

Chapter I

General Provisions

Article 1. Elections for deputies to the People's Assembly are held by universal, direct, free, and secret ballot on the territory of the Republic of Albania.

Article 2. All Albanian citizens who are 18 years old on the day of the elections have the right to vote.

All those who are 18 years old on the day of the elections, are Albanian citizens, have been permanently resident in the Republic of Albania for no less than six months, and who meet the provisions of the Law on Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity Committed for Political, Ideological, and Religious Motives under Communist Rule in Albania, No. 8,001 of 22 September 1995 and the Law on Screening Officials and Other Persons Involved in Protecting the Democratic State, No. 8043 of 30 November 1995, have the right to be elected as deputies to the People's Assembly.

Article 3. Citizens whose electoral rights have been removed by a verdict of a court because they have committed a crime or are considered mentally incapable by the court are deprived of their electoral rights.

Article 4. Electoral rights are exercised on the basis of the electoral register.

Voters take part in the voting at the polling station on whose lists their names are registered.

A voter exercises his right to vote in person and only once, by casting his vote for one candidate standing in a single-member constituency, and for only one of the electoral subjects to whom additional mandates are to be allocated nationwide.

Article 5. A deputy of the People's Assembly cannot at the same time be an elected or appointed member of the local authorities of the state administration or of the organs of justice.

Chapter II

Electoral System

Article 6. The People's Assembly consists of 140 deputies, of whom 115 are elected directly in single-member constituencies, and of whom 25 hold additional mandates given to candidates on the lists of electoral subjects nationwide on the basis of votes gained in the first round, according to the rule defined in Article 11.

Article 7. A candidate who wins more than one-half of all the valid votes in a given constituency is considered as having been elected as a People's Assembly deputy for a single-member constituency.

Article 8. If no candidate wins more than 50 percent of the valid votes in the first round of elections, a second round of elections is held in the constituency one week later.

The two candidates who have won the most votes in the first round appear as candidates for the post of deputy in the second round of elections.

If three or more candidates win equal numbers of votes in the first round, the two candidates to take part in the second round are chosen by lot; if one candidate has won the largest number of votes and after him two or more candidates have won equal numbers of votes in the first round, the second candidate is chosen by lot.

If an electoral subject withdraws its candidate from the second round, the candidate who has gained the largest percentage of votes among the other candidates in the first round takes his place.

The constituency electoral commission declares the candidates for the second round.

Article 9. The candidate who has won the largest number of votes in the second round of elections is considered to have been elected as a People's Assembly deputy. If votes are divided equally, the deputy is chosen by lot.

Article 10. Subjects fielding joint candidates in constituencies, at the same time as they appoint their candidates, also send to the constituency electoral commission a report according to which the votes cast jointly and collected nationwide are to be distributed. A copy of this document is to the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 11. Additional mandates are distributed as follows:

a) Only subjects that gain no less than 4 percent of the votes nationwide and electoral groups of two parties that have no less than 8 percent of the votes benefit from the distribution of the 25 additional mandates. When an electoral group is composed of three or more parties, the threshold increases by 4 percent by each party.

b) The total number of valid votes cast in the first round for additional mandates for electoral subjects is counted. The total number of valid votes cast for each of the subjects fulfilling the conditions under section a) is then counted. The number of valid votes for each of these subjects is divided by the total number of votes cast for additional mandates, and the resulting figure is multiplied by 25, being the number of additional mandates.

c) Each list compiled by electoral subjects receives as many seats as the whole number that results from the calculations under section b). Seats that remain unallocated are given to the electoral subject that gains the largest number of seats in the elections in the constituencies.

ch) [fourth letter in the Albanian alphabet] Those winning on the lists of the multiple candidates are decided according to their order on the list.

d) When the number of candidates on a list is less than the number of seats this list has won, the candidate of this electoral subject who has won the largest number of votes of all this electoral subjects candidates in any constituency and does not appear on the list of the electoral subject concerned is declared the winner. When there are two such candidates, the winner is decided by lot.

Chapter III

Electoral Subjects

Article 12. Any Albanian citizen who enjoys the right to be elected according to this law may stand as a candidate for the post of People's Assembly deputy as a representative of any party or group of parties or as an independent candidate.

No candidate can stand in more than one single-member constituency.

Any candidate in a single-member constituency may also at the same time appear as a candidate on the list of the relevant subject. A candidate who wins in a constituency is removed from his subject's nationwide list.

