.

(b) When a Prime Minister has died, or is permanently unable to exercise his position, or has resigned, or has been removed from office, or the Knesset has expressed non-confidence in him, then the Ministers shall remain in office until the newly elected Prime Minister enters office.

Continuity of Government

32. When elections to the Knesset and for Prime Minister, or special elections are held, the Prime Minister and the Ministers of the outgoing Government shall continue to be in office until the Prime Minister and the Ministers of the new Government enter office.

Ministers

33. (a) The number of members of Government, including the Prime Minister, shall not be more than eighteen, and shall not be less than eight.

(b) At least half of the Ministers shall be Knesset members.

(c) A Minister shall be in charge of a Ministry, but there can be Ministers without portfolio.

(d) The Prime Minister may also be in charge of a Ministry.

(e) Subject to the provisions of subsection (a) and (b), the Prime Minister may coopt additional Ministers to the Government after its establishment; the term in office of a coopted Minister shall begin when the Prime Minister informs the Knesset of his
appointment; immediately thereafter the Minister shall, in the Knesset, make his declaration of allegiance in the terms specified in section 14(c).

(f) Every Minister is responsible to the Prime Minister for the tasks of which he is in charge, and he is accountable to the Knesset for the exercise of his office.

**Fewer Ministers than required**

34. (a) When a Government, including the Prime Minister, numbers fewer than eight, no Minister can be removed from office.

(b) When a Government, including the Prime Minister, numbers fewer than eight, then the Prime Minister shall appoint - within 72 hours - one or more Ministers to make up the required number, and until then he must not remove any Minister from office; if the said number has not been made up, then special elections shall be held.

**Cessation of Minister's term of office**

35. (a) A Minister may resign from the Government by delivering a letter of resignation to the Prime Minister; his service in the Government shall cease 48 hours after the letter of resignation has reached the Prime Minister, unless the Minister withdrew it earlier.

(b) The Prime Minister may remove a Minister from office by written notification; the Minister's service in the Government shall cease 48 hours after the letter of removal from office has reached him, unless the Prime Minister withdrew it earlier.

(c) The Knesset may remove a Minister from office by the decision of a majority of seventy of its members; the Knesset shall only consider a Minister's removal from office upon a recommendation by a majority of members of the Knesset House Committee, after the Minister has been given an opportunity to state his case before the committee and before the Knesset plenum.

(d) The Prime Minister shall inform the Government and the Knesset of the cessation of a Minister's term of office at one of their sessions or in another manner.

**Replacement for Minister**

36. When a Minister has ceased to serve in office, when he is absent from Israel or when he is temporarily unable to exercise his office, his position shall be filled by the Prime Minister or by a Minister designated by the Prime Minister, until the Minister again exercises his position or until another is appointed in his place; the Prime Minister shall inform the Government and the Knesset Chairman that another temporarily replaces a Minister, and the Knesset Chairman shall so inform the Knesset.

**Deputy Ministers**

37. (a) The Minister in charge of a Ministry may - with the Prime Minister's approval - appoint a Deputy Minister for that Ministry from among the Knesset members, and the Prime Minister may appoint a Deputy Minister as aforesaid for the Prime Minister's Office; a Deputy Minister shall enter into his office when the Government has announced his appointment in the Knesset; a Deputy Minister appointed by the Prime Minister shall
be called "Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office"; there shall not be more than six Deputy Ministers.

(b) A Deputy Minister shall act in the Knesset and in the Ministry to which he was appointed in the name of the member of Government who appointed him and within the framework of matters which he entrusted to him.

(c) If a Knesset member left his faction and did not resign after so leaving, he shall not be appointed Deputy Minister during the term in office of that Knesset.

Cessation of Deputy Minister's term of office
38. (a) A Deputy Minister's term of office shall cease in each of the following cases:
   (1) the Deputy Minister resigned by delivering a letter of resignation to the Government member who appointed him;
   (2) that Minister ceased being a Minister or ceased being in charge of that Ministry, and in the case of a Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office - when the Prime Minister ceases to serve in that office;
   (3) the Prime Minister or that Minister decided to end his term of office as Deputy Minister;
   (4) the Deputy Minister ceased being a Knesset member.

