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Text consolidated by Tulkošanas un terminoloģijas centrs (Translation and Terminology Centre) with amending laws of:

8 June 1995;
23 May 1996;
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9 December 1999;
15 June 2000;
21 December 2000;
6 June 2002;
5 June 2003;
17 February 2005.

If a whole or part of a section has been amended, the date of the amending law appears in square brackets at the end of the section.

The *Saeima*¹ has adopted and
the President has proclaimed the following Law:

On Local Governments

Chapter I General Provisions

Section 1.

This Law sets out the general provisions and economic basis for the activities of the local governments of Latvia, the competence of local governments, the rights and responsibilities of city or county councils (parish councils) and their institutions, as well as of the chairpersons of city or county councils (parish councils), the relations of local governments with the Cabinet and ministries, as well as the general provisions for relations among local governments.

Section 2.

There are two types of local government in Latvia:

- 1) territorial local governments – city, county and parish local governments, and
- 2) district local governments.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000]

¹ The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia

Section 3.

A territorial local government is a local administration which, through bodies of representatives elected by citizens – city or county council (parish council) – and authorities and institutions established by them, ensures the performance of the functions prescribed by law, as well as the performance of tasks assigned by Cabinet according to the procedures specified by law, and local government voluntary initiatives, observing the interests of the State and of the residents of the relevant administrative territory.

A district local government is the district (regional) administration which, through the agency delegated by the territorial local governments – district council – and authorities and institutions established by the council, ensures the performance of the functions prescribed by law and functions delegated by the territorial local governments, observing the interests of the State and the residents of the relevant district administrative territory.

The working language of a local government city or county council (parish council) [hereinafter - city or county council (parish council)] and the authorities and institutions established by it shall be the Latvian language.

[13 November 1997; 14 October 1998; 6 June 2002; 17 February 2005]

Section 4.

In implementing local territorial and district (regional) administration, local governments, within the scope specified in the Law on Local Governments, are subject to public law, but in the field of private law, local governments have the rights of a legal person.

[14 October 1998]

Section 5.

Local governments, within the scope of their competence and the law, shall act independently.

In implementing delegated State administrative functions and administrative tasks, a local government represents the Republic of Latvia and is subordinate to the Cabinet.

The Republic of Latvia is liable for the lawful and efficient implementation of the relevant delegated State administrative functions and administrative tasks. The type and content of the subordination of local governments shall be determined by regulatory enactments.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government Matters shall monitor the activities of local governments within the scope of this Law. State administrative institutions and officials who, in cases provided for and in accordance with procedures prescribed by law, monitor the lawfulness of the activities of local governments and determine that a local government city or county council (parish council), or its chairperson, deputy chairperson, as well as other local government authorities fail to fulfil or violate the provisions of the Constitution, laws and Cabinet regulations, or also fail to execute court judgments, have a duty to inform the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government Matters thereof.

[8 June 1995; 5 February 1997; 9 December 1999; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005; 17 February 2005]

Chapter II

Competence of Local Governments

Section 6.

In the field of public law, the competence of local governments shall be:

- 1) the autonomous functions prescribed by this Law (Section 7);
- 2) the autonomous functions prescribed by other laws (Section 8);
- 3) delegated State administrative functions, the performance of which is transferred to the relevant local government in accordance with procedures prescribed by this Law (Section 9);
- 4) other functions that are within the competence of other local governments, the performance of which has been transferred to the relevant local government in accordance with procedures prescribed by this Law (Section 10);
- 5) administrative tasks, the performance of which in accordance with procedures prescribed by this Law has been assigned to local governments by State administrative institutions (Section 11); and
- 6) autonomous functions, which are performed as voluntary initiatives (Section 12).

[14 October 1998; 17 February 2005]

Section 7.

The autonomous functions of local governments specified in Section 15 of this Law shall be performed in accordance with procedures prescribed in relevant laws and Cabinet regulations.

The performance of the autonomous functions provided for in Section 15 of this Law shall be organised by local governments that shall be liable for such. The performance of such functions shall be financed from the budget of the relevant local government if the law does not specify it otherwise.

In transferring new autonomous functions provided for in Section 15 of this Law that involve increased expenditures to local governments, the law which determines the procedures for the performance of such functions shall concurrently determine the new sources of revenue for the local governments.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 17 February 2005]

Section 8.

By means of a law, local governments may be assigned the performance of autonomous functions that are not provided for in this Law, concurrently determining in the relevant law supplementary sources of financing if the performance of the functions involves increased expenditures.

The performance of functions mentioned in this Section shall be organised by local governments that shall be liable for such.

[17 February 2005]

Section 9.

State administrative institutions may authorise local governments to perform separate functions of State administrative institutions, if such is provided for in laws or Cabinet

regulations, specifying the procedures for the performance of such functions and monitoring their performance.

In transferring to local governments the performance of the functions of State administrative institutions, resources that are provided for in the budget of the relevant State administrative institutions for the performance of such functions shall be transferred to local governments concurrently.

The performance of functions of State administrative institutions transferred to local governments shall be organised by the relevant local government, but the State administrative institution that transferred these functions to the local government shall be liable for the performance of such.

Section 10.

Local governments on the basis of mutual agreement may transfer among themselves the performance of separate functions within their competence. The city or county council (parish council) of the relevant local governments shall take a decision regarding the transfer of the performance of functions. Based on such decision, a written contract shall be entered into which shall specify the sources of financing for the performance of the functions.

The city or county council (parish council), which by law has been assigned the performance of these functions, shall be liable for the performance of the functions mentioned in Paragraph one of this Section and shall monitor their performance.

Functions that are within the exclusive competence of the relevant city or county council (parish council) and are specified in Section 21 of this Law, as well as the functions transferred to local governments in accordance with the procedures prescribed by Section 9 of this Law, may not be delegated to other local governments.

City or county councils (parish councils) may delegate to the district council, and the district council may delegate to city or county councils (parish councils), the performance of functions, specifying the procedures for financing them if a decision regarding such has been taken by all the local governments of the relevant district. A decision regarding revocation of a delegated function shall be taken not later than three months prior to the start of a financial year, and it shall come into effect at the start of the financial year.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 11.

The Cabinet may, in cases provided for by law and according to the procedures specified in the State Administration Structure Law, delegate to local governments the performance of specific administrative tasks.

In delegating administrative tasks the Cabinet shall at the same time ensure to local governments the resources necessary for the performance of such tasks.

If local governments agree, they may perform the tasks with their own resources.

[8 June 1995; 17 February 2005]

Section 12.

Local governments, in the interests of residents of the relevant administrative territory, may voluntarily carry out their initiatives with respect to any matter if it is not within the competence of the *Saeima*, the Cabinet, ministries, other State administrative institutions, the courts or other local governments, or also if such activity is not prohibited by law.

Section 13.

State administrative institutions do not have the right to assign to local governments the performance of such functions and tasks for which financing is not provided.

If in adopting laws or Cabinet decisions the provisions of Sections 8 and 11 of this Law regarding the financing of temporary functions of local governments and of one-time tasks assigned to them are not observed, local governments may initiate, in accordance with procedures prescribed in the Law On Local Governments, the revocation of the relevant law or Cabinet decision and request reimbursement of expenditures incurred by local governments in performing the relevant functions or tasks.

Section 14.

In carrying out their functions, local governments shall have the right, in accordance with procedures prescribed by law, to:

- 1) establish local government institutions, founding societies or foundations and capital companies, as well as investing their own resources in capital companies;
- 2) acquire and alienate movable and immovable property, privatise facilities owned by local governments, conclude transactions, as well as perform other activities of a private law nature;
- 3) introduce local fees and determine their magnitude, decide on tax rates and relief from paying taxes;
- 4) bring actions in court and complaints in administrative institutions; and
- 5) receive information from State institutions.

In order to perform their functions, local governments, in accordance with procedures prescribed by law, have the duty to:

- 1) prepare a development programme for the territory of the relevant local government, ensure the implementation of the territorial development plan and the administrative supervision of territorial planning;
- 2) prepare and approve the local government budget;
- 3) manage the local government movable and immovable property rationally and efficiently;
- 4) collect taxes and fees;
- 5) in conformity with expected obligations, carry out projects included in the State investment programme;
- 6) in conformity with the approved local government budget, utilise the local government financial resources rationally and efficiently;
- 7) provide information to the Cabinet and ministers on issues related to activities of the relevant local government; and
- 8) accumulate, utilise and preserve, until transfer to the State archives, documents created in the course of local government activities.

To ensure the performance of their functions, local governments in cases prescribed by law shall issue binding regulations.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 15.

