

Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act

Promulgated, SG No. 63/14.07.1995; Judgment No. 8/6.06.1996 of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria, SG No. 51/14.06.1996; amended and supplemented, SG No. 27/10.03.1998, effective 10.03.1998, amended, SG No. 33/24.03.1998, amended and supplemented, SG No. 154/28.12.1998, amended, SG No. 10/5.02.1999, amended, SG No. 69/3.08.1999, effective 3.08.1999, amended and supplemented, SG No. 57/14.07.2000, amended, SG No. 67/29.07.2003, amended, SG No. 80/9.09.2003, SG No. 46/3.06.2005, amended and supplemented, SG No. 63/3.08.2007, effective 3.08.2007, amended, SG No. 36/4.04.2008, amended and supplemented, SG No. 9/28.01.2011, amended, SG No. 95/2.12.2011, effective 2.12.2011, SG No. 66/26.07.2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 19/5.03.2014, effective 5.03.2014, SG No. 98/28.11.2014, effective 28.11.2014, SG No. 107/24.12.2014, effective 1.01.2015, SG No. 39/26.05.2016, effective 26.05.2016, SG No. 57/22.07.2016, effective 22.07.2016, SG No. 58/18.07.2017, effective 18.07.2017

Text in Bulgarian: Закон за административно-териториалното устройство на Република България

Chapter one GENERAL

Article 1. This act settles the creation of territorial administration and territorial units in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the introduction of changes to the territorial administration.

Article 2. (1) Territorial administration units are the regions and the municipalities.

(2) Composite territorial administration units in the municipalities are the mayoralties and quarters.

(3) The region, municipality and mayoralty shall have territory, boundaries, population, name and an administrative centre, and the quarter - territory, boundaries, population and name.

Article 3. (1) Territorial units are the settlements and the settlement formations.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 154/1998) A settlement is a historically and functionally differentiated territory, defined by a permanently residing population, development limits or land-use area and development limits and the required social and engineering infrastructure.

(3) (New, SG No. 154/1998) Settlements are specified as towns and villages and shall be subject to registration in the Single Classifier of the Territorial Administration and Territorial Units.

(4) Renumbered from Paragraph 3, SG No. 154/1998) The settlement formations are territories outside the development limits of the settlements, developed for specific functions, defined by construction boundaries, but having no permanently residing population.

(5) (Renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 154/1998) The settlement and the settlement formation shall have territory, boundaries and name.

Chapter two ORDER FOR ESTABLISHING REGIONS, MUNICIPALITIES, QUARTERS AND MAYORALTIES

Section I Region

Article 4. (1) The region shall consist of one or more neighbouring municipalities.

(2) The territory of the region shall consist of the territory of the municipalities, included into it.

(3) (Supplemented, SG No. 154/1998, amended, SG No. 10/1999) Name of the region shall be the name of the settlement, which is its administrative centre.

Article 5. The following shall be taken into consideration in the process of establishing regions:

1. physical-geographic differentiation of the territory;
2. presence of a town - a traditional cultural and economic centre with established social and technical infrastructure and transport access to it from the settlements of the region.

Article 6. (Amended, SG No. 154/1998) (1) The territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is divided into 28 regions.

(2) The boundaries and the administrative centres of the regions shall be approved by a decree of the President, following a proposal of the Council of Ministers.

Section II Municipality

Article 7. (1) The municipality consists of one or more neighbouring settlements.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 154/1998) The territory of the municipality shall consist of the territories of the settlements, included into it.

(3) Name of the municipality shall be the name of the settlement, which is its administrative centre.

Article 8. (1) The requirements for establishment of a new municipality shall be:

1. (amended, SG No. 154/1998) existence of a population in excess of a total of 6000 people in the settlements to be included in the municipality;

2. presence of a settlement - a traditional uniting centre with existing social and technical infrastructure, providing services to the population;

3. inclusion of all neighbouring settlements, in regard to which conditions do not exist for establishing an individual municipality or which cannot join another neighbouring municipality;

4. (amended and supplemented, SG No. 154/1998) a maximum road and transport distance of the settlements from the centre of the municipality not exceeding 40 km.

5. (new, SG No. 154/1998, amended, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) capacity for financing the expenses of the newly created municipality with revenue in the meaning of Article 45, paragraph 1, item 1 of the Public Finances Act, in an amount not less than half of the national average, based on data from the latest annual statement on the implementation of budgets of municipalities.

(2) (New, SG No. 154/1998) The requirements of paragraph 1 shall also be valid for a municipality from which settlements are separated.

