

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 A

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,

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.

CHAPTER B

PLACES OF WORSHIP AND RELIGIOUS MINISTERS OF KNOWN RELIGIONS

Article 23

Scope of Application

The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to all 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, which shall be governed by special provisions, unless otherwise explicitly provided herein.

Article 24

Places of Worship

1. places of worship are locations dedicated to the expression of religious reverence or the performance of acts of worship and are classified as follows:
 - a. prayer houses, namely places of worship with a surface area of up to two hundred (200) square meters and
 - b. temples, namely places of worship with a surface area exceeding two hundred (200) square meters.
2. The layout of a place of worship shall demonstrate that the distinct area of the main worship space is predominant and determines the use of the space subject to licensing, occupying at least two thirds (2/3) of the total area of the space subject to licensing. Minor deviations from the above percentage may be examined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the specific characteristics of the space, following a reasoned report by the competent engineer, provided that the predominant worship character of the space is not undermined.

3. A place of worship may not be used as a permanent or temporary residence or as accommodation for any person, including the religious minister.

4. Prayer houses and temples existing prior to the year 1955 may be licensed in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 26, in areas where the applicable urban planning framework and land-use legislation permit the specific land use category of “religious spaces,” without any additional requirement, unless explicitly required by the regulatory planning framework of the area.

Article 25

Designation of Places of Worship

1. The designation of a place of worship shall, in particular, indicate the religious identity of the place, comply with the principle of truthfulness, not contravene public order, good morals, or the international relations of the country, not be used abusively, and not infringe upon the rights of third parties, in particular those of other religious communities, so that the true and accurate religious identity of the place of worship is clearly established without any possibility of confusion. Where, for religious reasons, the designation is expressed in another language, it shall be rendered into the Greek language by means of a faithful translation, with the option of including the original designation in Latin characters in parentheses, so that the true and accurate religious identity of the place of worship is clearly established without any possibility of confusion. Any incorrect or misleading rendering of the designation into the Greek language shall render it unacceptable.

2. Any change in the designation of a place of worship shall require authorization by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, issued following a relevant application and provided that the conditions set forth in paragraph 1 are fulfilled.

Article 26

Licensing Procedure for Places of Worship of Recognized Religions and Notification Obligations

1. For the construction, establishment, operation, relocation, addition (vertically or by extension), and for any type of construction work in an existing place of worship, or for the demolition of a place of worship of any religious community with or without legal personality, a license is required, issued by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports upon application, and issued in the name of the religious minister. The issuance of the license under the first sentence constitutes a prerequisite for the issuance of the relevant administrative acts, such as building permits and pre-approvals for construction works or changes of use required under urban planning legislation for the operation of the place of worship, approvals from competent authorities or collective bodies, as well as for the submission of notifications. The religious minister is obliged to post, in proximity to the main entrance and at a publicly visible external point of the place, a clearly legible sign indicating the name of the place of worship as stated in the license, the Internet Publication Number of the license, and the religious community to which it belongs.

2. Places of worship existing prior to 1955 operate legally without the license referred to in paragraph 1, provided they hold the relevant certification issued upon their application by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports.

3. Licensing for the construction, establishment, and operation of prayer houses requires an application signed by at least five (5) individuals and one (1) religious minister, who are Greek citizens, citizens of European Union (E.U.) member states, or third-country nationals legally residing in Greece. A natural person acting as a religious minister or as a member of the administration of a public law legal entity under Article 1 of Law No. 2456/1920 (A' 173) or Article 1 of Legislative Decree 301/1969 (A' 195), or of an ecclesiastical or religious legal entity under Law No. 4301/2014 (A' 223), may co-sign more than two (2) applications.

4. Licensing for the construction, establishment, and operation of temples requires an application signed by at least one hundred (100) individuals and one (1) religious minister, who are Greek citizens, citizens of E.U. member states, or third-country nationals legally residing in Greece. A natural person acting as a religious minister or as a member of the administration of a public law legal entity under Article 1 of Law No. 2456/1920 or Article 1 of Legislative Decree 301/1969, or of an ecclesiastical or religious legal entity under Law No. 4301/2014, may co-sign more than two (2) applications.