The Prime Minister and function of the Government
39. (a) The Prime Minister may -
   (1) prescribe the Ministers' positions;
   (2) change the division of responsibilities between Ministers;
   (3) transfer powers and obligations not prescribed by Law from one Minister to another;
   (4) transfer spheres of activity from one Ministry to another;
   (5) designate the Government Ministries, and also to amalgamate, divide and eliminate Ministries and to set up new Ministries, and - having done so - he shall inform the Knesset;
   (6) appoint permanent, temporary or ad hoc Ministerial committees; when a committee has been appointed, the Government may act through it.

(b) If certain powers are entrusted to one Minister by Law, then the Prime Minister may transfer part or all of them to another Minister; a decision under this provision requires approval by the Knesset.

(c) The Prime Minister shall direct the Government's work and he shall prescribe - by a body of rules - work and voting procedures in the Government and its committees.

(d) Government decisions shall be adopted by majority vote; in case of a tie, the Prime Minister shall have an additional vote.

Powers of the Government
40. The Government is empowered to perform - in the name of the State and
subject to any enactment - every act, with the performance of which another agency is not lawfully charged.

Delegation of Powers
41. (a) The Government may delegate to one of the Ministers every power with which it is lawfully charged, except for powers under this Basic Law.

(b) If a Minister holds a power which has been granted to a Minister under any Law, other than a power to make regulations, and if that power has been transferred under section 39(b), then that Minister may delegate that power - in whole, in part, or with reservations - to a public servant.

(c) If the Government delegated any power to a Minister, other than a power to make regulations, then the Minister may delegate that power - in whole, in part, or with reservations - to a public servant, if the Government empowered him to do so.

(d) For purposes of this section and of section 39(b) -

   (1) powers of the Government or of a Minister include obligations imposed on them by implication;

   (2) Minister - including the Prime Minister.

(e) The provisions of this section shall apply, unless a different intention is implied by the Law that grants the power or imposes the obligation.

Assumption of powers
42. If a Minister, including the Prime Minister, is charged with the implementation of a Law, then he may assume powers - other than judicial powers - granted by that Law to a Government employee, if no other intention is implied by the Law; the Minister may do as aforesaid for a certain matter or for a certain period.

Sole position
43. The Prime Minister, Ministers and Deputy Ministers shall exercise their offices faithfully, and they shall engage in other economic or public activity only in spheres and according to rules prescribed by the Government.

Confidentiality
44. (a) The Government’s deliberations and decisions on the following matters are confidential, and their disclosure or publication is prohibited; and these are the subjects:

   (1) national security;

   (2) the State’s foreign relations;

   (3) any other category of matters, the confidentiality of which the Government considered essential for the State and which it declared, by order, for purposes of this section;

   (4) any matter which the Government decided to keep confidential, but the disclosure and publication of such a matter is prohibited only to persons who are aware of the decision.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to matters, publication
of which was permitted by the Government, or by the Prime Minister, or by a person so empowered by the Prime Minister, or to matters the publication of which is required by any enactment.

Salary and pension
45. The salaries of the Prime Minister, the Ministers and Deputy Ministers, and other payments to be paid to them during or after their terms of office or to their survivors after their death, shall be set by Law or by decision of the Knesset, or by a public committee appointed for that purpose by the Knesset.

Government Secretary
46. Upon the proposal of the Prime Minister, the Government shall appoint a Government Secretary and prescribe his functions.

Regulations
47. (a) The Prime Minister or the Minister charged with the implementation of a Law is empowered to make regulations for its implementation.

(b) A Law may empower the Prime Minister or Minister to make regulations on a matter specified in the authorization.

Knesset supervision over subsidiary legislation
48. (a) Regulations made by the Prime Minister or by a Minister, which prescribe criminal punishment for their violation, shall not go into effect unless approved - before their publication - by one of the Knesset committees, within the whose scope of responsibility the subject lies; if the committee does not decide to approve or to reject the regulations within thirty days from the day on which the regulations were submitted to it, then the regulations shall be deemed to have been approved.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not derogate from the effect of any Basic Law or Law that deals with regulations.

Declaration of emergency
49. (a) When the Knesset concludes that a state of emergency exists in the country, then it may - at its own initiative or in accordance with the Government's proposal - declare that a said state of emergency exists.