Article 13. A candidate for the post of People's Assembly deputy is registered by the electoral commission no later than 20 days before the election day. To register it is necessary to present the following documents:

a) a written request form from the electoral subject himself asking for the registration of the candidate offering himself as a deputy; the request must include the candidate's name, father's name, surname, date of birth, and place of residence. (two copies)

b) a statement by the candidate himself accepting his candidature in that constituency. (two copies)

c) a copy of the verdict of the State Commission on the basis of Article 9 of the Law on the Screening of Officials and Other Persons Involved in the Protection of the Democratic State, No. 8,403 of 30 November 1995.

ch) a list signed by no less than 400 electors of the relevant constituency, who support the nomination of this candidate in that constituency.

Article 14. The list of voters' signatures must include the name and emblem of the electoral subject nominating the candidate or a note stating that the candidate is independent. This list must also include the name, father's name, surname, address, identity card number or certificate number accomplished by a photograph, in handwriting of the voter, who must be a resident in the constituency in which the candidate is running.

A voter does not have the right to sign more than one list. The lists are deposited with the Central Electoral Commission and can be inspected for its proper authorization.

When a constituency electoral commission notices irregularities in the application or documentation of a candidate for registration, it informs the electoral subjects, asking for these irregularities to be corrected within two days of their being noticed. Otherwise, the election commission takes appropriate action.

Article 15. Only electoral subjects who have fielded candidates in no fewer than 38 constituencies and 12 districts of the country have the right to present lists for additional mandates. Lists for additional mandates may include up to 100 candidates. When groups of electoral subjects fulfill this condition, each of the political parties that is a member of this group presents a separate electoral list. Copies of the decision of the State Commission on the basis of

Article 9 of the Law on the Screening of Officials and Other Persons Involved in Protecting the Democratic State, No. 8,043 of 30 November 1995, and of the candidates statement accepting his candidature are attached to the list.

The list with the signature and seal of the relevant electoral subject is submitted to the Central Electoral Commission no later than 30 days before the election day.

Article 16. Constituency election commissions, when the conditions of this law are met, are obliged to register all the candidates for the post of deputy to the People's Assembly and to announce them no later than 25 days before the election day, also noting the name of the subject that has nominated them. It sends a copy of this certificate to all the candidates of the electoral subjects.

Article 17. The constituency electoral commission retains a protocol of the registration procedure of every candidate. It sends a copy of this to the Central Electoral Commission together with the statement by the candidate accepting his candidature in this zone.

Article 18. When a candidate for the post of deputy to the People's Assembly is withdrawn by the subject proposing him, withdraws his own candidature, or dies after having been registered by the electoral commission, the subject concerned may register another candidate, but not later than seven days before the election day. If such a thing occurs during the seven days before the elections, the electoral subject submits in his place another candidate from the party list of candidates.

Article 19. If directors of local government authorities, members of the organs of justice, directors of the organs of public order and of the National Intelligence Service, and servicemen on active service submit themselves as candidates to be deputies, they are released from their duties 25 days before the day of the elections.

Chapter IV

Electoral Rolls

Article 20. Elections of deputies to the People's Assembly take place on the basis of electoral roles.

All citizens who enjoy the right to vote are registered on the electoral rolls. The authority responsible under this law for compiling the electoral rolls, when it registers voters as temporarily resident on its territory, is obliged to inform the relevant authority in the voters permanent place of residence to avoid registration in two places of residence. Each citizen is registered on only one electoral roll.

Article 21. Electoral rolls are compiled for every polling station.

The electoral roll records the voters name, father's name, and surname, date of birth, and registration number.

Electoral rolls in towns and villages are drawn up under the responsibility of the chairman of the municipality or the commune and the secretary of the relevant council. The electoral rolls, having been signed by the aforementioned persons, are sent to the relevant prefecture. The prefect confirms them, and, if need be, settles any disagreements in connection with them.

The electoral rolls are published by the authorities compiling them no later than 30 days before the day of the election.

The electoral rolls are kept permanently at civil registry offices.

The Council of Ministers issues the necessary instructions and administers them.

Article 22. In the case of voters serving and residing in military bases and units, the chairmen and secretaries of municipal or communal councils compile and publish the electoral rolls no later than 30 days before the day of the elections in cooperation with the commanders of the military bases and units.

All other servicemen are registered on the electoral roles of their places of residence, as compiled by the authorities defined by this law.

Article 23. Albanian citizens permanently resident abroad who are within the territory of the Republic of Albania on the day of the elections are registered at their request on the electoral rolls of their former places of residence. The attendance of these persons at the polls is noted in their international passports.