5. Issuance of licenses under paragraph 1 for places of worship of the Muslim minority of Thrace requires the consent of the relevant Mufti.

6. Licenses under paragraph 1 for places of worship of the Israelite (Jewish) religion shall only be granted to a Public Law Legal Entity under Article 1 of Law No. 2456/1920 and Article 1 of Legislative Decree 301/1969.

7. Religious communities and religious ministers, including those of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ under Article 3 of the Constitution and its ministers, when acting in their capacity as religious members:

- a. are obliged to explicitly and clearly declare the religious community to which they belong: (aa) when publishing books, periodicals, or other religious publications, or broadcasting radio, television, or online programs of religious content, or systematically posting publications and material presenting or transmitting religious teaching on online networks, communication, and information media, and in any informational or promotional material that they distribute, send or disseminate under their responsibility to the public outside their religious community, by any means of information or communication, with the purpose of propagating the religious beliefs of their religious community or recruiting new members to their religious community, (ab) in collective communication with natural persons or representatives or members of associations or legal entities not belonging to their religious community, by any means of communication, for the purpose of propagating the religious beliefs of their religious community or recruiting new members to their religious community, and
- b. must respect the recipients' refusal to receive the religious material or content referred to in subparagraphs (aa) and (ab) above and shall not repeat communication for the purposes described therein. Administrative fines, as defined in the joint ministerial decision under paragraph 2 of Article 62, shall be imposed on violators.

8. The license for a place of worship under paragraph 1 or the certification under paragraph 2 may be revoked in particular due to:

- a. violation of constitutional provisions, public order rules, or national security as defined in Article 3 of Law No. 5002/2022 (A' 228),
- b. violation of the terms and conditions for issuance of administrative acts under paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article,
- c. absence of a religious minister for a period exceeding six (6) months;
- d. discontinuation of operation of the place of worship for a period exceeding six (6) months, as established by any appropriate evidence,
- e. operation of the place of worship for purposes other than the expression of religious reverence or the performance of acts of worship, as established by any appropriate evidence,
- f. failure to notify the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Tax Identification Number of the place of worship within thirty (30) days from the date of issuance of the license for establishment and operation,
- g. upon request of the religious community.

Article 27

Replacement, Suspension, and Dismissal of Religious Ministers from the Registry under Article 14 of Law 4301/2014

1. The replacement or suspension of a religious minister, or any deputy or deputies thereof, is permitted with the authorization of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, issued upon request of the respective religious community.
2. Registration of a religious minister in the registry referred to in Article 14 of Law 4301/2014 (Official Gazette A' 223) shall be suspended upon the initiation of criminal prosecution until the issuance of a final court decision for felonies or the following misdemeanors:
 - a. theft, embezzlement, fraud, extortion, forgery, bribery, breach of trust, breach of duty, false testimony, false accusation, defamation, any crime against sexual freedom or economic exploitation of sexual life, bodily harm to a fetus or newborn, offenses under Law 3500/2006 (Official Gazette A' 232) on domestic violence, abduction of minors, illegal detention, illegal violence, vigilantism, threat, disruption of religious gatherings,
 - b. violence against public officials and judges, undue influence over judicial officers, disruption of official operations, disruption of court proceedings, disobedience, mutiny, impersonation, violation of official seals, failure to maintain security of the authorities,
 - c. incitement to disobedience, incitement to commit crimes, violence, or discord, solicitation or offer to commit a crime, criminal organization, terrorist acts or terrorist organization, punishable support, disturbance of public peace, threats to commit crimes, dissemination of false information, desecration of symbols or places of national or religious significance,
 - d. offenses under Law 927/1979 (Official Gazette A' 139) regarding acts aimed at racial discrimination,
 - e. proselytism under Article 4 of Legislative Decree 1363/1938 (Official Gazette A' 305),
 - f. offenses under Law 4139/2013 (Official Gazette A' 74) regarding addictive substances, and
 - g. impersonation of a religious minister.

The suspension under this paragraph also applies to violations of paragraph 7 of Article 26. In the case of a final conviction, the religious minister shall be removed from the registry.