(b) The period of the said declaration's effect shall be as prescribed in it, but no longer than one year; the Knesset may declare an aforesaid state of emergency repeatedly.

(c) When the Government concludes that a state of emergency exists in the country and that - because of the urgency of the matter - a state of emergency should be declared before the Knesset can be convened, then it may declare a state of emergency; the declaration's effect shall lapse seven days after it was made, unless earlier approved or cancelled by the Knesset by decision of a majority of its members; if the Knesset did not meet, the Government may repeatedly declare states of emergency as said in this subsection.
(d) The Knesset’s or the Government’s declaration of a state of emergency shall be published in Reshumot; if it is not possible to publish the declaration of a state of emergency in Reshumot, then it shall be published in another appropriate manner, provided that it is published in Reshumot immediately after it becomes possible to do so.

(e) The Knesset may cancel a declaration of a state of emergency at any time; notification of the cancellation shall be published in Reshumot.

Emergency regulations
50. (a) During a state of emergency the Government may make emergency regulations in order to protect the state, public security and vital supplies and services; emergency regulations shall be submitted to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee as soon as possible after they are made.

(b) If the Prime Minister concludes that it is not possible to convene the Government and that there is an urgent and vital need to make emergency regulations, then he may make them or empower a Minister to make them.

(c) Emergency regulations can change any Law, temporarily suspend its effect or set conditions for it, and also to impose or to increase taxes or other obligatory payments, all so long as there is no contrary provision in Law.

(d) Emergency regulations cannot prevent appeal to the courts, prescribe penalties retroactively or permit an abuse of human dignity.

(e) Emergency regulations shall be made and arrangements, measures and powers under them shall be activated only to the extent that the state of emergency requires.

(f) The effect of emergency regulations shall lapse three months after the day on which they were made, unless their effect was extended by Law or they were cancelled by the Knesset by Law or by the decision of a majority of Knesset members.

(g) Emergency regulations shall go into effect upon their publication in Reshumot; if they cannot be published in Reshumot, then they shall be published in another appropriate manner, provided that they are published in Reshumot immediately after it becomes possible to do so.

(h) When the state of emergency ceases to exist, then emergency regulations shall remain in force during the period of their effect, but no longer than 60 days after the end of the state of emergency; emergency regulations, the effect of which was extended by Law, shall continue to be in effect.

Declaration of war
51. (a) The State shall open war only on the strength of a Government decision.

(b) This section shall not prevent military actions required in order to defend the state and public security.

(c) Notification under subsection (a), that the Government decided to go to war, shall be submitted to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee as soon as possible; the Prime Minister shall also notify the Knesset plenum as soon as possible; notification of military actions said in subsection (b) shall be submitted to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee as soon as possible.
The Government and Knesset committees
52. (a) The Government shall provide information to the Knesset and to its committees on their demand, and it shall support them in the exercise of their offices; special provisions shall be made by Law on the confidentiality of information, when that is required for the defense of the State's security and foreign relations, or of its commercial relations, or of the protection of any lawful right or immunity.

(b) Upon a request by at least forty of its members, the Knesset may consider any matter of its choosing with the Prime Minister's participation; a said request cannot be submitted more often than once a month.

(c) The Knesset may require a Minister to appear before it, and so may every Knesset committee within the framework of its responsibilities.

(d) A Knesset committee may, within the framework of its responsibilities and through the competent Minister or with his knowledge, require Government employees or any person designated by Law to appear before it.

(e) The Prime Minister and every Minister may have his say before the Knesset and its committees.

(f) Particulars on the implementation of this section may be prescribed by Law or in the Knesset by-laws.

Nonapplicability of emergency regulations
53. Notwithstanding the provisions of any enactment, emergency regulations cannot change this Basic Law, suspend its effect temporarily or set conditions for it.

Notification to the Knesset
54. (a) The Government shall notify the Knesset on the following:

(1) the appointment of a Deputy Prime Minister or of an Acting Prime Minister;
(2) the Prime Minister's resignation or death;
(3) a Minister's resignation or death;
(4) a transfer of spheres of activity from one Ministry to another;
(5) the end of a Deputy Minister's term of office.

(b) The notification shall be made in the Knesset, and during its recess it shall be delivered to the Knesset Chairman, who shall inform the Knesset members.