(3) (Renumbered from Paragraph 2, SG No. 154/1998) In the cases when geographic, economic, communication, historic and other reasons render impossible the fulfillment of any of the requirements of paragraph 1 the Council of Ministers may take a decision for establishment of a new municipality according to the order of Article 9.

Article 9. (1) The order of establishing a municipality shall be:

1. lodging of a request for establishment of a municipality by one or more settlements, expressed by a subscription of at least 25 percent of the electorate of these settlements to the respective municipal council. The request shall be accompanied by positions of the mayors of the settlements regarding compliance with the requirements under Article 8, paragraph 1;

2. (supplemented, SG No. 27/1998) the municipal council, within one month, shall establish compliance with the requirements under Article 8 and shall deliver a motivated decision, which is to be sent to the regional governor;

3. (amended, SG No. 27/1998) the regional governor, within one month, shall verify the legal conformity of the request and, if the requirements of the act have been met, shall propose to the municipal council to take a decision for holding a general referendum in the settlements to form the new municipality, in compliance with the requirements of Article 7 and 8;

4. the referendum shall be held under terms and procedure, determined by a law;

5. in the event the electorate vote in favour, the regional governor, within two months, shall submit a written report to the Council of Ministers;

6. (amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) The Council of Ministers shall adopt a decision after reviewing a written position of the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works;

7. the decision of the Council of Ministers for establishing a new municipality shall be sent to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria for endorsement.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 27/1998, amended, SG No. 154/1998) Initiative for establishing a new municipality shall be vested in the respective municipal council in compliance with the procedure under paragraph 1, item 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, and the regional governor or the Council of Ministers, in compliance with the procedure under paragraph 1, item 4, 5, 6 and 7.

(3) (New, SG No. 27/1998) In the cases when the results from the referendum under paragraph 1, item 4, in one or more settlements, render impossible the establishment of a new municipality, due to non-compliance with the requirement of Article 7, paragraph 1, or any of the requirements of Article 8, paragraph 1, the Council of Ministers may take a decision for its establishment, and also include such settlements within its boundaries under the following conditions:

1. voters in favour of the establishment of the new municipality must have been more than half of the voters of all settlements where the referendum was held;

2. a positive opinion of the regional governor in the report under paragraph 1, item 5;

3. (amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) a positive opinion of the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works under paragraph 1, item 6.

Section III

Quarter

Article 10. (1) Quarters shall be established in the capital and in cities with a population over 300 000.

(2) Quarters may also be established in towns with a population over 100 000, by a decision of the municipal council.

Article 11. (1) The territory of the quarter shall be a part of the territory included in development and land-use limits of the town.

(2) The name of the quarter shall be determined by the act of establishment.

Article 12. The requirements for establishment of quarters in cities shall be:

1. existence of a population over 25 000 in the respective quarter;
2. feasibility of a regional subdivision of the territory of the respective towns according to the valid general spatial development plans, and in compliance with permanent natural geographic or infrastructure divisions;
3. presence of an existing infrastructure of importance for the quarter for meeting administrative, social and sanitary-hygienic needs.

Article 13. (1) The order of establishing a quarter shall be:

1. the municipal council, at a proposal of the mayor of the municipality, shall discuss a draft for dividing the town into quarters and adopt a decision;
2. the decision under item 1 shall be sent for publication in the State Gazette through the regional governor, who shall deliver a ruling on its legal conformity within 14 days from the date of its receipt;
3. the decision under item 1 shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the State Gazette.

(2) The territorial division of the capital municipality and of the cities with population over 300 000 shall be performed by a law.

Section IV Mayoralty

Article 14. (1) A mayoralty may be established on the territory of the municipality by a decision of the municipal council.

(2) A mayoralty shall consist of one or more neighbouring settlements.

Article 15. (1) The territory of the mayoralty shall be the territory of the settlements, included into it.

(2) Name of the mayoralty shall be the name of the settlement, which is its administrative centre.

Article 16. The requirements for establishing a mayoralty shall be:

1. (amended, SG No. 69/1999, SG No. 67/2003, SG No. 63/2007, SG No. 9/2011, SG No. 19/2014, effective 5.03.2014, SG No. 39/2016, effective 26.05.2016, SG No. 57/2016, effective 22.07.2016) existence of a population over 350 people in the settlements, forming the mayoralty;
2. capability of fulfillment of the functions, assigned by the municipality.