Article 24. In hospitals, sanatoriums, in other health institutions and centers of rehabilitation, and in reeducation camps and places of detention, electoral roles are compiled by the directors of the institution, reeducation camp, or place of detention, on the basis of the voters' documents of identification. These directors are obliged to tell the responsible local authorities in these voters' places of residence to change the electoral roles on which these voters were initially registered.

Article 25. When a voter is appointed as a member of an electoral commission or an observer in a constituency or at a polling station, and for this reason will move from his place of residence after the publication of the electoral roll, the responsible authority issues

a certificate before the day of the elections and at the request of the electoral subject, in order to enable this person to vote in the place where he is to go, and also marks the electoral roll with the words "Moved Away." This voter is registered on the supplementary list of voters of the polling station of the place where he goes, on the presentation of his certificate of the right to vote together with his identity card or substitute document.

Article 26. The authority that has published the electoral rolls may make changes to these rolls at the request of interested persons, but no later than 24 hours before the election day, when a citizen has died, is registered twice, does not enjoy electoral rights, or is resident outside the territory of the Republic of Albania.

Article 27. Every voter has the right to apply in writing for the correction of errors and omission in the electoral rolls, such as nonregistration, change of name, father's name, or surname, the registration of persons who have lost their electoral rights, etc. These applications are made to the authority that has published the roll, and this authority is obliged to consider the case within two days and give a decision without supporting evidence.

Appeals against this decision may be made to the district court, which will consider the appeal in open court within three days and make an appropriate decision. The decision of the court is published immediately, is final, and is enforced by the commission of the polling station.

The constituency electoral commission intervenes at the request of citizens in order to request the authorities that have published the electoral laws to correct errors and omissions in these rolls.

Any changes to the electoral rolls is published immediately.

Article 28. The list of electors is put at the disposal of the electoral subjects by the authorities that have published the lists, upon request and against payment.

Chapter V

Constituencies and Polling Stations

Article 29. For the election of People's Assembly deputies, 115 constituencies with approximately equal numbers of voters will be created. The constituencies must be in one piece, geographical continuous, and may not run across the borders of communes.

The constituencies, their borders, and their order are determined by the president of the republic on the proposal of the Council of Ministers no later than 45 days before the day of the elections.

Article 30. Votes are cast and counted at the polling stations, which are created in the territory of every town, urban neighborhood and village.

Article 31. A polling station is created for every 100 to 800 electors in villages.

A polling station is created for every 800 electors in towns and urban neighborhoods.

Special polling stations are created in towns and urban neighborhoods with less than 800 electors. If more than 400 electors are left over, a special polling station is created, while is the number is less than 400, these electors are attached to the nearest existing polling station.

A special polling station is created if a place of work is more than three kilometers from the nearest polling station, and there are at least 50 electors.

Article 32. Polling stations are decided on no later than 20 days before the day of the elections.

Polling stations are created in towns, urban neighborhoods, and villages on the decision of the authorities that have published the electoral rolls.

Article 33. Polling stations are created in hospitals, sanatoriums, maternity homes, rest homes, and similar institutions, and in reeducation camps and places of detention if their are more than 15 electors.

Chapter VI

Electoral Commissions

Article 34. The following electoral commissions are created to conduct the elections for the People's Assembly:

- a) the Central Electoral Commission
- b) the constituency electoral commissions
- c) the polling station commissions

Representatives of the electoral subjects and nonparty persons become members of the electoral commissions.

The electoral commissions are independent organizations, answerable for their activities only to the law.

The secretaries of the Central Electoral Commission and the constituency commissions must be lawyer.

These commissions make decisions by a majority of votes.

Article 35. The Central Electoral Commission consists of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, and 14 members.

The composition of the Central Electoral Commission is decided by the president of the republic on the proposal of the Council of Ministers and the political parties who have submitted electoral lists for the distribution of the additional mandates, no later than 45 days before the election day.

Political parties that do not have members in the Central Electoral Commission have the right to send observers.

Article 36. The Central Electoral Commission mainly performs these duties:

a) it ensures the meticulous and fair enforcement of this law during the conduct of the elections throughout the territory of the Republic of Albania;

b) it prescribes the management of procedure and controls the activities of the constituency electoral commissions;

c) it considers appeals against illegal and irregular acts and activities on the part of the constituency electoral commissions;

ch) it registers and reports the participation in the elections of parties, groups of parties, and independent candidates, together with their symbols and emblems. No party or group has the right, after registration, to use the symbols of another party or group of parties;

d) it exercises control over the registration in the constituencies of candidates for posts as People's Assembly deputies

dh) [sixth letter of Albanian alphabet] it establishes rules for the participation of Albanian and foreign observers in the elections and supplies them with identifying documents;

e) it inspects when necessary the electoral rolls after the conclusion of the elections and informs the competent authorities when it ascertains that a citizen has voted more than once;

e) [e-dieresis, eighth letter of Albanian alphabet] it reports the results of the elections and registers deputies to the People's Assembly;

f) it issues certificates of election to deputies elected on the basis of nationwide party lists.