Publication in Reshumot
55. (a) Notification shall be published in Reshumot on the following:

(1) an expression of non-confidence in the Government by the Knesset;
(2) the Prime Minister's dismissal from office;
(3) a Minister's dismissal from office by the Knesset;
(4) an approval under section 39(b) by the Knesset;
(5) a decision under section 45.
(b) Notification on behalf of the Government shall be published in Reshumot on the following:

(1) presentation of the Government to the Knesset, the Ministers and the division of responsibilities between them;
(2) the cooption of a Minister to the Government;
(3) an assumption of powers under section 42;
(4) decisions by the Prime Minister under section 39(a)(1) to (5);
(5) appointment or end of term of office of a Deputy Minister;
(6) appointment of a Government Secretary;
(7) removal of a Minister from office by the Prime Minister.

Permanence of this Law
56. (a) This Basic Law can be amended only by a majority of the Knesset members, and a provision that a certain Knesset decision be adopted by a majority of a stated number of Knesset members can only be amended by at least that number of Knesset members; the majority required under this subsection shall be required for decisions of the Knesset plenum in the first, second and third reading; "amend", for purposes of this section - both explicitly and by implication.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to sections 57 to 63.

Amendment No. 15 of the Basic Law: The Knesset
57. (This section amends the Basic Law: The Knesset. Its provisions are included in the translation of that Law.)

Amendment No. 5 of the Basic Law: The State Economy
58. (This section amends the Basic Law: The State Economy. Its provisions are included in the translation of that Law.)

Amendment of the Law and Administration Ordinance
59. (This section amends the Law and Administration Ordinance 5708-1948.)

Amendment of the Evidence Ordinance (New Version) 5731-1971
60. (This section amends the Evidence Ordinance (New Version) 5731-1971.)

Repeal of Basic Law: The Government
61. The Basic Law: The Government is repealed.

Amendment No. 27 of the Knesset Elections Law
62. (This section amends the Knesset Elections Law 5729-1969.)

Effect
63. (a) The provisions of this Basic Law shall apply to the election of the Prime
Minister and to the establishment of the Government, beginning with the elections to the Fourteenth Knesset.

(b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (a), this Law shall go into effect upon the entry into office of the Prime Minister elected as said in subsection (a).

Transitional provisions

64. (a) On the day on which this Basic Law goes into effect a state of emergency is deemed to have been declared under section 49(a) of this Basic Law.

(b) Every enactment, which prescribes that it shall remain in effect as long as a state of emergency exists under section 9 of the Law and Administration Ordinance 5708-1948, shall remain in effect as long as a state of emergency exists as said in subsection (a).

(c) Wherever an enactment refers to a state of emergency under section 9 of the Law and Administration Ordinance 5708-1948, it shall be deemed to refer to a state of emergency declared under section 49(a) of this Basic Law.

Publication

65. This Law shall be published within thirty days after its adoption.
BASIC LAW: STATE ECONOMY

Taxes, compulsory loans and fees
1.  (a) Taxes, compulsory loans and other compulsory payments shall not be imposed and their amounts shall not be changed, except by or under a Law; the same shall apply to fees.

(b) When the amount of any tax, compulsory loan or other compulsory payment is not prescribed in the Law itself, and when the Law does not provide that the amounts prescribed therefor by regulations require approval by the Knesset or a Knesset Committee, then the amounts prescribed therefor by regulations shall require approval by the Knesset or by a Knesset Committee authorized by it for that purpose.

State property
2. Transactions in State property and the acquisition of rights and the assumption of obligations on behalf of the State shall be performed by persons authorized to do so by or under Law.

State budget
3.  (a) (1) The State budget shall be prescribed by Law.

(2) The budget shall be for one year, and it shall set out the Government's expected and planned expenditure.

(b) (1) The Government shall bring the proposed Budget Law before the Knesset at the time prescribed by the Knesset or by a committee empowered by the Knesset for that purpose, but not later than sixty days before the beginning of the fiscal year.

(2) The proposed Budget Law shall be detailed.

(3) The detailed proposed Budget Law of the Ministry of Defense shall not be submitted to the Knesset, but to a joint committee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the Knesset Finance Committee.

(4) The proposed Budget Bill shall be accompanied by an estimate of the sources for financing the Budget.