The autonomous functions of local governments are as follows:

1) to organise for residents the provision of utilities (water supply and sewerage; supply of heat; management of municipal waste; collection, conducting and purification of waste water) irrespective of the ownership of the residential property;

2) to look after the public services and facilities, and the sanitary cleanliness of their administrative territory (building, reconstruction and maintenance of streets, roads and public squares; lighting of streets, public squares and other areas designated for public use; development and maintenance of parks, public squares and green zones; control of collection and removal of waste; flood control measures; establishment and maintenance of cemeteries and places for burial of dead animals);

3) to determine procedures for the utilisation of public-use forests and waters if it is not specified otherwise by law;

4) to provide for the education of residents (ensuring the specified rights of residents to acquire primary and general secondary education; ensuring children of pre-school and school age with places in training and educational institutions; organisational and financial assistance to extracurricular training and educational institutions and education support institutions, and others);

5) to maintain culture and facilitate the preservation of traditional cultural values and the development of creative folk activity (organisational and financial assistance to cultural institutions and events, support for the preservation of cultural monuments, and others);

6) to ensure access to health care, as well as to promote a healthy lifestyle of residents;

7) to ensure social assistance (social care) to residents (social assistance for poor families and socially vulnerable persons, ensuring places for old people in old-age homes, ensuring places for orphans and children without parental care in training and educational institutions, provision of overnight shelters for the homeless, and others);

8) to take care of guardianship, trusteeship, adoption and the protection of the personal and property rights and interests of a child;

9) to provide assistance to residents in resolving issues regarding housing;

10) to facilitate economic activity within the relevant administrative territory, and to be concerned about reducing unemployment;

11) to issue permits and licences for commercial activity, if such is provided for by law;

12) to participate in ensuring public order and to combat drunkenness and immorality;

13) in accordance with the territorial planning of the relevant local government, to determine land utilisation and procedures for its development;

14) to ensure in their relevant administrative territory the lawfulness of the construction process;

15) to perform civil status document registrations;

16) to collect and provide information necessary for State statistics;

17) to organise elections of lay judges and to perform the necessary measures for elections of city or county councils (parish councils);

18) to participate in ensuring civil defence measures;

19) to organise public transport services;

20) to ensure representation of local governments in the regional health insurance fund;

21) to organise continuing education for teaching staff and pedagogical methodology work;

22) to conduct, in the relevant administrative territory, the registration of children residing therein; and

23) to implement the protection of the rights of the child in the relevant administrative territory.

The functions specified in Clauses 1–18, 22 and 23 of this Section shall be performed by district city, county and parish local governments; the functions specified in Clauses 18–21 by district local governments; but the functions specified in Clauses 1–23 by republic city local governments.

In the cases and by the procedures provided for in international agreements, laws or Cabinet regulations, the State shall participate in the implementation and financing of specific autonomous functions.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 5 February 1998; 9 December 1999; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 16. [8 June 1995; 5 February 1997, 13 November 1997]

Section 17. [8 June 1995; 5 February 1997, 13 November 1997]

Section 17.¹

According to the procedures specified in the State Administration Structure Law, the Cabinet may enter into a public law contract with specific local governments for the performance of tasks included in specific State administrative functions.

[17 February 2005]

Section 17.²

The capital city Rīga in addition to the functions specified in Section 15 of this Law shall permanently perform the following State and local government shared responsibility capital city functions:

1) provision of support to central State institutions, foreign diplomatic missions and consular institutions, as well as ensuring the necessary conditions for the activities of international organisations;

2) ensuring the conditions for the reception of foreign delegations and the maintenance of national representation objects belonging to local government associated therewith;

3) participation in the maintenance and development of historical objects of State and international importance, cultural and historical objects of national importance, as well as of the cultural infrastructure; and

4) participation in the maintenance and development of communications systems and transport infrastructure of State importance.

[17 February 2005]

Chapter III

City or County Councils (Parish Councils)

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 March 2005]

Section 18.

City or county councils (parish councils) shall be composed of elected councillors.

The number of councillors to be elected in city or county councils (parish councils) shall be determined by the City Council, County Council and Parish Council Election Law.

The rights and responsibilities of councillors of city or county councils (parish councils) shall be specified by this Law and the Law On the Status of Councillors in City Councils, District Councils, County Councils and Parish Councils.

Councillors of city or county councils (parish councils) shall receive remuneration for participation at meetings of city or county councils (parish councils) and committees, and for the performance of other duties of councillors.

[30 October 1997; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 March 2005]

Section 19.

The first meeting of a newly elected city or county council (parish council) shall be convened by the chairperson of the city, county or parish electoral commission not later than within ten days from the notification of the election results. The term of office of the previous city or county council (parish council) shall terminate with the first meeting of the newly elected city or county council (parish council).

Until election of the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council), the chairperson of the electoral commission shall chair the meeting and sign the decision of the city or county council (parish council) regarding election of the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council).

The chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) shall be elected by secret ballot from among the councillors of the relevant city or county council (parish council). Any councillor of a city or county council (parish council) has the right to nominate a candidate for the position of chairperson of the city or county council (parish council).

The chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) shall be elected if the candidate has received more than half of the votes of the elected councillors of the city or county council (parish council).

If none of the candidates receives the necessary majority of votes in the first round, a repeat vote shall be held for those two candidates who receive the most votes. The candidate, who receives the necessary number of votes for election, is elected. If also in the second round neither of the candidates receives the majority of votes necessary for election, a vote shall be held for the candidate who in the second round receives more votes.

If no candidate in the third round receives the necessary number of votes for election, new elections shall be held for a chairperson of the city or county council (parish council).

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 March 2005]

Section 20.

After election of the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council), a deputy chairperson and standing committees shall be elected from among the councillors of the city or county council (parish council). A chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) may have several deputies.

The deputy chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) shall be elected by a majority vote of the city or county council (parish council) councillors present, observing the provisions of Section 19, Paragraphs five and six of this Law.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 March 2005]

Section 21.

City or county councils (parish councils) may examine any issue that is under the supervision of the relevant local government; in addition, only city or county councils (parish councils) may:

- 1) approve local government by-laws;
- 2) approve the local government budget, budget amendments and reports of implementation of the budget, as well as economic and annual public reports;
- 3) approve the local government territorial development programme and territorial planning;
- 4) decide on the liquidation of the relevant administrative territory, modification of its boundaries or change of name;
- 5) approve the local government economic and social development and the environmental protection long term programmes;
- 6) approve the local government territorial divisions and its administration structure;
- 7) specify the official symbols of the city, county or parish, co-ordinating such with the Latvian State Heraldry Commission;
- 8) establish, reorganise and liquidate local government institutions, local government capital companies, societies and foundations and approve the by-laws of local government institutions;
- 9) appoint to office and remove from office the heads of local government institutions and other officials in cases provided for by law and local government by-laws;
- 10) elect and discharge from office (remove from duties) the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council), the deputy chairperson, members of standing committees, and members of the audit commission;
- 11) appoint to office and remove from office the executive director;
- 12) determine the remuneration for performing the duties of a councillor, and the procedures for payment of such remuneration and for reimbursement of work-related expenditures;
- 13) determine the salary rates for the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council), the deputy chairperson, territorial local government administrative employees, and heads of local government institutions;
- 14) determine, if such is not prohibited or prescribed by laws or Cabinet regulations, the charges for:
 - a) use of (lease) of local government land and other immovable or movable property,
 - b) rent (lease) for local government residential and non-residential property,
 - c) use of local government water supply and sewerage,
 - d) heating provided by the local government,
 - e) collection of municipal waste,
 - f) issuance of licences (permits), and
 - g) other services provided by local government institutions;
- 15) adopt binding regulations with respect to implementation of local government fees and, in cases prescribed by law, determine tax rates;
- 16) approve binding regulations and determine administrative liability for the violation of such;
- 17) take decisions with respect to the alienation, pledging or privatisation of local government immovable property, as well as local government ownership acquisition of immovable property;

18) take decisions with respect to the exercise of rights of first refusal with respect to immovable property for sale in the relevant administrative territory;

19) determine procedures for transactions with local government movable property, as well as procedures for accepting and managing gifts and bequests, and the taking on of loans, borrowings and other economic obligations in the name of the local government;

20) grant names to streets, parks and public squares as well as rename them;

21) suspend and revoke decisions of heads of local government institutions;

22) revoke orders of the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council);

23) take decisions with respect to procedures for the performance of functions mentioned in Section 15 of this Law, for determining the officials responsible for such, as well as for submission of reports on the performance of such functions;

24) elect local government representatives and members to local government or State committees, commissions, boards of directors and working groups;

25) take decisions with respect to organising elections and referendums, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission;

26) elect and release (remove) lay judges, and chief judges and members of parish courts and Orphan's courts; and

27) take decisions in other cases provided for in law.

The activities and decisions of city or county councils (parish councils) shall be maximally efficient.

The Rīga City Council may delegate to a local government institution established by the Rīga City Council the examination of issues referred to in Paragraph one, Clauses 9, 18, 21, 24 and 27 of this Section.

The establishment, administration, reorganisation and liquidation of a local government capital company shall be regulated by the Law On State and Local Government Capital Shares and Capital Companies and the Commercial Law. The establishment, administration, reorganisation and liquidation of a local government association and foundation shall be regulated by the Associations and Foundations Law.

[8 June 1995; 5 February 1997; 13 November 1997; 5 February 1998; 14 October 1998; 9 December 1999; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Chapter IV

Organisation of the Work of City or County Councils (Parish Councils)

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000]

Section 22.

The work of city or county councils (parish councils) shall be conducted at meetings and in standing committees.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000]

Section 23.

The organisation of the work of city or county councils (parish councils) shall be determined by by-laws of the relevant local government, prepared in accordance with this Law.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000]

Section 24.

The by-law of a local government is a binding regulation, which determines the administrative organisation of the local government, the procedures for the taking of decisions, the rights and duties of residents in the territorial administration, as well as other organisational issues of the activities of the local government.