Article 37. A constituency electoral commission is created in every constituency, consisting of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, a representative of every electoral subject or electoral group fielding candidates in the constituency, as well as a member without a party allegiance, when the commission has an even number of members. The secretary and the nonparty member are chosen by the prefect, and the chairman and deputy chairman are chosen by the Central Electoral Commission.

The constituency electoral commissions are appointed as above by the Central Electoral Commission no later than 30 days before the election day.

Article 38. A constituency electoral commission performs the following duties:

a) it supervises the meticulous and fair enforcement of this law during the conduct of the elections throughout the territory of the constituency;

b) it controls the activities of the polling station commissions during the conduct of the elections;

c) it supervises the arrangement of polling stations according to the law;

ch) if necessary, it asks the authorities that have compiled electoral rolls to correct errors and omissions observed in them;

d) it registers and announces the candidates for deputy that have been nominated according to the rules of this law;

dh) it registers representatives of candidate for posts of deputy nominated by different parties, groups or parties, and independent candidates, and provides them with the relevant certificates;

e) it counts the votes on the basis of the protocols of the polling stations and declares the results of the elections in the constituency

e) [e-dieresis] it considers complaints against legal or irregular acts or activities on the part of the polling station commissions;

f) it issues to an elected deputy a certificate of his election;

g) it delivers to the Central Electoral Commission the election documentation laid down in this law.

Article 39. In every polling station, a polling station commission is created consisting of a chairman, a secretary, and a representative of every electoral subject or electoral group that has a candidate in this constituency, and one nonparty member when there is an even number on the commission. The secretary and the nonparty member are appointed by the prefect, and the chairman is appointed by the constituency commission.

The constituency electoral commission approves and announces the composition of the polling station commission no later than 25 days before the election day.

Article 40. The polling station commission performs the following duties:

a) it ensures the free and peaceful conduct of the elections in the polling station, in accordance with this law;

b) it ensures that order is kept during the voting;

c) it counts the number of votes cast for every candidate for deputy;

ch) it compiles and delivers to the constituency electoral commission the protocol of the voting;

d) it register in the protocol complaints and requests of electors or candidates, considers them, and makes the appropriate decision;

dh) it sends to the constituency the documentation of the election, as prescribed in this law.

Article 41. The instructions of the chairmen of the polling station commission during the time of the elections are binding on all citizens present in the polling station. These instructions can only be revoked by a decision of the polling station commission.

Article 42. The members of the electoral commission can be released from their duties on these commissions by the authority that approve the commissions' composition, on the application of the members themselves or on the proposal of the electoral subject they represent.

Article 43. Servicemen, personnel or the organs of public order and the National Intelligence Service, and candidates for posts as People's Assembly Deputies cannot be members of the commissions.

Article 44. Meetings of the electoral commissions are public. Observers may also attend and have the right to make criticisms. At their request, these criticisms will be noted in the protocol of the commission's meeting.

Article 45. Electoral subjects with representatives on the electoral commissions have the right to present a list with the names of persons substituting for them. They may be substituted when they are unable to perform their duties. Their substitution takes places in the following way:

a) in the case of polling station commissions, on the application of the relevant electoral subject and by a decision of the constituency electoral commission;

b) in the case of constituency electoral commission, by a decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 46. Persons who are members of the Central Electoral Commission or the constituency electoral commissions obtain paid leave from work from the day of their appointment, while members of the polling station commissions have the right to take paid leave from work five days before and two days after the voting.

The above persons are remunerated from the stated budget, at a level determined by the Central Electoral Commission.

The level of remuneration for members of the Central Electoral Commission is determined by the president of the republic.

Article 47. All persons who are members of the electoral commissions are considered person entrusted with state duties, in the sense used in the Penal Code during the exercise of their duties.

Article 48. Members of the electoral commissions and observers, while they perform their duties, are forbidden to wear distinguishing marks or symbols or of the parties or groups of parties to which they belong, or to carry out or participate in propaganda work for the elections.

