

TRANSITION LAW, 5709 — 1949*

CHAPTER ONE: THE KNESSET

1. The legislative body of the State of Israel shall be called the Knesset. The Constituent Assembly shall be called "The First Knesset". A delegate to the Constituent Assembly shall be called a "member of the Knesset".

Designation of legislative body and of members of legislative body.

2. (a) An enactment of the Knesset shall be called a Law.

Laws.

(b) Every Law shall be signed by the Prime Minister and by the Minister or Ministers charged with its implementation.

(c) The President of the State shall sign every Law, except Laws concerning his powers.

(d) Every Law shall be published in *Reshumot* within ten days from the date of its being passed by the Knesset.

CHAPTER TWO: THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE

3. (a) The President of the State shall be elected by the Knesset by secret ballot.

Election of the President.

(b) The candidate who obtains the votes of more than half of all the members of the Knesset shall be considered as elected.

(c) If no candidate obtains a majority of votes as aforesaid, there shall be a second ballot. If no such majority is obtained in the second ballot, voting shall continue, and in the third and any further ballot, the candidate who obtained the smallest number of votes in the preceding ballot shall not stand again for election. The candidate who in the third or any further ballot obtains the votes of more than half of the members of the Knesset taking part in the ballot shall be considered as elected.

4. Within seven days of his election, the President shall make and sign in the Knesset, or before the Chairman of the Knesset, the following declaration:

Declaration by the President.

"I, (name), pledge myself as President of the State to be loyal to the State of Israel and to its laws."

5. The President of the State shall hold office for the duration of the term of office of the First Knesset and until the expiration of three months from the convening of the new Knesset.

President's term of office.

6. The President of the State shall sign treaties with foreign states which have been ratified by the Knesset, appoint, upon the recommendation of the competent Minister, the diplomatic representatives of the State, receive diplomatic representatives of foreign states who have been sent to Israel, and approve the appointment of consuls of foreign states; he shall also be empowered to pardon offenders and to reduce punishments.

Functions of the President.

7. Every official document signed by the President of the State shall be countersigned by the Prime Minister or by such other Minister as may be designated in that behalf by the Government.

Signature of the President.

CHAPTER THREE: THE GOVERNMENT

8. Immediately upon the election of the President of the State, the Provisional Government shall tender to him its resignation, but it shall continue to exercise its functions pending the constitution of a new Government.

Resignation of the Provisional Government.

* Passed by the Knesset on the 17th Shevat, 5709 (16th February, 1949) and published in *Sefer Ha-Chukkim* No. 1 of the 18th Shevat, 5709 (11th February, 1949), p. 1.

mandate
to form
Government.

9. After consultation with representatives of the party groups within the Knesset, the President of the State shall entrust a member of the Knesset with the task of forming a Government.

Composition
of the
Government.

10. The Government shall consist of the Prime Minister and of a number of Ministers, who may or may not be members of the Knesset.

Constitution
of the
Government.

11. (a) As soon as the Government has been formed, it shall present itself to the Knesset, and after having obtained a vote of confidence, it shall be considered as constituted.

(b) Within seven days of the date on which the Government obtains such a vote of confidence, the Prime Minister and the other Ministers shall read and sign before the Knesset the following declaration:

"I, (name), as a member of the Government, pledge myself to be loyal to the State of Israel and to its laws, and to comply with the decisions of the Knesset."

(c) The Government shall be jointly responsible for its activities to the Knesset, shall report to it on its activities, and shall hold office as long as it enjoys the confidence of the Knesset.

(d) The Government which receives a vote of non-confidence from the Knesset, or which has decided to resign, shall immediately tender its resignation to the President of the State, but it shall continue to exercise its functions pending the constitution of a new Government in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

CHAPTER FOUR: FURTHER PROVISIONS

Powers
of the
Government.

12. The Government shall have all the powers vested by law in the Provisional Government.

Reshumot.

13. Everything required by law to be published in *Iton Rishmi* shall henceforward be published in *Reshumot*; every reference in the law to *Iton Rishmi* shall henceforward be deemed to be a reference to *Reshumot*.

Repeal.

14. Section 1 (c) and (d), section 2 (b) and (c), the second sentence of section 7 (a), and section 7 (b), of the Law and Administration Ordinance, 5708—1949, are hereby repealed.

Commence-
ment.

15. This Law shall have effect from the date of its being passed by the Knesset.

DAVID BEN-GURION
Prime Minister

AMERICAN CREDIT LAW, 5709—1949*

Authority to
accept credit.

1. The Minister of Finance is hereby authorised to accept on behalf of the State of Israel from the Export-Import Bank of Washington, an agency of the United States of America, a credit of one hundred million dollars (currency of the United States of America).

* Passed by the Knesset on the 16th Adar, 5709 (17th March, 1949) and published in *Sefer Ha-Chukkim* No. 2 of the 17th Adar, 5709 (18th March, 1949), p. 3.