By-laws of local governments shall determine:

- 1) the territorial division of the local government;
- 2) the administrative structure of the local government;
- 3) the city or county council (parish council) committees, their numerical composition, competence and organisation of activities;
- 4) the organisational and technical servicing of the city or county council (parish council) and the committees thereof;
- 5) the procedures for the preparation of draft local government decisions and the entering into of contract procedure;
- 6) the procedures by which private persons may become acquainted with the decisions taken by local governments, contracts entered into and the minutes of city or county council (parish council) meetings;
- 7) the procedures for the dispute of administrative acts issued by the local government administration;
- 8) the procedures by local government authorities receive visitors and examine submissions;
- 9) the procedures by which an official of the local government acts with the property and financial resources of the local government;
- 10) the procedures by which, in the case of a change of the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) records and documents shall be organised for transfer to the new chairperson of the city or county council (parish council);
- 11) the procedures for organising public discussion; and
- 12) other issues, which relate to the activities of the city or county council (parish council) or administration and in accordance with this Law shall be determined in the local government by-law.

The by-law of a local government shall come into force on the day after it is signed if there is not specified another time of coming into force therein. After the adoption of the local government by-law it shall be freely accessible in the local government city or county council (parish council) building and service centres. The local government by-law, within a period of three days after its signing, shall be sent in writing and electronically to the Ministry of Regional development and Local Government Matters for information.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 25.

The work of a city or county council (parish council) shall be managed by its chairperson. The deputy chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall act for the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) during his or her absence, as well as perform duties assigned by the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) or which are specified in relevant local government by-laws.

If the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) has been discharged from office or has resigned from performing the duties of office, the deputy chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall perform the duties of the chairperson of the city or

county council (parish council) until the election of a new chairperson of the city or county council (parish council).

The implementation of city or county council (parish council) decisions shall be ensured by officials elected or appointed by the city or county council (parish council), and by local government institutions and the employees thereof, as well as capital companies. Organisational and technical services for the city or county council (parish council) shall be provided by territorial local government administrative employees.

In case of a change of a city or county council (parish council), the employment relations of territorial local government administrative employees shall not be discontinued.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 26.

Decisions of city or county councils (parish councils) shall be taken at meetings.

Meetings of city or county councils (parish councils) shall be public if not otherwise specified in law.

Decisions of city or county councils (parish councils), as well as the minutes of city or county council (parish council) meetings shall publicly accessible.

[13 November 1997; 5 February 1998; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 27.

The chairperson shall convene regular meetings of the city or county council (parish council) not less than once a month, specifying the time and location of meetings and announcing the agenda.

Councillors of a city or county council (parish council) shall be notified of the time, location and agenda of regular meetings, in accordance with procedures specified in the local government by-laws.

Notification regarding the time, location and agenda of regular meetings of a city or county council (parish council) shall be posted in a visible location in or at the city or county council (parish council) building not later and, if possible, published than three days prior to a regular meeting in the local newspaper.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000]

Section 28.

Extraordinary meetings of city or county councils (parish councils) shall be convened by the chairperson on his or her own initiative. The chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) has the duty to convene an extraordinary meeting if such is requested by:

- 1) at least one third of the councillors;
- 2) [21 December 2000]
- 3) Minister for Regional Development and Local Government; or
- 4) the Cabinet.

The submission regarding the convening of an extraordinary meeting shall indicate the agenda of the meeting, and it shall have appended the draft decision of the city or county council (parish council).

In convening an extraordinary meeting of the city or county council (parish council) the chairperson shall determine the time and location of the meeting and shall announce the agenda.

Extraordinary meetings of city or county councils (parish councils) shall be convened not later than within three days from the day of receipt of a request, except in cases provided for in Sections 49 and 65 of this Law.

If the convening of an extraordinary meeting has been requested by the Cabinet or the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, the meeting agenda indicated in the submission for the extraordinary meeting shall not be amended. If the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) has not convened an extraordinary meeting after the request of the Cabinet or the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, the Cabinet or the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government may again request the convening of an extraordinary meeting, determining the agenda, location of proceedings and time of such meeting.

[8 June 1995; 30 October 1997; 13 November 1997; 9 December 1999; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 28.¹

If a city or county council (parish council) chairperson or the deputy chairperson are hindered in fulfilling their duties and it is necessary to ensure the continuity of the work of the local government, at least one third of the councillors of the city or county (parish council) may propose the convening of an extraordinary meeting. Such extraordinary meeting shall be convened by the councillor who first signed the submission regarding the convening of an extraordinary meeting, and he or she shall also chair the meeting. The provisions of Section 28, Paragraphs two, three and four of this Law shall also apply to the submission regarding the convening of an extraordinary meeting and the procedures for the convening of the extraordinary meeting. The chairperson of the meeting has a duty to inform the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters regarding the place and time of the meeting.

The extraordinary meeting shall be held according to the procedures specified in this Law. The decisions taken at this meeting shall be signed by the chairperson of the meeting.

[21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 29.

Meetings of city or county councils (parish councils) shall be chaired by the chairperson or the deputy chairperson of the city or county council (parish council).

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 30.

Draft decisions of a city or county council (parish council), opinions regarding them and information materials shall be available to all councillors of the city or county council (parish council) not later than three days prior to regular meetings and not later than three hours prior to extraordinary meetings.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 31.

City or county councils (parish councils) may discuss only such matters as are included in the announced agenda of the meeting. Exceptions may be made only if not less than two thirds of the city or county council (parish council) councillors present consent to them.
[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 32.

The issues to be discussed shall be examined by the city or county council (parish council) in the sequence indicated in the announced agenda. Such sequence may be altered by a decision of the city or county council (parish council).

The agenda of an extraordinary meeting may not be amended by the city or county council (parish council).
[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 33.

City or county council (parish council) meetings shall examine draft decisions submitted by:

- 1) the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council);
- 2) committees of a city or county council (parish council);
- 3) councillors of a city or county council (parish council); or
- 4) the initiator of an extraordinary meeting.

Draft decisions shall be submitted to the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council).

The submission of draft decisions shall be regulated by local government by-laws, which shall provide for the procedures in accordance with which draft decisions shall be examined by standing committees of a city or county council (parish council) and harmonised with local government institutions or their employees.

The chairperson of a city or county council (parish council), upon receiving a draft decision, shall determine in which committee it shall be examined.
[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 34.

Meetings of city or county councils (parish councils) may take place if more than half the councillors of the city or county council (parish council) participate.

A decision shall be considered taken if more than half of the city or county council (parish council) councillors present vote for it, and if the law does not provide otherwise.

If the necessary number of votes in favour of a draft decision is not received, the draft decision shall be considered rejected. In such case the draft decision may be submitted to the city or county council (parish council) for re-examination, observing the provisions of Section 33 of this Law.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 35.

If the number of councillors of a city or county council (parish council) mentioned in Section 34 of this Law are absent from a regular meeting of the city or county council (parish council), the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall, not earlier than after seven days and not later than after fourteen days, convene a repeat meeting to examine the issues planned for this meeting and, if necessary, add to the agenda of the meeting.

If the number of councillors of a city or county council (parish council) mentioned in Section 34 of this Law are absent from the city or county council (parish council) repeat meeting, the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall inform the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters thereof within three days after the day on which the repeat meeting was to be held, as well as announce the date of the next meeting of the city or county council (parish council).

[8 June 1995; 30 October 1997; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 36.

If more than half of all the councillors of a city or county council (parish council) are absent from a city or county council (parish council) extraordinary meeting, the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall, for examination of the issues that were to be addressed at such meeting, convene a repeat extraordinary meeting not later than the next day without changing the agenda for the meeting.

If the number of city or county council (parish council) councillors mentioned in Section 34 of this Law are absent from the city or county council (parish council) repeat extraordinary meeting, the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall inform the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters thereof within the time period specified in Section 35, Paragraph two of this Law.

[8 June 1995; 30 October 1997; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 37.

Minutes shall be taken of the proceedings of city or county council (parish council) meetings.

The minutes shall include:

- 1) where, the year, month, day and hour the meeting was convened, noting specifically if it was an extraordinary meeting;
- 2) when the meeting was opened and closed;
- 3) the agenda of the meeting;
- 4) the given name and surname of the chairperson of the meeting and of the local government administrative employee – minute taker of the meeting;
- 5) the given names and surnames of the councillors present and absent;
- 6) the reasons for the non-attendance of the councillors absent;
- 7) the given names and surnames of persons who were allowed to address the meeting;
- 8) the proposals and requests submitted, as well as the orders of the chairperson of the meeting;
- 9) the decisions taken, indicating in what way and with how many votes a decision was taken;

10) which councillors voted for, which against the relevant decision and which abstained from voting;

11) the given names and surnames of those councillors who, in compliance with restrictions regarding the taking of decisions as provided for in the Law On Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Activities of Public Officials, did not participate in the taking of relevant decisions; and

12) the given names and surnames of those councillors who proposed a secret ballot.

Any councillor of a city or county council (parish council) may request that his or her expressed viewpoint be recorded in the minutes. If any of the city or county council (parish council) councillors does not agree to the record in the minutes, he or she has the right in the next regular city or county council (parish council) meeting to request that the record be adjusted.

Minutes shall be signed by the chairperson of the meeting and the local government administrative employee – minute taker of the meeting. Minutes shall be signed not later than the fifth day after the meeting indicating the date of signing.

Decisions taken by the city or county council (parish council) shall be signed by the chairperson of the meeting.