Chapter VII

Appeals Against the Decisions of the Electoral Commissions

Article 49. Appeals against the decisions of the constituency electoral commissions can be lodged with the Central Electoral Commission within three days after these decisions are announced.

The Central Electoral Commission considers the appeal and makes an appropriate decision within three days.

Article 50. Appeals against the decisions of the Central Electoral Commission may be lodged with the Constitutional Court within three days after these decisions are announced.

The Constitutional Court considers the appeal and gives a final decision within three days, which is announced immediately.

The decisions of the Constitutional Court issued following in response to appeals against the election results are reported to the Commission of Mandates of the new People's Assembly.

Chapter VIII

The Election Campaign

Article 51. The election campaign begins with the announcement of the election day and ends 24 hours before that date.

Article 52. During the election campaign, every electoral subject and citizen has the right to freely conduct propaganda through rallies, meetings, the radio, television, the press, and other mass media.

Any kind of propaganda in contravention of the law, the judicial order, or that affects the personal dignity of the candidates is forbidden.

The publication of opinion polls in connection with the election is suspended eight days before the election day.

Article 53. The election campaign on the state radio-television is conducted in programs specially devoted to it. In the first round of the elections, the space given to the electoral subjects is distributed among them according to the following rules:

1. Parties, which in the previous elections won seats in the People's Assembly, are allocated a total broadcast time of four hours, one-half of which belongs to the parties represented in the government and one-half to the non-governing parties, according to their number of seats in the People's Assembly, but no less than 20 minutes.
2. All other electoral subjects, which have nominated candidates for deputies in no fewer than 15 constituencies, are allocated 10 minutes.
3. One day before the closure of the election campaign, all these subjects are permitted to compile short summaries of their programs addressed to the electorate, up to five minutes.

In the second round, the amount of time placed at the disposal of the electoral subjects, in accordance with the regulations above, is halved.

No less than five days after the creation of the Central Electoral Commission, the management of Albanian Radio-Television must send to the commission the platform and program of the electoral broadcasts to be made available to the electoral subjects.

The Central Electoral Commission organizes on Albanian Radio-Television programs for the education of the population about the elections, without party bias.

Article 54. Candidates and electoral subjects have the right to use different propaganda material such as slogans, announcements, pamphlets, etc., on which the name of the electoral subject preparing the material must be noted. This material may not be damaged until after the campaign.

Local government authorities must secure equal opportunities for the propaganda of every electoral subject.

Article 55. The conduct of the election campaign is forbidden in military bases and units and in apolitical institutions. The commanders of military bases and units will allow the use of the mass media during free time, and also participation in the election campaign outside the bases and units, but within the territory of the constituency.

Article 56. Persons who do not have Albanian citizenship are forbidden to take part in the election campaign.

Article 57. Local government authorities and all other state authorities have no right to distribute electoral propaganda material or to assist in the conduct of propaganda.

Article 58. The state contributes to the election campaign of the electoral subjects in the following way:

- a) fifty percent of the sum allocated is distributed to the electoral subjects in proportion to the number of candidates for deputy they have registered.
- B) fifty percent of the sum allocated is distributed to the parties in accordance with the number of votes they gained nationwide in previous elections.

If an electoral subject does not win more than 3 percent of the votes in all the constituencies where it has stood, it is obliged to return to the states the sum given to it in finance.

The Finance Ministry is charged with the task of issuing financial regulations for the use and control of the funds granted.

Article 59. It is forbidden to insult or slander candidates for deputy and electoral subjects.

Article 60. It is forbidden to break up or disrupt legitimate electoral meetings and rallies.

Article 61. The jobs of candidates for posts as People's Assembly deputies, when they take leave from work during the election campaign, are kept for them and they are paid in full when they are employed by the state, and in other cases are paid by the Central Electoral Commission.

The jobs of persons mentioned in Article 19 are not kept.

Article 62. Candidates for deputy cannot be helped penally responsible, arrested, or detained, except when they commit obvious and serious crimes.

Chapter IX

The Voting

Article 63. The voting for People's deputies takes place on premises decided on by the local government authorities the relevant administrative units in districts, regions, towns, urban neighborhoods and villages.

It is forbidden to use the buildings of political parties and apolitical stations as polling stations.

Article 64. Voting for People's Assembly deputies takes place on a nationwide nonworking day.

Voting begin at 0700 and ends at 2000, If there are still people waiting at 2000 voting continues until all those present have finished.

The chairman of the polling station commission declares the start of the voting at 0700 on the polling day, in the presence of more than one-half of the members of the commission.

