

**Law 5224/2025 (A' 142) "Establishment of a Legal Entity under Public Law under the name 'Greek Orthodox Sacred Royal Autonomous Monastery of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai in Greece', regulations on matters under the competence of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, enhancing security in higher education institutions, provisions on sports, granting of a lifetime pension to literary figures and artists for the year 2025, and other provisions"**

**REGULATION OF MATTERS WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

**CHAPTER I**

**PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

**Article 21 Purpose**

The purpose of Part B is:

- a. to ensure the unhindered exercise of the right of worship of all religious communities and their members, through the establishment of a modern, comprehensive, and coherent legislative framework governing places of worship of religious communities with or without legal personality, with the exception of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as provided for in Article 3 of the Constitution,
- b. to strengthen the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies and the Departments of Theology of Higher Education Institutions through the admission of foreign students of non-Greek origin,
- c. to facilitate the charitable and public-benefit activities of ecclesiastical institutions,
- d. to reinforce the Schools of Apprenticeship for Candidate Clergy and to facilitate the enrollment of foreign students in Model Ecclesiastical Schools,
- e. to rationalize the staffing of Holy Metropolises,
- f. to recognize the Church of Sweden in Greece as a religious legal entity pursuant to Law No. 4301/2014 (Government Gazette A' 223), concerning the organization of the legal form of religious communities and their associations in Greece, and
- g. to recognize the Bektashi–Alevi Muslims of Thrace as a religious legal entity pursuant to Law No. 4301/2014.

**Article 22**

**Subject**

The subject of Part B is:

- a. the definition of places of worship and the provision of procedures for the licensing, construction, establishment, operation, relocation, and building modifications of places of worship of religious communities with or without legal personality, with the exception of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as provided for in Article 3 of the Constitution,

- b. the expansion of eligibility to participate in the entrance examinations of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies to include graduates of Higher Education Institutions, Technological Educational Institutions, or institutions equivalent thereto, Higher Schools of Pedagogical and Technological Education, in Greece or abroad, and the introduction of the possibility to admit, in excess of the prescribed intake quota, foreign students of non-Greek origin to the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies and to the Departments of Theology of Higher Education Institutions,
- c. the regulation of the legal status of ecclesiastical institutions,
- d. the introduction of the possibility for clergy to attend the Schools of Apprenticeship for Candidate Clergy and the facilitation of the enrollment of foreign students in Model Ecclesiastical Schools,
- e. the introduction of the possibility for married clergy to attend educational programs of the Schools of Apprenticeship for Candidate Clergy,
- f. the provision of the right to teach at the Schools of Apprenticeship for Candidate Clergy to members of the Laboratory Teaching Staff of Higher Education Institutions,
- g. the reallocation of established positions of parish priests and ecclesiastical employees of the Holy Metropolises and the regulation of matters concerning hierodeacons of the Panhellenic Sacred Foundation of the Annunciation of Tinos,
- h. the provision for a digital system for the issuance of permits for weddings and baptisms by the Church of Greece,
- i. the provision for the granting of a residence permit of type "A.5" to students of Model Ecclesiastical Schools residing in student dormitories,
- j. the recognition of the Church of Sweden in Greece as a religious legal entity pursuant to Law No. 4301/2014 (Government Gazette A' 223), and
- k. the recognition of the Bektashi–Alevi Muslims of Thrace as a religious legal entity pursuant to Law No. 4301/2014.