If the city or county council (parish council) meeting has adopted an administrative act, the decision and the voting thereof shall be indicated in the minutes and the administrative act shall be appended to the minutes, which shall be prepared in conformity with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Law.

[23 May 1996; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 38.

Restrictions and duties of chairpersons of city or county councils (parish councils), deputy chairpersons, councillors and executive directors with respect to commercial activities acquiring income, combination of offices, performance of duties, as well as other restrictions and duties associated with such, are prescribed by the Law On Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Activities of Public Officials.

The office of chairperson of a district city council, county council or parish council may be combined with the office of district council chairperson or deputy chairperson, or the duties of chairperson of a standing committee of the district council.

[8 June 1995; 23 May 1996; 13 November 1997; 5 February 1998; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 39. [23 May 1996]

Section 40.

Voting at city or county council (parish council) meetings shall be open and *viva voce*.

A secret ballot shall be used in electing the city or county council (parish council) chairperson, his or her deputies and in removing them from office, as well as in revoking the mandate of a councillor. In other cases a secret ballot shall be used if for such has voted the councillors of a city or county council (parish council) with a simple majority.

A secret ballot may not be proposed for the taking decisions on issues, which are provided for in Section 21, Clauses 2–8 and 12–23 of this Law.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 41.

A city or county council (parish council) shall adopt:

- 1) external regulatory enactments (binding regulations);
- 2) internal regulatory enactments (regulations, by-laws, instructions);
- 3) individual acts (administrative acts and other administrative decisions); and
- 4) other decisions.

Decisions of city or county councils (parish councils) shall comply with the Constitution, this Law and other laws, as well as with Cabinet regulations.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 42.

City or county council (parish council) decisions, the implementation of which involves expenditures, shall be ensured with local government material and financial resources.

Losses resulting from an unlawful decision of a city or county council (parish council) shall be compensated from the local government budget.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 43.

City or county councils (parish councils) are entitled to issue binding regulations that provide administrative liability for violating them, if such is not provided for in law, with respect to the following issues:

- 1) regarding building in city, county or parish territory;
- 2) regarding the protection and maintenance of public use forests and waters, as well as of natural and cultural objects of the parish, county, or city that requires special protection;
- 3) regarding trading in public places, as well as restrictions on the time and place of retailing alcoholic beverages;
- 4) regarding public order;
- 5) regarding the maintenance of buildings and their territory and structures;
- 6) regarding maintaining sanitary cleanliness and the maintenance of territories for public use adjoining properties (footpaths, except for public transport stops, ditches, culverts or grassed territory to the edge of the road);
- 7) regarding the placing of advertising materials, sign boards, advertisements and other informational material in public places;
- 8) regarding the use of public transport;
- 9) regarding improvements of the territories of cities, counties or parishes, maintenance and protection of plantings;
- 10) regarding the keeping of domestic animals;
- 11) regarding the protection of city, county or parish engineering and communication systems;
- 12) regarding the conversion of residential buildings (flats) into non-residential buildings (non-residential premises), in conformity with the local government territorial development plan; and
- 13) regarding other matters provided for by law and Cabinet regulations.

County councils and parish councils are entitled to issue binding regulations also regarding the suppression of weeds, and the use and storage of chemicals and artificial fertilisers, and to provide for administrative liability for violation of such.

City or county councils (parish councils) may adopt binding regulations also in order to ensure the implementation of local government autonomous functions and voluntary initiatives.

In performing delegated State administrative functions and administrative tasks, a city or county council (parish council) may adopt binding regulations only if it is provided for in the law or Cabinet regulations.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 5 February 1998; 9 December 1999; 15 June 2000; 21 December 2000; 5 June 2003; 17 February 2005]

Section 44.

Republic city councils are entitled to issue binding regulations and provide for administrative liability for violating them, if such is not provided for in law, with respect to the following issues:

- 1) measures to be carried out in order to avert the spread of an epidemic or epizootic;
- 2) public order in case of natural disasters or other emergencies, and measures to rectify the consequences of such;
- 3) the protection of natural objects requiring special protection, and the protection of cultural monuments; and
- 4) other matters provided for in law and Cabinet regulations.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 5 February 1998]

Section 45.

Binding regulations in force are binding for any natural persons and legal persons in the relevant administrative territory.

Binding regulations issued by republic city councils shall be published in the newspaper *Latvijas Vēstnesis* [the official Gazette of the Government of Latvia] not earlier than four weeks and not later than six weeks after their adoption.

Binding regulations issued by district councils, city councils, county councils and parish councils shall be published in the local newspaper or free publication not earlier than four weeks and not later than six weeks after their adoption, as well as shall be displayed in a visible place in the city or county council (parish council) building and service centres. District councils, city councils, county councils and parish councils shall publish, not earlier than four weeks and not later than six weeks after the adoption of binding regulations, information regarding the adoption of such regulations in the newspaper *Latvijas Vēstnesis*, indicating the name, the date of adoption and number thereof, and information regarding the possibility of becoming acquainted with the full text of the binding regulation, and additionally may indicate other information in order to ensure the public accessibility of the binding regulation.

Binding regulations shall come into effect on the next day after their publication if in such regulations is not specified another coming into effect time.

Binding regulations shall be sent to the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government Matters within a three-day period after the signing of such in writing and electronically, which shall ensure the registration of such regulations and the publication thereof in the Internet.

[8 June 1995; 30 October 1997; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 45.¹

The provisions of Section 45, Paragraphs two, three, four and five of this Law are not applicable to local government binding regulations in relation to spatial planning issues, which shall come into effect in accordance with the provisions of the Spatial Planning Law.
[17 February 2005]

Section 46.

A local government shall independently develop and implement the local government budget. Binding regulations regarding the approval of local government budgets and amendments to the budget shall come into force the next day after signing of such if another time of coming into force is not specified therein, and they shall be freely accessible in the city or county council (parish council) building and service centres.

Binding regulations regarding the approval of local government budgets and amendments to the budget shall be sent for information in writing and electronically to the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government Matters within a three-day period.

The provisions of Section 45, Paragraphs two, three, four and five of this Law shall not apply to binding regulations regarding the approval of local government budgets and amendments to the budget.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 47.

Local government administrative acts may be adopted by the city or county council (parish council) if the law does not provide for other procedures.

Administrative acts issued by city or county councils (parish councils) may be appealed in the administrative court.

Administrative acts issued by the local government administration may be disputed within the framework of the local government.

In the cases specified by law, administrative acts shall be disputed in that direct administrative institution to which the local government is subordinate in implementing the delegated State administrative function or administrative task.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 48.

Decisions of city or county councils (parish councils) shall be signed by the chairperson within five days from the day of their adoption.

If the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) refuses to sign decisions within this time period, the chairperson has the duty to convene an extraordinary city or county council (parish council) meeting at which the relevant decision shall be reviewed.

Only the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) is entitled to refuse to sign decisions of the city or county council (parish council) and to convene an extraordinary meeting of the city or county council (parish council) regarding review of the issue. The chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) may not exercise such rights with respect to a decision of the city or county council (parish council) by means of which an order of the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) is revoked, or also by means of which the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) is removed from office in accordance with procedures prescribed in Section 65 of this Law.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 49.

The operation of an unlawful binding regulation or other regulatory enactment or specific paragraphs of such issued by a city or county council (parish council), except the operation of decisions taken in accordance with the procedures of Section 47 of this Law, may be suspended by a substantiated order of the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters. The order shall indicate the paragraphs of the specific binding regulations or other normative enactment that are to be revoked as unlawful, or shall indicate that the binding regulations or other regulatory enactment are to be revoked in their entirety. The order shall be published in the newspaper *Latvijas Vēstnesis* within a period of three days from its issue and shall be sent to the chairperson of the relevant city or county council (parish council), who shall be responsible for its implementation.

The chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall convene, within two weeks after receipt of an order from the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters, an extraordinary meeting of the city or county council (parish council) in which shall be examined the issue regarding revocation of the relevant binding regulations or other regulatory enactment or specific paragraphs of such. The Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters shall be timely notified of the time and place of the extraordinary meeting of the city or county council (parish council).

If the city or county council (parish council) fails to take a decision to revoke the relevant binding regulations or other regulatory enactment or specific paragraphs thereof, it shall submit an application to the Constitutional Court regarding the revocation of the order of the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters. In such case the order of the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters, regarding the suspension of the operation of the city or county council (parish council) binding regulations or other regulatory enactment or specific sections thereof, shall remain in force until the proclamation of the judgment of the Constitutional Court.

If the city or county council (parish council) or its chairperson fail to implement the provisions of Paragraph two or three of this Section, the unlawful binding regulations or other regulatory enactment or specific paragraph thereof shall be considered to no longer be in force. The Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters shall issue a notice regarding such in the newspaper *Latvijas Vēstnesis*.

[8 June 1995; 30 October 1997; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Chapter V Standing Committees

Section 50.

City or county councils (parish councils) shall elect, from among the councillors of the city or county council (parish council), standing committees that shall:

- 1) prepare issues for examination at meetings of the city or county council (parish council);
- 2) provide opinions on questions within the competence of the committee;
- 3) monitor the work of the local government institutions, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the local government by-laws;

- 4) examine draft budgets of local government institutions, and submit them to the finance committee;
- 5) approve and monitor expenditure estimates of local government institutions; and
- 6) perform other duties in conformity with the local government by-laws.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 51.