Voting begins with the inspection of the ballot boxes in the presence of the commission and the observers. The boxes are then closed and sealed with the seal of the polling station, which is carefully kept.

The chairman of the polling station commission, in the presence of the commission, stamps all the ballot papers in the top left-hand corner, and notes the number of them in the protocol, which is signed by all the members of the commission present.

After the ballot papers are stamped, the polling station commission chairman and the representatives of different parties sign the ballot papers on the right-hand side, in the presence of members of the commission.

Article 65. Electors vote according to the order in which they arrive.

Every elector is obliged to prove his identity by presenting his identity card, his military identity card in the case of servicemen, or his international passport in the case of those coming from abroad, including a photograph in every case.

When an elector does not possess the identity documents mentioned in the preceding paragraph, he must apply to the civil registry office of his place of residence for a special voting certificate.

Servicemen are not allowed to arrive at the polling station in ordered ranks or with weapons. Only servicemen on duty are allowed to arrive in uniform.

After an elector's identity documents are checked against the electoral roll, the elector signs the electoral roll. After the number of his identity document is noted, the elector takes a ballot paper and votes. After the voting, the final page of his identity document is stamped.

When it is noticed that a ballot paper is not in order, it is set aside, recorded, signed as invalid, and replaced with another one by the chairman.

Article 66. The voting room may have several booths in order to hasten the voting. It is forbidden for the booths in the voting room to contain ballot papers.

The table of the commissions positioned in such a way as to enable the members of the commission and the representatives of the electoral subjects to move freely around it. The ballot boxes are positioned in a place visible to everyone present.

It is forbidden for any other person or member of the polling station commission to be present in the voting booth, except in cases when the voter cannot complete the necessary voting procedure himself and asked for assistance from a person he has selected. The chosen person has the right to accompany only one elector. In these cases, the elector obtains permission from the chairman of the polling station commission, and this is noted on the electoral roll.

It is not allowed to vote openly or outside the booths in the polling room. In such cases, the vote is considered invalid and is torn up by the commission before it is put into the ballot box, while the elector is given the opportunity to vote again.

When there is an elector in the polling booth, it is forbidden for any other person to be nearer than three meters from the booth.

If it is necessary to impose order in the polling station, the chairman of the polling station commission can seek assistance from the police.

Armed persons are forbidden to enter the polling station.

Electoral subjects have the right to send to each polling station one observer, who is equipped with authorization from the constituency electoral commission.

Article 67. Voting is carried out on a standard ballot paper, of model of which is attached to this law. Ballot papers are identical in shape, size, color, and kind of paper. Constituency electoral commissions are given 10 percent more ballot papers than the number of electors registered on their relevant electoral rolls.

The ballot paper is clearly divided into two parts. Votes for candidates as deputies on the left, and votes for electoral subjects on the right. The symbol of the electoral subject and the names of the candidates are on the left, listed according to the alphabetical order of the electoral subjects to which they belong. The words independent candidate are written in the case of independent candidates. The symbols and names of the electoral subjects who have submitted lists for the distribution of additional mandates appear on the right, with their symbols, according to the alphabetical order of the electoral subjects.

Article 68. The left hand part of the ballot paper, which records the vote for the candidate for deputy to be elected directly for the constituency is valid when the elector leaves unmarked only the name of the candidate for which he is voting and crosses out with a line the names of all the other candidates. The right-hand side of the ballot paper, which records the vote for the electoral subject submitting a list for the distribution of additional mandates, is valid when the elector leaves unmarked only the name of the electoral subject he favors.

Article 69. All ballot papers that are erroneously completed, torn, damaged, or used are preserved for the final inventory and inspection.

Article 70. When there are serious violations of the voting procedure, the polling station commission may decide to suspend the voting until these violations are corrected. This decision is reported immediately to the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 71. A ballot paper with the names of the constituency's candidates for deputy and the electoral subjects lists of candidates for deputy nationwide are posted outside the polling room or in another obvious place where they can be read.

Chapter X

Results of the voting

Article 72. Immediately after the voting ends, the chairman of the polling station commission, in the presence of the commission and the authorized observers:

a) declares the voting over;

b) counts the number of electors who have voted according to the lists, which must be signed by the commission's chairman and secretary, and any representative of an electoral subject who so wishes.

The lists are inserted in an envelope that is stamped with the same seal of the polling station. The envelope is signed by the chairman and the secretary of the commission and representatives of electoral subjects who so wish. The envelope is delivered to the constituency electoral commission, from whom the relevant certificate is obtained.

c) counts the number of unused ballots, which are handled the way described in the second paragraph of section b).

