

## SECTION B

### ORGANISATION OF THE KNESSET

#### CHAPTER ONE

##### THE SPEAKER AND THE DEPUTY SPEAKERS

Election of the Speaker and his Deputies (amendment No. 105)

2. (a) The Knesset shall elect the Speaker of the Knesset and the Deputies of the Speaker of the Knesset, by means of open elections, in accordance with the provisions of article 20 of Basic Law: the Knesset, and article 10 of the Knesset Law. The Deputies shall be elected upon the recommendation of the Organizing Committee, taking into account the Parliamentary Group make-up of the Knesset and the size of the Parliamentary Groups. The election of several Deputies on the same occasion shall take place by means of a single vote.
- (b) The Speaker shall be elected no later than the date on which the Knesset convened for the purpose of establishing the Government, as stated in article 13 of Basic Law: the Government. Should the elections of the Knesset Speaker be scheduled for the same date set for the sitting for the purpose of establishing the Government, the Speaker shall be elected first.
- (c) The Speaker of the Knesset and the Deputies shall be elected for the whole Knesset term. However, the Knesset is entitled to elect Deputies to the Speaker of the Knesset, on the basis of a recommendation as stated in clause (a), for shorter terms of office, and determine their commencement and termination.
- (d) A Minister or a Deputy Minister shall not be Speaker of the Knesset Speaker or a Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset.
- (e) (1) Should the position of Knesset Speaker be vacated, the Knesset shall elect a new Speaker within 21 days, in the manner laid down in clause (a); should the position of a Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset be vacated, the Knesset is entitled to elect another Knesset Member in his place, in the said manner.
- (2) Should a Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset be suspended from his position, the Knesset is entitled to elect another Knesset Member in his place in the said manner, and despite what is said in the beginning of clause (c), he shall serve as a Deputy to the Speaker for the period of the suspension only.

Restrictions to the election of the Speaker of the Knesset or a Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset

3. (a) The House Committee, and before it is selected – the Arranging Committee, is entitled to decide, on the basis of a recommendation by the Ethics Committee, if it has been appointed, that a Member of the Knesset shall not be a candidate for the position of Speaker of the Knesset Speaker or Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset, should one of the following apply:
  - (1) The Attorney General has submitted a copy of a bill of indictment against him, as stated in article 4(a) of the

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Immunity Law, or criminal proceedings, as defined in article 7(a) of the Knesset Law (henceforth – criminal proceedings) are being carried out against him, and this whether or not it has decided that he should have immunity from criminal proceedings. Should the House Committee decide that the Knesset Member shall not be a candidate as stated in this clause, its decision shall remain in force as long as the criminal proceedings in his case have not terminated, and should it be decided that he shall have immunity from criminal proceedings - for the whole period of his membership in that Knesset, or for a shorter period determined by the Committee.

(2) The Knesset Member was convicted in a final verdict on a criminal offence, whether while he was a Member of the Knesset or beforehand, and ten year have not yet elapsed from the day on which the sentence became final, or from the day on which he completed serving his sentence, whichever is later.

(b) The House Committee shall not take a decision, in accordance with clause (a), until after it has given the Knesset Member an opportunity to present his case.

(c) The deliberation proceedings in the House Committee, and in the Ethics committee shall come to an end, in each of them, within a week.

(d) (1) Should the House Committee decide that the Knesset Member shall not be a candidate as stated, the Member is entitled to appeal the decision to the Knesset, within 48 hours.

(2) The debate in the Knesset shall take place within 48 hours of the appeal being submitted, or the following day on which a Knesset sitting may be held in accordance with the provisions of article 19(a), at the latest. The appellant is entitled to explain his appeal, and is entitled to lay on the Knesset table documents connected with the appeal. The Chairpman of the House Committee is entitled to reply to the appeal, each one of them for a time limited of no more than 15 minutes, and the Knesset shall decide without a debate.

(e) The voting in the House Committee and the Knesset shall be open.

4.

(a) Should the Knesset Speaker or a Deputy to the Knesset Speaker be suspended, or should limitations be placed on his office on the basis of the provisions of article 7 of the Knesset Law, the suspension shall be terminated, or the limitations cancelled upon the delivery of a final verdict that finds him innocent, or does not state that the offence involves disgrace, and should it be decided that he shall be immune from criminal proceedings – upon the end of term of that Knesset, and all this as long as the Knesset has not decided, on the basis of a recommendation by the House Committee, on a shorter period for the suspension or limitations.