The local government shall form a finance committee and a social, education and culture issues committee.

Section 52.

If not less than one quarter of the residents registered in the relevant local government administrative territory are aliens or stateless persons, the city or county council (parish council) may establish an aliens and stateless persons affairs committee.

Other standing committees shall be established by city or county councils (parish councils) in accordance with the local government by-laws.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 53.

On the recommendation of the aliens and stateless persons affairs committee, the city or county council (parish council) shall determine the issues for the examination of which aliens and stateless persons are invited to committee meetings.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 54.

The number of representatives in a committee from each political organisation or voter association shall be determined, to the extent possible, in proportion to the number of councillors elected from each political organisation or voter association.

The number of committee members shall not be less than three. The number of members of a committee shall not exceed one half the total number of city council (parish council) councillors, except for the finance committee.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 17 February 2005]

Section 55.

Each councillor shall be a member of at least one city or county council (parish council) committee.

A committee member may terminate his or her activities in a committee only if the city or county council (parish council), after receiving a written submission from the committee member, has taken a decision regarding the release of such member from the performance of duties.

If during his or her term of office a councillor is relieved from working in a committee, councillors of the relevant political organisation or voter association may nominate a new committee member.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 56.

Meetings of committees shall be open meetings.

A committee meeting may take place if more than half the members of the committee participate. Decisions shall be taken by a majority vote of the committee members present. In the event of a tied vote, the vote of the committee chairperson shall be decisive.

All councillors of the relevant city or county council (parish council), in accordance with the provisions of local government by-laws, shall be notified regarding the time, place and agenda of committee meetings.

Minutes shall be taken of committee meetings. The minutes shall be signed by the committee chairperson and all committee members present.

Organisational and technical services for committees shall be provided by local government administrative employees.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 5 June 2003; 17 February 2005]

Section 57.

Extraordinary committee meetings shall be convened at the request of the chairperson of the committee or of the city or county council (parish council) or of one third of the committee members.

Extraordinary meetings shall be convened within 24 hours after receipt of a request.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 58.

The chairperson of a committee, except the chairperson of the finance committee, shall be elected from among the committee members, as well as relieved from the performance of duties, by the relevant committee. The chairperson of a committee may not be the head of an institution or capital company of the local government or a division thereof, the work of which, in accordance with the local government by-laws, is monitored by the relevant committee.

The chairperson of a committee shall prepare, convene and chair committee meetings and shall ensure that decisions of the committee are recorded in the minutes, as well as monitor the implementation of the decisions of the committee.

Members of a committee have the right to submit to the committee chairperson issues to be examined at committee meetings, and the duty of the chairperson is to inform committee members regarding such.

[17 February 2005]

Section 59.

A committee member must refrain from participation in the preparation of a draft decision and in taking the decision if the decision affects the interests of the member personally, his or her family, relatives of the first, second or third degree of kinship, or the interests of persons for whom the relevant councillor is a lawful representative.

Section 60.

A finance committee shall be chaired by the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council).

Finance committees shall:

- 1) provide opinions regarding draft budgets;
- 2) provide opinions regarding amendments to the budget, as well as regarding priorities in the division of resources if the revenue part of the budget is not realised;
- 3) provide opinions regarding projects that involve the expenditure of budget resources, and also regarding draft decisions of the city or county council (parish council), if the execution of such decisions involves unforeseen budget expenditures or amendments to the revenue part of the budget;
- 4) provide recommendations regarding the management of local government property;
- 5) provide recommendations and opinions regarding alienation of local government immovable property; and
- 6) [13 November 1997]
- 7) perform other duties specified in Section 50 of this Law and in local government by-laws.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 61.

For the performance of specific functions or for the administration of the administrative territory of a local government, a city or county council (parish council) may form boards of directors, commissions or working groups from among the councillors of the city or county council (parish council) and residents of the relevant local government.

The need to form such boards of directors, commissions and working groups shall be determined by specific laws or city or county council (parish council) decisions, and specialists may be invited to work in such, with remuneration for work paid from local government revenue.

Boards of directors, commissions and working groups shall act in accordance with by-laws approved by the city or county council (parish council).

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 61.¹

For the purposes of consultation, on the basis of an initiative of an inhabitant of the local government, the city or county council (parish council) or the chairperson thereof, and based upon a city or county council (parish council) decision, there may be organised public discussions regarding local government autonomous competence issues.

Public discussions must be organised for:

- 1) amendments to the administrative territorial boundaries of the local government; and
- 2) the local government development programme and spatial planning.

Public discussions shall not be organised for the local government budget, local government paid services, rates of taxes and fees, as well as for the appointment local government officials to positions and the removal therefrom.

[17 February 2005]

Section 61.²

The length of public discussions shall not be less than three weeks.

Local government residents and representatives of the mass media during the course of the public discussion shall be guaranteed access to not only the document under discussion, but also all the local government decisions associated with such document.

Everyone has the right to express his or her views orally and in writing in respect of the issue under public discussion.

The local government has a duty to compile the views expressed and to publish in the local newspaper an informative notice (summary) regarding the results of the discussion.

The local government has a duty to publish in the local newspaper the decision taken by the city or county council (parish council) in which the results of the public discussion have been utilised.

[17 February 2005]

Chapter VI Chairpersons of City or County Councils (Parish Councils)

[21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 62.

The mandate of the chairperson and deputy chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) shall be in effect from the moment of election.

The chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) shall:

1) manage the work of the city or county council (parish council), co-ordinate the examination of issues in committees;

2) represent the local government in relations with the State and other local governments;

3) represent the city or county council (parish council) in court without special authorisation;

4) in the name of the city or county council (parish council) issue powers of attorney, sign contracts and other legal documents;

5) manage the work of the finance committee;

6) issue binding instructions to local government administrative employees;

7) recommend the examination of issues in the city or county council (parish council) and committees;

8) prepare submissions from officials of State institutions for examination at meetings of the city or county council (parish council);

9) be responsible for the execution of court judgments in which one of the parties is the city or county council (parish council);

10) may recommend the dismissal from the position held by the local heads of State administrative institutions or officials from such institution within the relevant administrative territory; and

11) perform other duties provided for in laws, Cabinet decisions, by-laws of the relevant local government, and decisions of the city or county council (parish council).

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 63.

The office of chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) shall be remunerated.

A city or county council (parish council) may take decisions regarding the determination of other remunerated positions of the city or county council (parish council).

The basic salary and amount of supplement for the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) shall be determined by the council.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 64. [8 June 1995; 5 February 1998; 16 June 1998]

Section 65.

If the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) fails to fulfil the duties specified in law or in by-laws of the relevant local government, to execute decisions of the city or county council (parish council) and court decisions, fails to observe the law or Cabinet regulations, the city or county council (parish council) may by secret ballot remove the chairperson from office, if such is requested by:

- 1) at least one third of the councillors of the city or county council (parish council);
- or
- 2) the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters.
 - 3) [21 December 2000]

The Chairperson shall be considered removed from office if more than half of the total number of elected councillors of the city or county council (parish council) voted for removal.

In cases when a recommendation has been received regarding the removal from office of the city or county council (parish council) chairperson, the chairperson shall convene an extraordinary meeting of the city or county council (parish council) not later than within two weeks from the day the recommendation was received, unless a regular city or county council (parish council) meeting is to take place within this time period. If the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) has not convened a meeting within the specified time, the deputy chairperson shall do so.

Examination of the issue at the meeting shall be chaired by the deputy chairperson of the city or county council (parish council).

[8 June 1995; 30 October 1997; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 66.

The chairperson or deputy chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) may resign from office by notifying the city or county council (parish council) in writing. In such case the chairperson or deputy chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall continue to fulfil his or her duties until the next meeting of the city or county council (parish council) meeting at which time his or her term of office shall terminate regardless of whether a new city or county council (parish council) chairperson or deputy chairperson is elected at the meeting.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 67.

In local governments where the number of residents is less than five thousand, the duties of an executive director may be performed by the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council).

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Chapter VII Local Government Administration

[17 February 2005]

Section 68.

On the recommendation of the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council), the city or county council (parish council) shall appoint an executive director who, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the local government by-laws, shall be responsible for the work of the local government institutions and capital companies. The executive director may not be a councillor of the city or county council (parish council), except in the case provided for in Section 67 of this Law.

The executive director shall ensure continuity in the work of local government institutions and undertakings in the case of a change of city or county council (parish council).

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 69.

The local government executive director shall:

- 1) organise the implementation of binding regulations and other regulatory enactments issued by the city or county council (parish council);
- 2) issue orders to the heads of local government institutions;
- 3) prepare recommendations to the city or county council (parish council) regarding the revocation of unlawful or ineffective decisions of the relevant local government institutions;
- 4) recommend to the city or county council (parish council) the appointment to office or removal from office of the heads of local government institutions and undertakings, and in accordance with the procedures specified in the by-laws of the city or county council (parish council) hire and dismiss territorial local government administrative employees;
- 5) submit proposals to the city or county council (parish council) regarding the formation, reorganisation and liquidation of local government institutions and undertakings;
- 6) in accordance with the procedures and within the scope prescribed by the city or county council (parish council), act with local government property and financial resources, and conclude economic transactions with legal persons and natural persons;
- 7) organise the formulation of the draft territorial development plan, the territorial planning draft and the draft budget, as well as the preparation of the economic and annual public reports; and
- 8) perform other duties provided for in the by-laws of the relevant local government and the decisions of the city or county council (parish council).