3. If the religious minister under paragraph 2 is a third-country citizen holding a residence permit, such permit shall be revoked without any voluntary departure period. If the individual applies for a residence permit, the application shall be denied without any voluntary departure period. For the purposes of this provision, the public prosecutor conducting the criminal prosecution or the clerk of the criminal court issuing a final decision shall immediately notify the Directorate of Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the criminal prosecution or the final court decision, respectively.

Article 28

Sealing of Places of Worship – Criminal Penalties – Administrative Fines

1. Places of worship that are constructed or operated without the authorization of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports shall be closed and sealed by the competent police authority, and the sealing decision shall be communicated to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports. Any person who possesses, erects, or operates a place of worship without the authorization under paragraph 1 of Article 26, or alters the use of such place in violation of the permit, shall be punished by imprisonment of two (2) to six (6) months and an administrative fine, as determined by the joint ministerial decision referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 62. If those are foreign nationals, administrative repatriation shall be imposed in accordance with Articles 21–30 of Law 3907/2011 (Official Gazette A' 7). If they are third-country citizens holding a residence permit, the permit shall be revoked without a voluntary departure period. If they are third-country citizens applying for a residence permit, the application shall be rejected without a voluntary departure period.

2. Submission of an application for the issuance of the permit under paragraph 1 of Article 26 does not suspend the enforcement of this provision.

Article 29

Granting of Government or Local Authority Properties for Use as Places of Worship

1. Places of worship that are classified as monuments in accordance with the Code of Legislation for the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage (Law 4858/2021, Official Gazette A' 220) may, by decision of the Minister of Culture, be granted for temporary use to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs solely for the purpose of conducting specific religious rites of recognized religious communities.

2. Entities of the Central Government or Local Government Organizations (LGOs) of first and second degree may, following the prescribed procedure, grant the use of spaces under their exclusive ownership, possession, and control for the performance of specific and particularly significant religious ceremonies to ecclesiastical or religious legal entities under Law 4301/2014 (A' 223) or to recognized religious communities, upon certification by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs that the recipient is an ecclesiastical or religious legal entity under Law 4301/2014 or holds at least one (1) permit for a place of worship. The granting referred to in this paragraph may not exceed six (6) days per year for each religious community. Municipalities are obliged to notify the competent police authority in writing and to take appropriate measures to ensure the safe conduct of the religious activities of the concerned parties.

3. Entities of the Central Government or LGOs of first and second degree may lease or grant free of charge the use of spaces under their exclusive ownership, possession, and control solely to religious public law legal entities or ecclesiastical or religious legal entities under Law 4301/2014 for the exclusive purpose of conducting their religious worship. In such cases, the permit under paragraph 1 of Article 26 is required for the lawful operation of the places of worship.

Article 30

Administrative Measures

In the event of: (a) the construction, establishment, operation, relocation of places of worship, vertical or horizontal extensions, execution of any type of building works in an existing place of worship, or the demolition of places of worship without the permit of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports as provided under paragraph 1 of Article 26, and (b) the violation of the terms and conditions governing the operation of legally licensed places of worship, as stipulated in Articles 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29, administrative fines shall be imposed in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 62.

CHAPTER H

BEKTASHI ALEVI MUSLIMS OF THRACE

Article 49

Recognition of the Religious Community of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace as a Religious Legal Entity

1. The religious community of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace is recognized as a religious legal entity governed by private law, under Article 2 of Law 4301/2014 (Government Gazette A' 223), under the name "Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity", having its registered seat in Roussa, of the local community of Mikro Dereio, of the municipal unit of Orfeas, of the Municipality of Soufli, in the Regional Unit of Evros, without the obligation to submit an application for recognition through the voluntary jurisdiction procedure before the competent Single-Member Court of First Instance.

2. Within an exclusive time limit of one (1) year from the publication of this Act in the Government Gazette, the religious legal entity "Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity" shall submit a relevant application, together with the supporting documents provided for in Article 3 of Law 4301/2014, to the Court of First Instance of its seat, in order to be automatically registered in the relevant register of religious legal entities. The deed of establishment and the regulation governing organization and operation, signed by at least three hundred (300) members of the legal entity, shall be mandatorily submitted together with the remaining required documents and shall be mandatorily notified to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. Registration shall be effected by an act of the Head of the Court. If the above deadline lapses without action, no public authority shall engage in any transaction with the aforementioned religious legal entity.