Article 17. (1) The order of establishing a mayoralty shall be:

1. lodging of a request signed by at least 25 percent of the voters in the interested settlements to the municipal council stating the motives and the possibilities of meeting the requirements for establishing a mayoralty;

2. (amended and supplemented, SG No. 154/1998) within one month the municipal council shall consider the request and adopt a decision for conducting a referendum or a subscription among the population in the interested settlements;

3. in case of a favourable vote at the referendum, the municipal council shall adopt a decision for establishment of mayoralty;

4. the decision under item 3 shall be sent for promulgation in the State Gazette through the regional governor who shall deliver an opinion of its legal conformity within 14 days from the date of its receipt;

5. the decision for establishment of mayoralty shall enter into force on the date of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

(2) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 154/1998) The municipal council may take a decision for referendum or a subscription among the population for establishment of mayoralty without meeting the requirements of paragraph 1, item 1, provided the conditions of Article 16 have been met.

(3) (New, SG No. 9/2011) Within seven days after the entry into force of the decision referred to in Item 5 of Paragraph (1), the regional governor shall transmit the said decision to the Central Election Commission.

Chapter three

ORDER OF ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS AND SETTLEMENT FORMATIONS

Section I

Settlement

Article 18. (1) Territory of the settlement is the nucleated settlement territory, set by its construction boundaries, and the territory outside the nucleated settlement, set by the boundaries of the land-use area.

(2) The name of the settlement shall be determined by a decree of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 19. (1) New settlements shall be established on the land-use areas of existing settlements.

(2) The requirements for establishing a new settlement shall be:

1. (amended, SG No. 154/1998) permanent settling of population in the existing settlement formation on a territory, specified in a spatial development or following an occurred necessity of settling on it;

2. (repealed, SG No. 154/1998);

3. (amended, SG No. 154/1998) presence of permanently residing population and of existing social infrastructure.

Article 20. The order of establishing a new settlement shall be:

1. (amended, SG No. 154/1998) lodging a request, signed by at least 25 percent of the voters or by the mayor of the municipality to the municipal council for establishing a new settlement;

2. (amended and supplemented, SG No. 154/1998) the municipal council, within two months, shall consider the request and shall send its decision to the regional governor; the regional governor, within one month, shall submit to the Council of Ministers a motivated proposal for establishing a new settlement.

3. both the decision of the Council of Ministers for establishing a new settlement and the decree of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria for determining its name shall be promulgated in the State Gazette.

Article 21. (1) Restoration of deleted out settlements shall be admitted under the following conditions:

1. the reasons, for which they have been deleted, have expired;

2. the territory within the development limits and the erected buildings has been preserved;

3. more than 50 people reside there permanently.

(2) The restoration of settlements shall be carried out by the order of Article 20, while the request shall be signed by at least 25 persons.

Section II

Settlement formation

Article 22. (1) The territory of the settlement formation shall be determined by its development limits. The settlement formation is located on the territory of one or more settlements and has no land-use territory of its own.

(2) The name of the settlement formation shall be determined by the act for its establishing.

Article 23. The settlement formations are of national and local importance. The Council of Ministers shall determine the settlement formations of national importance.

Article 24. The requirements for establishing a new settlement formation are:

1. necessity of meeting rising resort or industrial requirements of local or national importance;
2. existence of a spatial development plan or defined development limits of the settlement formation.

Article 25. The order of establishing a new settlement formation shall be:

1. in the case of settlement formations of local importance - by a decision of the municipal council at a proposal of the mayor of the municipality;
2. in the case of settlement formations of national importance - by a decision of the Council of Ministers following coordination with the respective municipal council;
3. the decisions under item 1 and 2 shall enter into force upon their publication in the State Gazette.

Chapter four

ORDER OF INTRODUCING CHANGES INO THE TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section I

Region

Article 26. (1) Any change of the boundaries of the region may be introduced only along the boundaries of existing municipalities. Such change shall be approved by a decree of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria at a proposal of the Council of Ministers.

(2) Any change of the administrative centre and of the name of the region shall be approved by a decree of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria following a proposal of the Council of Ministers.

Section II

Municipality

Article 27. (1) Any change, leading to closing down of a municipality due to division, shall be made in compliance with the requirements of Article 8 for each of the newly established municipalities and pursuant to order of Article 9 for their establishment.

(2) (New, SG No. 154/1998) The Council of Ministers may take a decision for division of an existing municipality into two or more municipalities after applying the procedure under Article 9, paragraph 2 on the territory of at least one of the future municipalities, when the conditions of Article 8 are fulfilled.