(c) When that is necessary, the Government may submit a supplementary Budget Bill in the course of the fiscal year.

(d) If it appears to the Government that the proposed Budget Bill will not be adopted before the beginning of the fiscal year, it may submit an interim Budget Bill.

(e) Every year the Minister of Finance shall submit to the Knesset a report on the implementation of the State budget. Particulars shall be prescribed by Law.

Multi-annual budget
3A. (a) Before the beginning of each fiscal year the Government shall prepare a multi-annual budget, which shall include the proposed Budget Law for the next year and also plans for the budgets of the following two years.
(b) The Government shall submit the multi-annual budget to the Knesset together with the proposed Budget Law.

(c) Every proposed Budget Law submitted by the Government to the Knesset shall be based on the multi-annual planned budget, which was submitted to the Knesset in the preceding year.

**Failure to adopt Budget Law**

3B. (a) If no Budget Law was adopted before the beginning of the fiscal year, then the Government is authorized to expend each month an amount equal to one twelfth of the previous annual budget, with the addition of linkage differentials to the consumer price index published by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

(b) Monies expended under subsection (a) shall, first of all, be dedicated to meeting the Government's obligations under Law, contracts and treaties; the Government shall use the remainder only for the operation of vital services that were included in the previous budget.

(c) This section can be amended only by a majority of the members of the Knesset.

**Currency notes and coins**

4. Legal tender currency notes shall be printed and legal tender coins shall be minted under Law.

**Inspection**

5. The State economy shall be subject to inspection by the State Comptroller.
BASIC LAW: THE ARMY

Israel Defense Forces
1. The Israel Defense Forces (I.D.F.) are the army of the State of Israel.

Subordination to civil authority
2. (a) The I.D.F. are subject to the Government's authority.
   (b) The Minister of Defense is in charge of the I.D.F. on behalf of the Government.

Chief of the General Staff
3. (a) The highest echelon of command of the I.D.F. is the Chief of the General Staff.
   (b) The Chief of Staff is subject to the Government's authority and subordinate to the Minister of Defense.
   (c) The Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the Government, upon the recommendation by the Minister of Defense.

Compulsory service and recruitment
4. The obligation to serve in the I.D.F. and recruitment to the I.D.F. shall be as prescribed by virtue of Law or under Law.

Instructions and orders in the I.D.F.
5. The power to issue binding instructions and orders in the I.D.F. shall be as prescribed by virtue of Law or under Law.

Other armed forces
6. No armed force other than the I.D.F. shall be established or maintained, except under Law.
BASIC LAW: ISRAEL LANDS

Prohibition of transfer of ownership
1. The ownership of Israel lands, being lands in Israel of the State, the Development Authority or the Keren Kayemet le-Israel, shall not be transferred either by sale or in any other manner.

Permission by Law
2. Section 1 shall not apply to classes of lands and classes of transactions determined for that purpose by Law.

Definition
3. In this Law, "lands" - land, houses, buildings and anything permanently attached to the land.


BASIC LAW: ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CHAPTER ONE: BASIC PROVISIONS

Judicial power
1. (a) Judicial power is vested in the following Courts:
   (1) the Supreme Court;
   (2) District Courts;
   (3) Magistrates Courts;
   (4) other courts designated as such by Law.
   In this Law, "judge" - a judge of an aforesaid court.

(b) Judicial power is also vested in the following:
   (1) religious tribunals;
   (2) other tribunals;
   (3) other authorities;
   all as prescribed by Law.

(c) No court or tribunal shall be established for a specific case.

Independence
2. A person vested with judicial power shall not - in any judicial matter - be subject to any authority, other than that of the Law.

Public proceedings
3. Courts shall sit in public, unless a Law provides otherwise or unless the court itself directs otherwise under Law.

CHAPTER TWO: JUDGES

Appointment of judges
4. (a) Judges shall be appointed by the State President, after having been elected by a Judges Election Committee.

(b) The Judges Election Committee shall consist of the following nine members: the President of the Supreme Court, two other judges of the Supreme Court elected by the body of judges thereof, the Minister of Justice and another Minister designated by the Government, two Knesset members elected by the Knesset, and two representatives of the Chamber of Advocates, elected by the Chamber's National Council. The Minister of Justice shall be the Committee's chairman.
(c) The Committee may act even if the number of its members has been reduced, provided it is not less than seven.