3. Members of the religious community of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace, including the members of the religious legal entity "Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace – Religious Legal Entity", as members of the Muslim Minority of Thrace, retain the rights provided for in the provisions on minority protection of the Treaty of Lausanne and in Greek legislation, and Article 146 of Law 4964/2022 (A' 150), concerning the jurisdiction, powers and duties of the Muftis of Thrace, shall not apply to them.

4. The religious legal entity “Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity” shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter A’ of Law 4301/2014, unless otherwise provided for in Chapter H of the present Act.

Article 50

Places of Worship of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace

1. Existing prayer houses and places of worship, such as jems, cemevis and tekkes, as well as those that may be established in the future by the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace of the religious legal entity by private law under the name “Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity”, shall be administered and represented by that entity within the framework of its organization and operation, as provided for in its regulations.

2. Within a period of two (2) years from the publication of this Act in the Government Gazette, the licenses for the establishment and operation of lawfully existing and operating places of worship shall be reissued in the name of the religious legal entity under the name “Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity”, following its application, co-signed by the religious minister (dede) serving the place of worship, without any further formalities or additional supporting documents.

3. The deadline of paragraph 2 may be extended for one (1) year, by the decision provided for in paragraph 3 of Article 62, up to three (3) times, each time for one (1) year.

Article 51

Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace

1. A non-state legal entity by private law, of a public-benefit and non-profit character, is hereby established under the name “Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace”, supervised by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. Its principal mission shall be the administration of the Waqfs and the management of buildings, plots, estates and, in general, all kinds of urban, agricultural and forest properties, movable assets and revenues dedicated, until the entry into force of this Act, to pious, charitable and generally public-benefit purposes or in favor of a charitable, religious, pious, non-profit institution, particularly for the preservation, maintenance and operation of monuments, jems, cemevis and tekkes, cemeteries of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace and other public-benefit structures, as well as for the implementation of charitable activities, subject to the provisions of Law 4858/2021 (A’ 220) on the protection of antiquities and cultural heritage.

2. The Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace shall be the bearer of all rights and obligations over the dedicated immovable and movable property and revenues transferred to it and shall perform any necessary management act to ensure the continuous fulfilment of its mission and the realization of the general or expressly specified special purpose set by the dedicant of a specific asset. Its mission also includes the management of any immovable or movable property and revenues that come into its ownership, possession or holding under general provisions.

Article 52

Administration of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. The governing body of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace shall be the Board of Directors (BoD). Its members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. The BoD shall consist of five (5) members, exclusively originating from the religious legal entity "Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity", who have attained the age of twenty-one (21) years and are appointed by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, following a proposal by the aforementioned religious legal entity. Members of the BoD may concurrently participate in the administration of the religious legal entity or serve as religious ministers or as Religious Teachers under Article 58, unless they are spouses or blood relatives up to the third degree of members of the administration of the religious legal entity.

2. At the first meeting of the BoD, a Chairman, who shall also be the legal representative of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace, a Treasurer and a Secretary shall be elected from among its members. If the religious legal entity "Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity" fails to propose five (5) members together with their alternates, the remaining members required to complete the number shall be selected by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. In the event of dissolution of the religious legal entity "Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity", all members of its BoD shall be selected by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and shall mandatorily be Bektashi Alevi Muslims.

3. Decisions of the BoD involving a financial object exceeding one thousand five hundred (1,500) euros, as well as all decisions concerning the lease or rental, purchase or sale, transfer, provision of security in rem over the immovable property of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace, the assumption of any kind of borrowing obligations, the acceptance of donations, sponsorships, contributions, inheritances or legacies, and the recruitment of personnel, shall be approved prior to the commencement of their execution by the decision provided for in paragraph 4 of Article 62 and shall be published on the website of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace, in compliance with Regulation EU 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (L 119), and Law 4624/2019 (A' 137).