The requirements of Section 38 of this Law shall apply to the executive director.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 69.¹

In order to ensure the accessibility of the services provided by a local government, in county parishes and county cities in which the local government administrative centre is not located, the local government council shall establish a service centre.

The service centre shall:

- 1) ensure the issue of notices within the competence of the local government and provide information regarding issues within the competence of the local government;
- 2) accept payments for the taxes and fees specified by the State, the collection which has been given to the local government, as well as the payments for fees specified by the county council and payments for the services provided by the local government;
- 3) ensure the payments of local government social assistance according to the procedures specified in the Social Services and Social Assistance Law;
- 4) accept submissions, complaints and proposals from the residents living in the relevant territory and legal person registered therein, organise the preparation of replies to submitters;
- 5) register civil status documents, renew and amend the civil status document register and issue again marriage, birth or death certificates according to the procedures specified in the Law On Civil Status Documents; and
- 6) ensure access to information regarding the decision taken by the council.

The Local government council may establish in one parish of the county or county city several service centres. With the permission of the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters, in the relevant local government county city or county parish or in two county parishes a common service centre may be established.

[17 February 2005]

Chapter VIII

Control of Territorial Local Government Financial and Economic Activity

[21 December 2000]

Section 70.

City or county councils (parish councils) shall ensure the performance of financial audits in order to:

- 1) control the use of local government financial means in conformity with approved budgets and estimates;
- 2) examine the lawfulness and appropriateness of the activities of the heads and officials of local government institutions and capital companies; and
- 3) control whether local government financial means, movable and immovable property is managed in conformity with the decisions of the city or county council (parish council) and the interests of residents.

[13 November 1997; 14 October 1998; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 71.

For the performance of financial audits, preparation of audit reports and submission of an opinion regarding the financial year report, city or county councils (parish councils) shall, not less than once a year, invite auditor companies or sworn auditors, the remuneration of which shall be from funds provided for in the budget of the relevant local government.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government Matters is entitled to involve specialists for the performance of an extraordinary financial audit of a local government.

[5 February 1997; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 72.

City or county councils (parish councils) shall ensure the preparation of an annual public report and a notice regarding its publication.

The local government annual public report shall include information regarding:

- 1) the implementation of the two previous years budgets and the accepted budget of the current year, including regarding the amount of obligations and guarantees;
- 2) the valuation of local government immovable property for the last two years;
- 3) the value of local government capital and expected changes in it;
- 4) the measures performed in the previous two years, as well as those planned for the current year in implementing the territorial development plan, including regarding:
 - a) public investments in the infrastructure of the administrative territory of the local government,
 - b) private investment in the administrative territory of the local government, and
 - c) the participation of residents and legal persons in discussion and improvement of the local government territorial development programme and territorial planning;
- 5) the opinions of the sworn auditor regarding the economic activities of the local government, as well as the local government annual economic report for the previous year;
- 6) the decision of the city or county council (parish council) regarding the annual economic report of the previous year;
- 7) the audit opinions of the State Audit Office and the measures taken by the city or county council (parish council) to rectify discovered deficiencies;
- 8) the participation of the local government in co-operation projects;
- 9) the measures taken to improve the management of local government; and
- 10) the measures taken in order to promote the awareness of residents regarding the activities of the local government and the possibilities for their participation in the discussion of decisions.

Local governments may also add other information to the annual public report.

[21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 73.

A city or county council (parish council) may establish an audit commission, which shall operate in accordance with by-laws approved by the city or county council (parish council).

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 74.

The State Audit Office within the scope of its competence shall supervise the actions of local governments with financial means and property.

[21 December 2000]

Section 75. [21 December 2000]

[13 November 1997; 5 February 1998; 21 December 2000]

Chapter IX Economic Basis

Section 76.

The economic basis of local governments is property, including financial resources, which is composed of:

- 1) tax payments of legal and natural persons into the local government budget;
- 2) State budget grants and earmarked grants;
- 3) credits;
- 4) local fees and other payments into the local government budget;
- 5) fines that are transferred into the local government budget;
- 6) revenue from the management of local government property and from the economic activity of local government undertakings;
- 7) voluntary payments of legal persons and natural persons for the achievement of specific goals; and [21 December 2000]
- 8) other revenue.

[21 December 2000]

Section 77.

Local government property shall be segregated from State property and the property of other holders of rights. A local government uses its property and shall act with it in accordance with procedures prescribed by law.

Local government property shall be utilised to satisfy the needs of residents of the relevant administrative territory either by giving it for public use (roads, streets, public squares, parks), or by establishing institutions and local government capital companies that ensure the rights of residents and provide them with necessary services (administrative institutions, social and health care, educational, cultural, sport and other institutions).

[17 February 2005]

The local government may utilise that part of the property, that is not necessary for the aforementioned purposes, to obtain revenue by economic means for satisfying the needs of residents, or also, in accordance with procedures prescribed by law, to privatise or alienate such.

Property disputes between the State, other legal persons, natural persons and local governments shall be decided in court.

If a local government official in the performance of the duties of his or her position with intent or by gross negligence has caused losses to the local government, he or she has duty to compensate such losses.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government Matters may also bring a claim for compensation to a court. In such case, the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government Matters is released from the payment of State fees, but the acquired funds shall be included in the budget of the relevant local government.

[17 February 2005]

Section 78.

Territorial local governments have the right of first refusal, if immovable property in the local government administrative territory is being alienated and such is necessary to perform the local government functions prescribed by law.

The right of first refusal shall not apply to:

- 1) immovable property acquired by the State;
- 2) immovable property acquired by foreign states for the needs of their diplomatic or consular institutions;
- 3) property to be privatised by the State and local governments;
- 4) production facilities with all their equipment;
- 5) immovable property that is transferred from one person to another without remuneration or by way of exchange;
- 6) immovable property from which a part has been alienated and which property remains under joint ownership of the seller and purchaser;
- 7) immovable property that is being sold by voluntary or mandatory auction;
- 8) immovable property in relation to which third persons have the right of first refusal or pre-emption based on law, contract, or will; and
- 9) residential property, including a flat, the ownership of which has been acquired up to the privatisation of the residential building.

A local government that has acquired the immovable property on the basis of first refusal may, within a period of five years, sell it only by open auction.

The procedures for exercising the right of first refusal shall be determined by the Cabinet.

[5 February 1997; 21 December 2000]

Section 79.

Local governments have the right to make a proposal to Cabinet regarding the compulsory alienation of immovable property in favour of the relevant local government, in accordance with procedures prescribed by law, if such property is necessary for public use, that is, roads, streets, public squares, footpaths, trestles, as well as for the construction of harbour berths. The procedures for the alienation of property shall be determined by a separate law.

Section 80.

The preparation of local government budgets and management of finances, as well as the rights of local governments to make their own revenue, shall be determined by separate laws.

Chapter X District Council

Section 81.

All parish council chairpersons, county council chairpersons and district city council chairpersons of the relevant district shall comprise the district council.

The chairperson of a republic city council may be included in the district council, if the republic city council and the relevant district council have taken a decision with respect to such. The republic city council chairperson shall have the same rights in the district council as

chairpersons of district city, county and parish councils in the district when the district council takes decisions regarding the performance of functions. The chairperson of the republic city council may be included in the district council or excluded from it if the republic city council and the relevant district council have taken a decision regarding such not later than three months prior to the start of the budget year. The Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters shall be notified of the above-mentioned decision within a period of three days.

The relevant territorial local government shall be represented on the district council by the city or county council (parish council) chairperson or – during his or her absence – by the city or county council (parish council) deputy chairperson.

[30 October 1997; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 82.

The district council shall organise the performance of continuing functions of the district local government and the performance of functions delegated by the territorial local governments, as well as, in cases specified by law, perform duties related to activities of education, health care, social service and cultural institutions of district cities, counties and parishes, and provide methodological assistance to such institutions.

The performance of the functions of the district local government and district council activities, in accordance with decisions of the district council, as well as the preparation of annual public reports and notices regarding the publication of them shall be ensured by an executive director appointed by the council, who, in accordance with procedures prescribed in council by-laws, shall be responsible for the work of local government institutions and capital companies.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 82.¹

The district council may examine any matter that is under the supervision of district local government; in addition, only the council may:

- 1) approve the council by-laws;
- 2) approve the council budget, budget amendments, reports regarding the implementation of the budget and annual public reports;
- 3) approve the district social and economic development plan and the territorial development plan;
- 4) express recommendations and provide opinions with respect to the liquidation of the relevant administrative territory, modification of its boundaries, or change of name;
- 5) approve the district social and economic development and environmental protection long term programmes;
- 6) determine the official symbols of the district, harmonising such with the Latvian State Heraldry Commission;
- 7) establish, reorganise and liquidate local government institutions, capital companies, associations and foundations, approve the by-laws of local government institutions;
- 8) appoint to office and remove from office the heads of institutions established by the district council, as well as other officials in cases provided for by law and the council by-laws;

9) elect or remove from office (relieve from duties) the chairperson of the council, the deputy chairperson, members of standing committees and members of the audit commission;

10) appoint to office and remove from office the executive director;

11) determine the remuneration for performing the duties of a councillor, as well as the procedures for payment of such remuneration and for reimbursement of councillor work-related expenditures;

12) determine salary rates for the council chairperson, the deputy chairperson and the executive director;

13) impose local government fees in cases provided for bylaw, as well as specify, if it is not prohibited or specified by law or Cabinet regulations, fees for services provided by institutions and undertakings established by the district council;

14) approve binding regulations and determine administrative liability for the violation of such;

15) decide on the alienation of immovable property of the district local government, as well as on the acquisition of immovable property;

16) determine the procedures for transactions with the movable property of the district local government, as well as procedures for accepting and managing of gifts and bequests, and the issuing and accepting loans and other economic obligations in the name of the district government;

17) suspend and revoke decisions of heads of institutions established by the district council;

18) revoke orders of the council chairperson and the executive director;

19) take decisions with respect to procedures for the performance of the functions referred to in Section 82 of this Law, for determining the officials responsible for such, as well as for the submission of reports on the performance of such functions;

20) take decisions, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, with respect to organising elections and referenda; and

21) take decisions in other cases provided for by law.