Citizenship
5. Only an Israel citizen shall be appointed judge.

Declaration of allegiance
6. When a person has been appointed judge, he shall make a declaration of allegiance before the State President. The declaration shall be as follows: "I pledge allegiance to the State of Israel and to its Laws, and commit myself to dispense justice fairly, to be true to the Law and to show no favor."

Tenure
7. A judge's term of office shall begin when he makes the declaration of allegiance, and it shall end only -

1. upon his retirement on pension; or
2. upon his resignation; or
3. upon his election or appointment to one of the positions, holders of which are barred from being candidates for the Knesset; or
4. upon a decision of the Judges Election Committee, proposed by the Committee's chairman or by the President of the Supreme Court and passed by a majority of at least seven members; or
5. upon the decision of a disciplinary court.

Retired judge
8. When a judge has retired on pension, he may be appointed to the position of judge for a time, in a manner and on conditions prescribed by Law.

Restriction on reassignment
9. (a) A judge shall not be permanently transferred from the locality, in which he serves, to a court in another locality, unless the president of the Supreme Court consented thereto, or unless a disciplinary court so decided.

(b) A judge shall not be appointed to an acting position on a lower court, unless he consented thereto.

Salary and benefits
10. (a) The salaries of judges and other payments to be paid them during or after their term of office, or to their survivors after their death, shall be prescribed by Law, or by a decision of the Knesset, or of a Knesset committee empowered by the Knesset for that purpose.

(b) No decision shall be passed only to reduce the salaries of judges.
No other occupation
11. A judge shall not engage in any additional occupation, and he shall not carry out any public function, unless the President of the Supreme Court and the Minister of Justice consented thereto.

Criminal proceedings
12. (a) No criminal investigation shall be initiated against a judge, unless the Attorney General consented thereto, and no indictment shall be filed against a judge except by the Attorney General.

(b) A criminal charge against a judge shall be tried only before a District Court composed of three judges, unless the judge has consented to be tried in the ordinary manner.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to categories of offenses specified by Law.

Disciplinary proceedings
13. (a) Judges shall be subject to the jurisdiction of disciplinary courts.

(b) A disciplinary court shall be composed of judges and of judges retired on pension, who were appointed by the President of the Supreme Court.

(c) Provisions on grounds for the institution of disciplinary proceedings, on ways of filing complaints, on constitution of the bench, on the powers of a disciplinary court and on the disciplinary measures which it is authorized to impose shall be prescribed by Law. The rules of procedure shall be in accordance with Law.

Suspension
14. When a complaint or an indictment has been filed against a judge, the President of the Supreme Court may suspend him from office for a period which he may prescribe.

CHAPTER THREE: THE COURTS

Supreme Court
15. (a) The seat of the Supreme Court is in Jerusalem.

(b) The Supreme Court shall hear appeals and other decisions of District Courts.

(c) The Supreme Court shall also sit as a High Court of Justice. When so sitting, it shall hear matters in which it deems it necessary to grant relief for the sake of justice and which are not within the jurisdiction of any other court or tribunal.

(d) Without derogating from the generality of the provisions of subsection (c), the Supreme Court sitting as High Court of Justice is competent -

(1) to order the release of person unlawfully detained or imprisoned;
(2) to order the State and local authorities and their officials and bodies, as well as other persons who perform public functions under Law, to perform or to refrain from performing any act in the lawful exercise of their functions, or - if they were improperly elected or appointed - to refrain from any action;

(3) to order courts and tribunals, as well as bodies and persons that hold judicial or quasi-judicial powers under Law - other than courts and tribunals - to hear, to refrain from hearing or to continue hearing a particular matter, or to void a proceeding improperly followed or a decision improperly made;

(4) to order tribunals to hear a particular matter within their jurisdiction or to refrain from hearing or from continuing to hear a particular matter that is not within their jurisdiction, but the Court shall not entertain an application under this paragraph if the applicant did not raise the question of jurisdiction at the earliest opportunity; if he had no definitive opportunity to raise the question of jurisdiction until a decision had been given by the tribunal, the Court may quash proceedings improperly followed or a decision made by a tribunal without authority.