Article 53

Disqualifications

The following persons may not be appointed as members of the Board of Directors (BoD): (a) a Member of Parliament, Regional Governor, Deputy Regional Governor, or Mayor, (b) any person participating in a Management or Waqf Committee under Law 3647/2008 (A' 37), and (c) any person who has been irrevocably convicted of any felony or of the following misdemeanors: theft, fraud, embezzlement, extortion, forgery, breach of trust, bribery, unlawful certification or collection of public revenues, breach of duty, offences against sexual

freedom and against the economic exploitation of sexual life, false testimony, false accusation, defamation, dissemination of false information and bankruptcy. The disqualification under point (c)

shall also apply for as long as criminal prosecution is pending for any of the above offences. Spouses of members or blood relatives up to the third degree may not simultaneously participate, together with the member, in the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace. A member who has served on the BoD for two (2) consecutive terms may not be proposed for the immediately following term.

Article 54

Incompatibilities

1. Members of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace shall automatically forfeit their status if: (a) any of the cases provided for in Article 53 applies to them, or (b) they fail to comply with Articles 49 to 56 and the ministerial decisions issued pursuant thereto. The declaratory act of forfeiture shall be issued by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports.
2. Until completion of the procedure provided for in paragraph 2 of Article 49, the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace shall be administered by a BoD appointed by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, whose members shall mandatorily be Bektashi Alevis Muslims. Immediately after the registration of the religious legal entity "Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity" in the relevant register under paragraph 2 of Article 49, the procedure for the appointment of the BoD shall commence in accordance with Article 52.
3. Members of the BoD, in the exercise of their duties, shall be liable for intent and gross negligence. The Chairman and the Treasurer shall be subject to the obligation to submit a declaration of assets pursuant to Law 5026/2023 (A' 45).

Article 55

Resources – Revenues

1. The resources and revenues of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace shall include, in particular: (a) income from the management of its assets, interest from the exploitation of its available funds and any other income deriving from the exploitation of its assets, (b) all types of grants and funding from the Public Investment Development Program, subject to the special institutional frameworks of the programs it finances and to the provisions of Law 5140/2024 (Official Gazette A' 154) regarding the new Public Investment Development Program, as well as within the approved budgetary limits of the respective programs and the approved annual appropriations of the competent Ministry (c) grants, sponsorships, donations, inheritances and legacies bequeathed to it.
2. The Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace may receive grants for the fulfilment of its purposes from the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports.
3. The Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace shall submit to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, by the end of March each year, a detailed

balance sheet and financial statement for the immediately preceding year, accompanied by full financial data, as well as a detailed budget for the current year, signed by an accountant or auditor.

4. For the optimal development and fulfilment of its purposes, and in particular to ensure its continuous operation, the preservation and maintenance of major endowments and the coverage of significant or extraordinary expenses, the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace may alienate, from among the endowments they possess, only those movable and immovable assets that are tradable, provided that no express contrary provision by the dedicant exists and that a more beneficial exploitation is not feasible. Immovable and movable property that are not endowed assets may be alienated without the restriction set out in the first paragraph, in accordance with the terms established by the testator or the donor. In any case, alienation shall be carried out following a valuation report, by public auction, with analogous application of the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure on voluntary auctions. After three (3) unsuccessful auctions, direct sale shall be permitted under terms and consideration determined by a reasoned decision of the BoD.

5. Donations are utilized in the manner specified by the dedicant, and the remaining assets are utilized in the manner determined by the testator or donor; otherwise, they are used in the manner determined by the Management Committee of the Waqf of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace at any given time. If the purpose of the dedicant, testator, or donor becomes unattainable, economically unfeasible, or if their intent cannot be fulfilled, in whole or in substantial part, for any reason, the court referred to in Article 825 of the Code of Civil Procedure, upon request by the Management Committee of the Waqf of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, shall determine the manner of the most beneficial or safest use of the property, as well as the purpose for which it should be allocated.

Article 56

Inventory of Waqfs

1. Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace shall be deemed to have passed into the full ownership, possession and holding of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace, as their quasi-universal successor, in accordance with their respective designated purposes. For the transfer of ownership of the waqfs properties, the Chairman of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace shall draw up an inventory report of the immovable properties, including the real rights attached thereto. Which shall be approved by the BoD, shall be executed in the form of a notarial deed and, together with a summary of the inventory, shall be registered in the competent land registry or cadastral office. The inventory report shall have evidentiary and declaratory character and shall not constitute an act establishing or transferring real (in rem) rights.

2. Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace shall be established after the entry into force of this Act and shall comprise movable and immovable property; as regards their establishment and administration, they shall be governed by the provisions of the Civil Code on Foundations, and, as regards their management, by the present Act.

Article 57

Religious Education of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace

1. For students who are Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace and who attend public or minority schools in Thrace, provided that (a) they have been granted exemption from the subject of Religious Education,

in accordance with Article 37 of Law No. 4777/2021 (Government Gazette A' 25) and the ministerial decisions issued pursuant thereto, and (b) they do not wish to attend an alternative subject, and provided that they are at least ten (10) per class in public schools—irrespective of their number in minority schools—and express such wish, the mode and form of their engagement during the teaching hours of the Religious Education subject from which they have been exempted shall be the teaching of the doctrine of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace.

2. Instruction shall be provided either by teachers of category PE73 who are members of the religious legal entity, or by the Religious teachers of Article 58.

3. The educational and teaching material for the course on the doctrine of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace, which is taught in minority and public schools of Thrace, shall be prepared by the Institute of Educational Policy (I.E.P.) or by a committee of experts established by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, and shall be distributed electronically or in printed form by the Institute of Computer Technology and Publications “DIOFANTOS”. If, by 30 June of each year, the preparation of such material by the I.E.P. has not been completed, or if for any other reason the distribution of teaching and, in general, educational material prepared by the I.E.P. is not possible, the teaching staff shall select educational and teaching material which, following its approval by the I.E.P., shall be distributed to students free of charge. The decision by which the committee of experts is established shall determine the terms of its operation, the deliverables of its work, and the remuneration of its members.

Article 58

Religious Teachers of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. For the purpose of supporting the work of the religious and spiritual development of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace, up to fifteen (15) Religious Instructors may be recruited in total for the Regional Units of Rodopi, Xanthi, and Evros of the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, under fixed-term private-law employment contracts of up to ten (10) months' duration, following a public call for applications. The contract shall be signed by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports.

2. The role of the Religious Instructors shall be the teaching of the doctrine of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace in their places of worship. The Religious Instructors may, if they wish, and following a relevant decision of the competent Director of Primary or Secondary Education, as applicable, teach the doctrine of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace in public and minority schools of primary and secondary education in Thrace, even if they do not possess pedagogical or teaching qualifications, to students who are Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace and have been exempted from the subject of Religious Education, and wherever a relevant need arises, within teaching hours, without such instruction being included in the official school timetable.

Article 59

Qualifications and Disqualifications of the Religious teachers of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. Candidates for the position of Religious teachers under Article 58 shall be Greek citizens, permanent residents of Thrace, members of the religious legal entity “Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious

Legal Entity”, and holders of a degree from a Higher Theological School or a Department of Primary Education, or of a degree qualifying for appointment to secondary education, obtained in Greece or abroad and recognized by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition Authority.

2. Religious ministers (dedes) of the religious legal entity “Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity” may be candidates for appointment as Religious teachers, provided that: (a) they are Greek citizens, permanent residents of Thrace and members of the religious legal entity “Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity”, (b) they are graduates of primary or secondary education or holders of a higher education degree recognized by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition Authority and (c) they are registered in the register provided for in Article 14 of Law 4301/2014 (A’ 223).

3. They may not be recruited as Religious teachers those under judicial guardianship, or those who have been irrevocably convicted of, or against whom criminal prosecution has been instituted for, a felony or for any of the following offences: (a) theft, embezzlement, fraud, extortion, forgery, bribery, breach of trust, breach of duty, defamation, false testimony, false accusation, any offence against sexual freedom or against the economic exploitation of sexual life, bodily harm to an embryo or newborn, offences under Law 3500/2006 (A’ 232) on combating domestic violence, abduction of minors, unlawful detention, unlawful violence, vigilantism, threat, disturbance of religious assemblies, (b) violence against public officials and judicial persons, undue influence on judicial authorities, disruption of public service, disruption of court proceedings, disobedience, mutiny, impersonation, breaking of seals placed by an authority, violation of custody ordered by an authority, (c) incitement to disobedience, incitement to the commission of crimes, acts of violence or discord, solicitation and offer to commit a criminal offence, criminal organization, terrorist acts or terrorist organization, punishable support thereof, disturbance of public peace, threat of commission of criminal acts, dissemination of false information, insult to symbols or places of particular national or religious significance, (d) offences under Law 927/1979 (A’ 139) on the punishment of acts or activities aiming at racial discrimination, (e) proselytism under Article 4 of 1363/1938 (A’ 305), (f) offences under Law 4139/2013 (A’ 74) on addictive substances and (g) impersonation of a religious minister.