The activities and decisions of the council shall be maximally efficient.

The district council is entitled to issue binding regulations on issues specified in Section 44 of this Law. The provisions of Section 45 of this Law shall also apply to binding regulations issued by the district council.

The establishment, administration, reorganisation and liquidation of local government capital companies shall be regulated by the Law On State and Local Government Capital Shares and Capital Companies and the Commercial Law. The establishment, administration, reorganisation and liquidation of a local government association and foundation shall be regulated by the Associations and Foundations Law.

[13 November 1997; 5 February 1998; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 83.

The first meeting of a district council shall be convened by the former chairperson of the district council not later than one month after the regular local government elections. The term of office of the previous district council shall terminate with the first meeting of the new district council. Until election of the chairperson of a new district council, the previous chairperson of the district council shall chair the district council meeting and sign the decision of the council regarding election of the chairperson.

Any member of the council may nominate a candidate for chairperson of the council from among the chairpersons of the city or county councils (parish councils). The chairperson of the council shall be elected by secret ballot in accordance with procedures prescribed in Section 19 of this Law.

If a chairperson of a district council does not perform the duties prescribed by law, district council by-laws or decisions, the district council may release him or her from the duties of chairperson of the district council. The chairperson shall be released if more than half the members of the district council vote for such. The chairperson is also released when if the district council three times in a row has not approved the annual draft local government budget submitted by the chairperson. The Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters has the right to suspend the chairperson of the district council from exercising the duties of office in cases and in accordance with procedures prescribed in Section 93 of this Law.

The chairperson of a district council shall:

- 1) manage the work of the district council and chair its meetings;
- 2) represent the district council in relations with the State and local governments, institutions, as well as international organisations and local governments of foreign states; and
- 3) perform other duties specified in the district council by-laws.

The deputy chairperson of a district council shall be elected to office and may be removed from office in accordance with the same procedures as the chairperson of a district council.

The salary for the position of chairperson and deputy chairperson of a district council shall be determined by the council.

[30 October 1997; 13 November 1997; 5 February 1998; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 84.

A district council meeting may take place if more than half of the council members participate in it.

Meetings of a district council shall be convened and chaired by its chairperson not less often than once every two months, but in his or her absence – by the deputy chairperson. Notice of the place, time and agenda of a district council meeting shall be provided not later than one week prior to the meeting. At the invitation of the chairperson of the district council, other officials also may participate at district council meetings.

The provisions of Section 22; Section 24, Clauses 1 and 3-7; Section 25; Section 26, Paragraphs one, two, four, five and six; Section 27, Paragraph three; and Sections 28-33, 37, 41, 42, 46-50, 61, 93 and 94.¹ of this Law shall apply to organising the activities of a district council, recognising that the status of councillors prescribed by these sections shall apply to the members of the district council.

A district council shall act in accordance with by-laws approved by the council, which shall be prepared in compliance with this Law.

[13 November 1997; 5 February 1998; 17 February 2005]

Section 85.

The procedures for taking decisions at district council meetings, unless specified otherwise in this Law, shall be as follows:

1) if none of the council members object, a decision shall be taken by consensus without voting; and

2) in cases when even one of the council members objects, a decision shall have been taken by voting; and if more than half of the council members have voted in favour of it, representing not less than 50 per cent of the total population of the local governments in the district (the number of residents shall be determined in accordance with data of the State Statistics Committee).

[13 November 1997]

Section 85.¹

The provisions of Chapter VIII of this law shall also apply to the activities of the district local government.

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000]

Chapter XI Local Governments and the Cabinet

Section 86.

The Cabinet shall co-ordinate with local governments all issues that affect the interests of all local governments:

- 1) draft laws and draft Cabinet regulations that pertain to local governments;
- 2) the amounts of grants and earmarked grants to be provided to local governments for the current financial year;
- 3) procedures for equalisation of local government financial resources, unless specified in law;
- 4) *[5 February 1998]*
- 5) sources of financing for the functions specified in Section 8 of this Law; and
- 6) other issues on local government activities regarding which the Cabinet has agreed to with local governments each year prior to the start of the financial year.

Local governments shall be represented in the co-ordination process by a local government public organisation that has been established in compliance with the requirements of Section 96 of this Law.

The Minister of the relevant sector shall represent the Cabinet in the co-ordination process or a person authorised by the Minister.

The procedures by which the Cabinet shall co-ordinate with local governments the issues referred to in Paragraph one of this Section shall be determined by the Cabinet.

[8 June 1995; 5 February 1997; 5 June 2003]

Section 87.

Issues that affect the interests of particular local governments and are not to be examined in accordance with procedures prescribed by Section 86 of this Law shall be examined by the Cabinet in accordance with Cabinet Rules of Order.

On such issues, the relevant local government shall be represented by the chairperson of its city or county council (parish council), or a person authorised by the chairperson.

[8 June 1995; 17 February 2005]

Section 88.

The results of discussions regarding the issues referred to in Section 86 of this Law shall be formulated in the form of minutes.

The Cabinet, in sending to the *Saeima* draft laws that relate to local governments, shall attach to it a copy of the minutes of the Cabinet committee meeting in which the issues coordinated with local governments and differences of opinion have been recorded.

The discussion minutes on differences of opinion, regarding issues that are within the competence of the Cabinet or ministries, shall be examined by Cabinet.

[8 June 1995]

Section 89.

If Cabinet regulations or other regulatory enactments that regulate the activities of local governments are contrary to the Constitution, this Law or other laws, local governments may recommend revocation of such in accordance with procedures prescribed by law.

Section 90.

Proposals to amend laws shall be submitted to Cabinet by the local government public organisation or by individual local governments.

Chapter XII Dismissal of a City or County Council (Parish Council) and its Chairperson

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 91.

The *Saeima* may dismiss a city or county council (parish council) if it:

1) repeatedly fails to observe or violates the Constitution, laws, and Cabinet regulations, or fails to execute court judgments;

2) repeatedly takes decisions and performs activities on issues that are within the competence of the *Saeima*, the Cabinet, ministries, other State administrative institutions, or the courts;

3) within a two-month period after the first meeting or after the resignation of relevant officials or institutions has not elected a chairperson, deputy chairperson or standing committees of the city or county council (parish council); or

4) is unable to take decisions because at three successive meetings more than half the total number of councillors of the relevant city or county council (parish council) have not participated.

[8 June 1995; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 92.

A city or county council (parish council) shall be dismissed by means of a law, the draft of which the Cabinet shall submit to the *Saeima*.

A draft law, regarding dismissal of a city or county council (parish council) shall be submitted by the Cabinet pursuant to its own initiative or pursuant to the recommendation of the Prosecutor General.

The *Saeima*, in adopting a law regarding dismissal of a city or county council (parish council), shall appoint pursuant to the recommendation of the Cabinet a temporary administration in the relevant administrative territory and shall determine the time period within which elections for a new city or county council (parish council) shall be held. If less than 15 months remain until the regular elections of the city or county council (parish council), elections for a territorial local government new city or county council (parish council) shall not be held.

A temporary administration shall perform the functions of the city or county council (parish council) provided for in laws and shall act until the day of the first meeting of the newly elected city council (parish council).

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 93.

If the chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) fails to comply with or violates the Constitution, laws, Cabinet regulations, or fails to execute court judgments, the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters, after receipt of an explanation of the chairperson of the relevant city or county council (parish council), may with a substantiated order relieve the chairperson from performing the duties of office. The order shall be published in the newspaper *Latvijas Vēstnesis* within a period of three days after it is taken. The chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall be considered relieved from performance of the duties of office from the day that the order of the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters regarding the removal from office of the city or county council (parish council) chairperson is published in the newspaper *Latvijas Vēstnesis*.

The chairperson of the city council (parish council) has the duty to submit, within a period of three days from receipt of a request from the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters, a written explanation regarding the reasons for the violations of the Constitution, laws and Cabinet regulations that have been permitted to occur, or for the failure to execute a court judgment. Failure to submit an explanation within the specified term shall be considered as refusal to submit an explanation.

The chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) has the right, within a period of 30 days after publication of the order of the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters, to file a submission in court regarding revocation of the order of the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters. If the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) has not utilised these rights, the chairperson, after expiry of the two-week term, shall be considered dismissed. If the court rejects the submission of the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council), the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall be considered dismissed from the day when the court judgment comes into effect.