(e) Other powers of the Supreme Court shall be prescribed by Law.

Other courts
16. The establishment, seats and areas of jurisdiction of District Courts, Magistrates Courts and other courts shall be in accordance to Law.

Appeal
17. A judgment of a court of first instance, other than a judgment of the Supreme Court, shall be appealable as of right.

Further hearing
18. In a matter adjudged by the Supreme Court by a bench of three, a further hearing may be held by a bench of five, on grounds and in a manner to be prescribed by Law.

Retrial
19. A criminal matter finally adjudged may be retried, on grounds and in a manner to be prescribed by Law.

Established rule
20. (a) A rule laid down by a court shall bind all lower courts.

(b) A rule laid down by the Supreme Court shall bind all courts, except the Supreme Court.

Registrar
21. A court may have a registrar, who may or may not be a judge.
CHAPTER FOUR: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Not affected by emergency regulations
22. This Law cannot be changed, suspended or made subject to conditions by emergency regulations.

Provisions to be prescribed by Law
23. Provisions on the following matters shall be prescribed by Law:
   (1) the manner of choosing members of the Judges Election Committee and the length of their tenure;
   (2) qualifications for the posts of judges of the various ranks;
   (3) the manner of appointing the President of the Supreme Court, the Deputy President of the Supreme Court, and the President and Vice President of a District Court and of a Magistrates Court;
   (4) conditions and procedures for the termination of a judge's tenure;
   (5) the manner of appointing a judge to an acting assignment at another court and of transferring a judge, temporarily or permanently, from the locality where he serves to a court in another locality;
   (6) proceedings for the suspension of a judge from office, and for the review of that suspension;
   (7) the matters which courts of different rank are to hear by a single judge and by three or more judges;
   (8) the manner of designating the judge or judges to hear a particular matter.

Provisions to be prescribed by Law
24. Provisions on the following matters shall be prescribed by Law:
   (1) rules on the administration of the courts, and on how those rules are to be made and implemented;
   (2) rules of procedure of the Judges Election Committee;
   (3) procedure for resignation of a judge;
   (4) procedure for the appointment of a registrar of a court, and his powers;
   (5) the number of judges who are to serve in the courts of the different ranks and locations.
BASIC LAW: STATE COMPTROLLER

Substance
1. The State Comptroller is charged with State inspection.

State inspection
2. (a) The State Comptroller shall perform inspections of the economy, assets, finances, obligations and administration of the State, of the Government ministries, of every enterprise, institution or body corporate of the State, of local authorities and other bodies or institutions which, by Law, were made subject to inspection by the State Comptroller.
(b) The State Comptroller shall weigh whether the acts of controlled bodies are legal and ethical, whether they conform to good administrative practice, are efficient and economical, and also any other subject which he considers necessary.

Obligation to provide information
3. Every body subject to inspection by the State Comptroller shall deliver to the Comptroller - upon his request and without delay - any information, documents, explanations and all other material which, in the Comptroller’s opinion, are necessary for the purposes of the inspection.

Complaints by the public
4. The State Comptroller shall investigate complaints from the public against bodies and individuals, as shall be specified by or under Law; in exercising this function, the Comptroller shall bear the title of “Public Complaints Commissioner”.

Additional tasks
5. The State Comptroller shall perform additional tasks, as shall be specified by Law.

Responsible to the Knesset
6. The State Comptroller shall be responsible to the Knesset in the exercise of his functions, and he shall be independent of the Government.

Election and term of office
7. (a) The State Comptroller shall be elected by the Knesset by secret ballot; election procedures shall be prescribed by Law.
(b) The State Comptroller’s term of office shall be five years.

Eligibility
8. Every Israel citizen who is a resident of Israel is eligible to be a candidate for
the office of State Comptroller; any person who has served as State Comptroller for two successive terms shall not be a candidate for the period immediately thereafter.

Declaration of allegiance
9. The State Comptroller shall make and sign the following declaration before the Knesset:

"I pledge allegiance to the State of Israel and to its Laws, and pledge to exercise faithfully my functions as State Comptroller."

Budget
10. The budget of the Office of the State Comptroller shall be determined by the Knesset Finance Committee upon the State Comptroller's proposal, and it shall be published together with the Government budget.