4. By way of exception, during the first five (5) years from the publication of this Act, recruitment as Religious teachers shall be permitted for Greek citizens who are permanent residents of Thrace and members of the religious legal entity “Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity” and who are graduates of the Ecclesiastical Schools of Xanthi and Komotini, or graduates of primary or secondary education who have served for ten (10) years as Religious teachers under Article 36 of Law 3536/2007 (A’ 42).

Article 60

Procedure for the Selection of the Religious teachers of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace

1. By the decision provided for in paragraph 9 of Article 62, the exact number of Religious teachers to be recruited shall be determined each time, together with their specific qualifications per category of formal qualifications, the selection criteria for each category, the disqualifications and incompatibilities, the duration of the contracts, the terms, conditions and supporting documents required for their conclusion, the place of performance of the duties of each Religious teacher, depending on local needs, which may include more than one jem, cemevi or tekke, as well as any other necessary detail concerning the recruitment procedure and contract terms. If a Religious

teacher agrees to provide services in a public or minority school, the employment contract shall be deemed to be correspondingly amended by mutual consent of both parties, with a proportional reduction of duties in the jem, cemevi or tekke, to which the Religious teacher has been assigned.

2. The selection of the Religious teachers shall be carried out by a five-member committee, composed of: (a) three (3) members nominated by the religious legal entity “Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity” and (b) two (2) members nominated by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. For the selection of the most suitable candidates, the committee shall, in addition to formal qualifications, form an overall assessment of the candidates’ capacity, taking into account their ethos, activity and overall personality, as well as their previous service as Religious teachers. The committee shall be established by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, by which its Chairman shall be appointed. The duties of Secretary shall be performed by an employee of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports appointed by the same decision.

Article 61

Recruitment of the Religious teachers of the Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace

1. Employment contracts of serving Religious teachers under fixed-term private law contracts may be unilaterally extended for a period not exceeding ten (10) months. Contracts that are not extended pursuant to the preceding paragraph shall automatically expire, without any further formalities and without any entitlement to compensation, from the date of issuance of the ministerial decision concerning the appointment of the successful candidates selected following the public announcement. This date shall also be considered as the contract expiration date of their validity.

2. The amount of remuneration of the Religious teachers under the present act shall correspond to that of the Religious teachers of Article 37 of Law 3536/2007 (A’ 42). The relevant expenditure shall be borne by the budget of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and shall be processed by the competent Directorates of Secondary Education of Evros, Xanthi and Rodopi of the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. Religious teachers providing services in public or minority schools of primary or secondary education shall not be deemed to provide additional services beyond their contract obligations and shall not be entitled to additional remuneration. Religious teachers shall be compulsorily insured with the Electronic National Social Security Institution (e-EFKA).

3. The employment contract of the Religious teachers may be terminated at any time following: (a) submission of a written and reasoned request by the religious legal entity “Bektashi Alevis Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity” to the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, or (b) criminal prosecution for a felony or for the offences referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 59.

4. The Public Prosecutor, who exercises criminal prosecution, shall immediately notify the Directorate of Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports that criminal proceedings have been initiated for a felony or for the offenses referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 59. Following the notification of the initiation of criminal proceedings, the registration Religious teachers as religious functionaries in the registry provided for in Article 14 of Law 4301/2014 (A’ 223) shall be suspended. Should they be acquitted by a final judicial decision, the suspension of their registration shall cease.

5. Religious teachers may, if they wish, following a request by the religious legal entity “Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity” and a decision of the Regional Director of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, provide services to the religious legal entity “Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity” as auxiliary administrative staff, within the statutory working hours, with a corresponding reduction of their core duties and without additional remuneration.