If the order of the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters is revoked by a court judgment, the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) shall receive the salary for the position of chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) for the time period that the chairperson was relieved from the performance of the duties of office.

[8 June 1995; 30 October 1997; 13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 94.

The chairperson of a city or county council (parish council) removed from office in accordance with the procedures of Section 93 of this Law may not be re-elected chairperson during the current term of the city or county council (parish council).

[13 November 1997; 21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Section 94.¹

If a local government city or county council (parish council) or other local government institutions do not fulfil or violate the Constitution, laws, Cabinet regulations or also do not fulfil court judgments, the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters may request an explanation from the chairperson of the city or county council (parish council).

The chairperson of the city or county council (parish council) has a duty, within a period of 20 days after having received the request from the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Matters, to provide a written explanation regarding the violations of the Constitution, laws and Cabinet regulations allowed by the city or county council (parish council) or other local government institutions or also the reasons for not fulfilling the court judgment.

[17 February 2005]

Chapter XIII Co-operation among Local Governments

Section 95.

In order to perform tasks in which all or several local governments have an interest, local governments have the right to co-operate as well as to establish local government public organisations or to join such organisations.

Local government co-operation agreements shall be entered into within the limitations of local government budget, if a relevant decision has been taken by the city or county council (parish council), or also if the procedures for entering into such are specified in the local government by-laws.

Local governments may establish public organisations whose regulations for founding, registration, activities and liquidation are determined by this Law and the Law On Public Organisations and Their Associations.

A decision regarding the founding of a local government public organisation or joining such, as well as terminating membership in a local government public organisation, shall be taken by the relevant local government city or county council (parish council).

Local governments, in public organisations founded by them, shall be represented by the chairperson of the relevant city or county council (parish council) or by a person authorised by the chairperson.

[17 February 2005]

Section 96.

A local government public organisation, in which in accordance with procedures prescribed by law and its articles of association more than half of all city local governments, more than half of all district local governments, more than half of all county local

governments and more than half of all parish local governments have joined as members, is entitled to represent local governments in their discussions with the Cabinet.

[21 December 2000]

Section 97.

Local governments and public organisations established by them may co-operate with the local governments of other states and associations thereof, if such co-operation is not contrary to legislative enactments of the co-operating states and conforms with mutual agreements concluded among such states.

Section 98.

Local governments, under the supervision of which are not the necessary infrastructure objects, have a duty to enter into agreements with other local governments in order to ensure the performance of functions prescribed by law. The procedures for settling mutual accounts shall be determined by the Cabinet.

[13 November 1997; 9 December 1999]

Section 99.

For the resolving of common tasks local governments may, upon mutual agreement, establish joint institutions. Such institutions shall operate on the basis of by-laws approved by the relevant city or county councils (parish councils). The by-laws shall specify the competence of the local government joint institution, the procedures for its financing and supervision, as well as other issues regarding activities of the local government joint institution.

[14 October 1998; 17 February 2005]

Section 100.

A co-operative association is an institution that is established by local governments by entering into a co-operation agreement. In order to enter into a co-operation agreement, each local government city or county council (parish council) shall take a decision regarding the entering into of a co-operation agreement.

A co-operation agreement shall indicate:

- 1) the purpose of co-operation;
- 2) the form of co-operation;
- 3) the financial and property participation of each local government in the achievement of the common purpose;
- 4) the procedures for the establishment of a co-operation council and its competence, if the relevant local government city or county councils (parish councils) consider the establishment of such council is necessary;
- 5) the procedures for the termination of the co-operation agreement; and
- 6) other issues which the relevant local government city or county councils (parish councils) consider as necessary.

[21 December 2000; 17 February 2005]

Transitional Provisions

1. Parish and city local governments shall register the permanent residence of residents, until this function is taken over by the Ministry of the Interior.

2. [5 February 1998]

3. All officials appointed by the previous local government and all employees of local government institutions and undertakings have the right to continue employment regardless of a change of city or county council (parish council). A name change of a local government decision-making body shall not be a basis for dismissing a local government employee.

4. [5 February 1998]

5. [5 February 1998]

6. [5 February 1998]

7. [5 February 1998]

8. [5 February 1998]

9. [5 February 1998]

10. On the day this Law comes into force the following laws are repealed:

1) On City Local Governments (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1991, Nos. 25/26, 39, 42; 1992, No. 1; 1993, No. 7; *Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1993, No. 33; 1994, No. 3);

2) On Parish Local Governments (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1991, Nos. 25/26, 39, 42; 1992, No. 1; 1993, No. 7; *Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1993, No. 33; 1994, No. 3);

3) On District Local Governments (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1992, No. 8/9; 1993, No. 7; *Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1993, No. 33; 1994, No. 3);

4) On the Capital City Rīga Local Government (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1992, No. 26; 1993, No. 7; *Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1993, No. 33; 1994, No. 3); and

5) Chapters two, four and five of the Law On Additions and Amendments in Some Laws of the Republic of Latvia to Ensure Preservation of Personnel Documents (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1993, No. 20/21).

11. On the day this Law comes into force, the decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia On By-laws Regarding Audit Commissions of People's Deputy Councils of Districts, Cities, City Districts and Parishes (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1992, No. 6/7) is repealed.

12. On the day this Law comes into force, the following decisions of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia are repealed:

1) On the Application of Section 30, Paragraph five of the Republic of Latvia 24 April 1991 Law On City Local Governments and, Section 30, Paragraph five of the Republic of Latvia 24 April 1991 Law On Parish Local Governments (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1991, No. 29/30);

2) On the Application of Specific Sections of the Republic of Latvia Laws On Parish Local Governments, On City Local Governments, On District Local Governments (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1992, No. 17);

3) On the Application of the Republic of Latvia 10 June 1992 Law On the Capital City Rīga Local Government (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1992, No. 29/31); and

4) On the Application of Specific Sections of the Republic of Latvia Laws On Parish Local Governments, On City Local Governments, On District Local Governments and On the Capital City Rīga Local Government (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1993, No. 18/19).

13. [21 December 2000]

14. The newly established district councils shall:

1) [21 December 2000]

2) continue to maintain institutions supervised by the district local government, and supervise district local government undertakings until they are transferred to parish or city local governments or to other holders of rights, or until they are reorganised. The discontinuance of the activities of medical treatment, educational, cultural, children's and social institutions shall be allowed only if the relevant services to residents are ensured by another institution or by other means;

3) ensure the operation of the civil defence system until such function is taken over by the State; and

4) perform other functions specified for district local governments in other laws until amendments are made in relevant laws, if in accordance with Section 15 of this Law the relevant function is not to be handed over to a parish or city local government.

15. [21 December 2000]

16. [21 December 2000]

17. [21 December 2000]

18. [16 June 1998]

19. Amendments to Section 5 and Section 20, Paragraph one (regarding the election of an audit commission); Section 21, Paragraph two, Clause 2 (regarding an annual public report); Section 26, Paragraph five (regarding the public accessibility of decisions of an audit commission); Section 28, Paragraph one, Clause 2 and Section 33, Paragraph one, Clause 2 (regarding the submission of draft decisions of an audit commission); Section 35, Paragraph two (regarding the chairperson of an audit commission); Section 36, Paragraph two (regarding the chairperson of an audit commission); Section 38, Paragraph one (regarding members of an audit commission); Section 65, Paragraph one, Clause 3 and Section 69, Paragraph one, Clause 7 (regarding an annual public report); the title and text of Chapter VIII and Section 82, Paragraph two (regarding an annual public report); Section 82.1, Paragraph one, Clause 2

(regarding an annual public report); Section 85.1 and the title of Chapter XII (regarding the dismissal of an audit commission); Section 91, Paragraphs one and two (regarding an audit commission) and Section 92, Paragraphs one, two and five (regarding an audit commission) of the Law shall come into force on 11 March 2001.

20. Up to the day of the coming into force of new Cabinet regulations, but not later than by 1 January 2004, Cabinet Regulation No. 460 of 24 December 1996, Procedures by which the Cabinet shall Co-ordinate with Local Governments Issues, which Involve Local Government Interests, shall be applied insofar as it is not in conflict with this Law.

21. City or county councils (parish councils) shall up to 1 September 2005 adopt a local government by-law in conformity with the provisions of Section 24 of this Law.

[13 November 1997; 5 February 1998; 16 June 1998; 21 December 2000; 5 June 2003; 17 February 2005]

This Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 19 May 1994.

Acting for the President,
Chairperson of the *Saeima*

A. Gorbunovs

Rīga, 24 May 1994

Transitional Provisions Regarding Amendments to the Law On Local Governments

Transitional Provisions

(regarding amending Law of 5 February 1997)

With the coming into force of this Law Cabinet Regulations Nos. 106 and 323, Amendments to the Law On Local Governments, issued in accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia (*Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1996, Nos. 10 and 20), are repealed.

Transitional Provisions

(regarding amending Law of 9 December 1999)

With the coming into force of this Law Cabinet Regulation No. 285, Amendments to the Law On Local Governments, issued in accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia (*Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1999, No. 18), is repealed.

Transitional Provisions

(regarding amending Law of 5 June 2003)

With the coming into force of this Law Cabinet Regulation No. 5, Amendments to the Law On Local Governments, issued in accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia (*Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 2003, No. 9), is repealed.