Salary and pension
11. The State Comptroller's salary and other payments to be paid him during or after his term of office, or to his survivors after his death, shall be prescribed by Law or by Knesset decision, or by one of its committees so empowered by the Knesset.

Liaison with Knesset and submission of reports
12. (a) The State Comptroller shall maintain liaison with the Knesset, as shall be prescribed by Law.

(b) The State Comptroller shall submit to the Knesset reports and opinions within the scope of his functions, and he shall publish them, all in the manner and with the restrictions to be prescribed by Law.

Removal from office
13. A State Comptroller can be removed from office only by a decision of the Knesset, passed by a majority of two thirds of those voting; the procedure of removal from office shall be prescribed by Law.

Deputy State Comptroller
14. If the State Comptroller is unable to exercise his functions, a Deputy State Comptroller shall be appointed in a manner and for a period to be prescribed by Law.
REFERENCES

The sources of the enactments presented in these pages in translation, as well as those mentioned in the text, are listed below for our readers' convenience. Whenever possible we refer to English language versions, both Laws of the State of Israel (LSI), the annual compendia of law translations issued by the Ministry of Justice, and the consolidated law translation published by A.G. Publications Ltd.

The following abbreviations have been used here, as well as elsewhere in these pages:

AG A. G. Publications Ltd. (translated)
LP Laws of Palestine, 1934 (English original)
LSI Laws of the State of Israel (translated)
NV Laws of the State of Israel - New Version
(translated)
KT Kovetz Hatakanot (Hebrew original)
PG Palestine Gazette (English original)
SH Sefer Ha-chukkim (Hebrew original)

Basic Law: Administration of Justice - 38LSI101
Amendment - S.H. of 5752, p. 72

Basic Law: The Army - 30LSI150


Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom 5752-1992 -
S.H. of 5752, p. 150

Basic Law: Israel Lands - 14LS148

Basic Law: Jerusalem - Capital of Israel - 34LSI209

Basic Law: The Government - 22LSI257
Amendment - 27LSI265
Amendment No. 2 - 34LSI6
Amendment No. 3 - 35LSI339
Amendment No. 4 - 38LSI303
Amendment No. 5 - S.H. of 5751, p. 86
Amendment No. 6 - S.H. of 5751, p. 91
Amendment No. 7 - S.H. of 5751, p. 190
Amendment No. 8 - S.H. of 5755, p. 42


Basic Law: The Government Economy - 29LSI273
Amendment - 36LSI181
Amendment No. 2 - 37LSI58
Amendment No. 3 - S.H. of 5748, p. 32
Amendment No. 4 - S.H. of 5752, p. 40
Amendment No. 5 - S.H. of 5742, p. 224
Basic Law: The Knesset - 12LS185
    Amendment - 13LS155
    Amendment No. 2 - 13LS167
    Amendment No. 3 - 13LS228
    Amendment No. 4 - 21LS114
    Amendment No. 5 - 28LS112
    Amendment No. 6 - 34LS177
    Amendment No. 7 - 35LS190
    Amendment No. 8 - 35LS192
    Amendment No. 9 - S.H. of 5745, p. 196
    Amendment No. 10 - S.H. of 5747, p. 120
    Amendment No. 11 - S.H. of 5750, p. 196
    Amendment No. 12 - S.H. of 5751, p. 90
    Amendment No. 13 - S.H. of 5751, p. 208
    Amendment No. 14 - S.H. of 5752, p. 162
    Amendment No. 15 - S.H. of 5752, p. 224
    Amendment No. 16 - S.H. of 5754, p. 140
    Amendment No. 17 - S.H. of 5755, p. 42

Basic Law: The State Comptroller - S.H. of 5748, p. 30

Basic Law: The State President - 18LS1111
    Amendment - 23LS108

Declaration of Independence - 1LS13

Evidence Ordinance (New Version) 5731-1971 - NV2, P. 198

Knesset Elections Law (Consolidated Version)
    5729-1969 - 23LS1110

Law and Administration Ordinance 5708-1948 - 1LS17

State President, Government Members and Chief Rabbis
    of Israel (Fixing of Salaries) Law 5711-1953 - 5LS110

State President (Tenure) Law 5712-1951 - 6LS14

Transition Law 5709-1949 - 3LS13