These steps must be carried out in the above order and noted in the final protocol.

Article 73. After these steps have been carried out:

a) The ballot box is opened, and one of the members of the commission, decided by lot, takes out a ballot paper and hands it to the chairman, who audibly states whether the vote is valid and for which candidate and electoral subject its votes belong. He gives this ballot paper to all the other members of the commission and all observers present to see. Only when its results have been recorded and the ballot paper has been put in an appointed place can another ballot paper be taken out;

b) the number of used, valid and invalid ballot papers is recorded;

c) it is checked that their number corresponds to the figures in the protocol, and they are recounted if necessary.

These steps are carried out in the above order, and the procedure is recorded in the protocol.

Article 74.

1. Ballot papers are invalid when:

a) when they do not match standards of shape, size, color, kind of paper and text, and do not carry the relevant seal and signatures of the constituency.

b) when other names are added to the ballot paper.

c) when the ballot paper is marked with writing or other signs that allow the identity of the elector to be understood.

The polling station commission considers the validity of the vote. Dubious votes are first examined and subsequently assessed. Any objection by the members of the committee is noted in the protocol and these ballot papers are preserved separately.

2. A vote for a candidate for deputy is invalid when more than one candidate on the left-hand side of the ballot paper is left without being crossed out, or all the candidates are crossed out.

A vote for an electoral subject is invalid when more than one electoral subject on the right-hand side of the ballot paper is left without being crossed out, or all the electoral subjects are crossed out.

Article 75. When the voting has ended and the votes have been considered and counted, the relevant protocol is drawn up.

The protocol includes:

1. The number of the constituency and the polling station.
2. The times when the voting started and ended.
3. The number of voters on the electoral roll.
4. The number of voters on the additional list.
5. The number of people who have voted according to the annotations on the electoral rolls.
6. The number of invalid ballot papers.
7. The number of valid votes a) for each candidate and b) for each electoral subject.
8. The number of invalid votes for a) each candidate and b) for each electoral subject.
9. The number of ballot papers set aside unused before the voting.
10. The number of unused ballot papers.
11. The number of copies in which the protocol has been drawn up.
12. The various comments made by individual members of the commission and observers.

The data under items 3 to 11 are provided in figures and words.

Each page of the protocol is signed. Any corrections are signed, with the annotation correction.

Every electoral subject has the right to receive a copy of the protocol.

Article 76. The polling station commission sends to the constituency electoral commission copies of the protocol with the results of the voting, in at least two copies, one of which is

for the Central Electoral Commission, as well as the ballot papers, the seals, the ballot boxes, and all other material.

All this material is handed over personally by the chairman and secretary of the polling station commissions, together with any representative of the electoral subjects who wishes to be present.

Article 77. The constituency electoral commission compiles the results of the voting on the basis of the data in the protocols of the polling stations and announces them in the form of a protocol, which includes:

1. The number of the constituency.
2. The number of polling stations.
3. The polling stations that have submitted protocols.
4. The number of electors according to the electoral rolls.
5. The number of electors on the additional lists.
6. The number of those who voted, according to the annotations on the electoral rolls.
8. [No seven as published] The number of valid votes: a) for each candidate b) for each electoral subject
9. The number of invalid votes: a) for the candidate b) for the electoral subject.
10. The number of ballot papers set aside unused before the voting.
11. The number of unused ballot papers.
12. The number of copies in which the protocol has been drawn up.
13. The first name, father's name, and surname of the winning candidate, and, if a second round of elections must be held, the first name, father's name, and surname of the leading two candidates.
14. Complaints, criticisms, and decisions on these matters.

The data under items four to 12 are given in figures and words.

Article 78. The constituency electoral commission must send to the Central Electoral Commission a copy of every protocol it has kept, and of the protocols submitted by the polling station commissions.

The constituency electoral commission sends to the relevant prefecture the envelopes, ballot papers, and all other material that arrives from the polling station.

The above material is delivered by the chairman and secretary of the constituency electoral commission and any representative of the electoral subjects who wishes to be present.

Article 79. The Central Electoral Commission declares the results of the elections and publishes them in the Official Gazette [Fletorja Zyrtare] no later than 10 days after the conclusion of the second round.

All the material of the Central Electoral Commission, including the ballot papers and seals collected from the prefectures, is sent to the archive of the People's Assembly no later than 10 days after the conclusion of the elections and the settlement of any possible conflict.

After the Commission of Mandates and immunity of the new legislature of the People's Assembly has verified the mandates, the Presidium of the People's Assembly, having sounded the opinion of this commission, decided for how long the ballot papers must be preserved. This period must not be longer than for four years.