(b) Should the House Committee propose to the Knesset to suspend the Speaker of the Knesset, or a Deputy Speaker of the Knesset

from his office, or lay down limitations to his office, the Chairman of the House Committee, shall present the proposal of the House Committee to the Knesset, and the Knesset Member to whom the proposal relates is entitled to answer, each within a time limit that shall not exceed 15 minutes, and the Knesset shall decide without a debate.

Resignation of the Knesset Speaker or a Deputy to the Knesset Speaker (Amendment No. 105)

5. (a) (1) The Knesset Speaker is entitled to resign from his position by laying a letter of resignation on the Knesset table. Should the Speaker choose to resign during the Knesset recess, and no special session is to take place, he shall hand the resignation letter over to the Secretary General of the Knesset, who shall bring it immediately to the attention of the Knesset Members.
- (2) The term of office of the Knesset Speaker, who has resigned, shall end 48 hours after the letter of resignation was laid on the Knesset table, or handed over to the Secretary General of the Knesset, as the case may be, unless he withdrew his resignation beforehand.
- (3) The Speaker of the Knesset who submitted or handed over a resignation letter, is entitled to inform the Knesset of the reasons for his resignation.
- (b) (1) A Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset is entitled to resign from his position by handing over a letter of resignation to the Speaker of the Knesset.
- (2) The term of office of a Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset, who has resigned, shall end 48 hours after the letter of resignation was handed over to the Speaker of the Knesset, unless he withdrew his resignation beforehand.
- (3) The Speaker of the Knesset shall inform the Knesset of the resignation of a Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset.

Duties of the Knesset Speaker and a Deputy to the Knesset Speaker (Amendments Nos. 105 & 107)

6. (a) The Speaker shall run the affairs of the Knesset, represent it externally, uphold its dignity, maintain order during its sittings, and oversee the observance of its Rules of Procedure. He shall preside over the sittings of the Knesset, and run them, determine the results of votes, and in addition fulfill any task assigned to him by law.
- (b) The Speaker is responsible for the preparation of the preparation and implementation of the Knesset budget. Once the annual budget proposal has been approved in First Reading within the framework of the annual Budget Bill, it shall be referred for deliberation in the Joint Committee of the House Committee and the Finance Committee stated in article 11(b) of the Budget Foundations Law. The shall be brought for Second Reading and Third Reading within the framework of the annual Budget Bill.
- (c) The Speaker of the Knesset is responsible for the administration of the Knesset and the Knesset Secretariat.
- (d) While serving as acting President of the State, as stated in article 23(a) of Basic Law: the President of the State, the Speaker of the Knesset shall not run the sittings of the Knesset, unless the House

Committee has decided otherwise.

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- (e) The Speaker of the Knesset shall not be a member of any of the Knesset Committees, except for the Interpretations Committee, but he is entitled to participate in the deliberations of each of the Knesset Committees, including joint committees, and subcommittees, even if their minutes are confidential.
- (f) The Speaker of the Knesset is entitled, from time to time, to hand over to one of the Deputies, the running of the Knesset sitting, or any of his tasks as determined in these Rules of Procedure, except for his duties in accordance with clauses (b) and (c).
- (g) The Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, who is replacing the Speaker of the Knesset as stated in article 29 of the Knesset Premises Law, or to whom the Speaker of the Knesset has delegated some of his powers as stated in article 30(a) of the said law, or who is running the sitting of the Knesset, or fulfilling one of the tasks of the Speaker of the Knesset, shall have, on that occasion, all the duties and powers that are vested in the Speaker of the Knesset.
- (h) A Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset shall not be a chairman of the House Committee, or his substitute.

Publication in  
the Official  
Gazette of  
matters  
regarding the  
Knesset  
Speaker and  
his Deputies  
(Amendment  
No. 105)

- 7. Regarding the Speaker of the Knesset and his Deputies, a notice shall be published in the Official Gazette on behalf of the Knesset on the following matters:
  - (1) The elections, suspension or termination of the service of the Speaker of the Knesset' or of a Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset;
  - (2) The service of a Deputy to the Speaker of the Knesset as Acting Speaker of the Knesset according to article 20a of Basic Law: the Knesset.