Chapter XI

Termination of the Mandates of People's Assembly Deputies

Article 80. The mandate of a People's Assembly deputy lasts four years, except when the People's Assembly is dissolved early on the basis of the Main Constitutional Dispositions. The mandate begins on the day on which the legislature of the People's Assembly meets for its first session, and ends on the day on which the next assembly meets. After the People's Assembly is dissolved, before the meeting of a new People's Assembly, the assembly can be reconvened by a decree of the president, on the proposal of the Council of Ministers.

The mandate of a People's Assembly Deputy also ends before its due time in the following cases:

- a) when a deputy resigns;
- b) when a deputy is declared guilty of a crime by a final verdict of the court;
- c) when a deputy refused to take the oath laid down in the rules of the People's Assembly;
- ch) when a deputy loses the right to be elected for one of the reasons mentioned in this law;
- d) when a deputy dies.

Article 81. When the mandate of a deputy comes to an end before its due time, the Commission of Mandates of the People's Assembly replaces the deputy whose mandate has ended before its due time by choosing the next candidate from the electoral list of the relevant electoral subject, who has not gained a seat from the distribution of seats according to the nationwide electoral list. When there is no such candidate, this mandate is given to the candidate nominated by the same electoral subject in one of the

constituencies who gained the largest number of votes without winning in his constituency and without figuring on the electoral list of the relevant subject. When there are two such candidates, the deputy is chosen by lot.

When a deputy undertakes another duty incompatible with his mandate, he is replaced by the procedure described in the first paragraph of this article.

Chapter XII

Penal and Administrative Dispositions

Article 82. Anybody who, in his own interests or on behalf of third persons, offers money, employment, or other favors of whatever kind in exchange for a signature for the nomination of a candidate, a vote for or against a candidate, or for nonparticipation in the voting is liable to imprisonment for between six months and three years.

Electors who accept money, jobs, or other favors of whatever kind for such behavior are also liable to get the same punishments.

Those who threaten or coerce electors into such behavior are liable to the same punishments.

Article 83. Anybody who, in his own interests or on behalf of third persons, distributes money, consumer goods, or other gifts in any way during the election campaign or on election day, in order to influence the elections, is liable to imprisonment of between one and three years.

Article 84. Breaches of other regulations of this law are punished by fines of 10,000 to 50,000 leks, except in cases when these misdemeanors constitute penal acts.

Article 85. The amount of the fine is increase from 50,000 to 100,000 leks in cases when the breach of these regulations is against the proper preservation and administration of the ballot papers, the electoral rolls, the ballot boxes, and the protocols of the voting, except in cases when the misdemeanor constitutes a penal act.

Article 86. Persons entrusted with tasks on the basis of this law, when they do not apply the regulations under Articles 84 and 85 of this law, are liable to fines of 100,000 to 150,000 leks, except in cases when the misdemeanor constitutes a penal act.

Article 87. Decisions for punishments by fines for administrative misdemeanors are made by the constituency electoral commissions or the Central Electoral Commission.

Decisions for punishment by fines, in their final form, have an executive character.

Chapter XIII

Transitional and Final Dispositions

Article 88. The Central Electoral Commission issues special instructions for the enforcement of this law.

Article 89. In the sense of this law, the following can be considered observers:

--parliamentary representatives of OSCE member-states, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, and other human rights organizations;

--representatives of foreign political parties and movements and individuals invited by parties and groups of parties;

--representatives authorized by domestic and foreign institutions with specialist knowledge of elections.

Article 90. Election observers, journalists, and media representatives accredited to our country will be equipped with special authorization by the Central Electoral Commission.

Election observers have the right to move freely throughout the territory of the Republic of Albania and to follow and observe all the activities conducted during the election campaign and on election day. They have the right to ask for and collect data and to state their opinions in public, as impartial representatives.

Article 91. Albanian citizens permanently resident abroad or who have lived abroad for more than one year, who present in Albania and wish to take part in the elections, must prove their identity with their international passport. They must sign a declaration to state that they do not possess a valid identity card within the territory of the Republic of Albania.

Article 92. The Council of Ministers is charged with the securing the material and financial resources for the organizational measures to enforce this law.

Article 93. The Law on Elections to the People's Assembly No. 7,556 of 4 February 1992 and all other dispositions conflicting with this law are repealed.

Article 94. This law comes into effect immediately.

Promulgated by the decree of Sali Berisha, president of the Republic of Albania, No. 1,358 of 3 February 1996.