(3) (Renumbered from Paragraph 2, SG No. 154/1998) For changes leading to closing down of a municipality because of merging, the procedures stipulated by Article 9, paragraph 1, item 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 shall be applied individually in regard to each municipality concerned.

(4) (New, SG No. 154/1998) The initiative for changes under paragraph 1, 2 and 3 shall be vested with the population, expressed through a subscription, the municipal councils and the Council of Ministers, in compliance with the procedures of Article 9 or Article 28.

Article 28. (1) (Amended, SG No. 154/1998, previous Article 28, supplemented, SG No. 57/2000) Any change of the boundaries of a municipality, due to a separation of a populated area and its accession to a neighbouring municipality on the territory of one region, having a shared boundary with it, shall be introduced after a local referendum under the following procedure:

1. lodging a request for holding referendum for separation of a settlement from the respective municipality and its accession to a neighbouring municipality, expressed through a subscription of at least 25 percent of the voters of the settlement to the respective municipal council; the request shall be accompanied by a motivated positions of the mayor of the settlement, which shall be sent to the interested municipal councils;

2. the municipal councils, within one month, must deliver motivated decisions regarding the requested change and shall forward them to the regional governor;

3. the regional governor, within two weeks, shall verify the legal conformity of the request and of the decisions of the municipal councils;

4. in the event of a positive decision of the municipal council of the receiving municipality the regional governor, within two weeks, shall propose to the municipal council of the municipality, from the territory of which separation was requested, to adopt a decision for holding a referendum in the respective settlement;

5. the referendum shall be held under terms and procedure, determined by a law;

6. in the event of a positive vote of the voters, the regional governor shall file, within one month, a written report with the Council of Ministers, regarding the requested change;

7. the Council of Ministers shall adopt a decision, recommending to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria to approve the requested change.

(2) (New, SG No. 57/2000, amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) In cases related to the provision of a more favourable environment for satisfying daily necessities of the population of health, social, cultural, trade, transport, financial, judicial and other services, one or several settlements may separate from one municipality and accede to another neighbouring municipality, located on the territory of another region, based on a decision of the Council of Ministers adopted at a proposal of the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works and the regional governors of the two regions, in accordance with the procedures under paragraph 1.

Article 29. Any change of administrative centre and of a name of a municipality shall be introduced, given the requirements under Article 8, paragraph 1, item 2 are met, in accordance with the following procedure:

1. (amended, SG No. 154/1998) the municipal council, on the grounds of a favourable vote from a general referendum held on the territory of the municipality shall submit, within one month through the regional governor to the Council of Ministers, a proposal for the change;

2. the Council of Ministers shall adopt a decision, recommending to the President of the

Republic of Bulgaria to approve the change.

Section III

Quarter and mayoralty

Article 30. (Amended, SG No. 95/2011, effective 2.12.2011) Any change related to closing down of a quarters, as well as change of their boundaries, shall be introduced under the terms and procedures of their establishment.

Article 31. (Amended, SG No. 95/2011, effective 2.12.2011) (1) Any change, related to closing down of a mayoralty, as well as to change of the boundaries or of the administrative centre of the mayoralty shall be introduced by a decision of the municipal council in compliance with the terms and procedure for its establishment.

(2) The decision of the municipal council under Paragraph 1 shall be forwarded for publication in State Gazette through the offices of the regional governor, who shall decide on its lawfulness within 7 days of the date of its receipt.

(3) The decision under Paragraph 1 shall shall enter into effect as of the date of its publication in State Gazette.

Section IV

Settlement and settlement formation

Article 32. (1) Any change leading to closing down a settlement and a settlement formation shall be carried out under the procedure of Article 20 or 25, after the requirements of Article 19, paragraph 2, item 1 or Article 24, item 1 lose their validity.

(2) Any change, related to the separation of parts of a settlement and their establishment in a new settlement, shall be carried out under the terms and procedure for establishing a new settlement.

(3) Any change, related to the separation of parts of a settlement and their accession to another settlement shall be carried out under the procedure of Article 20.

(4) (Supplemented, SG No. 154/1998) Any change, related to the accession of one settlement to another, shall be carried out under the procedure of Article 20. If the settlement, to which another settlement is acceding, is simultaneously a mayoralty, upon the conclusion of the procedure under Article 20 the municipal council shall take a decision for closing down the mayoralty. The decision shall be promulgated in the State Gazette by the regional governor.

(5) (New, SG No. 154/1998) Any change, related to closing down of a settlement, due to a construction of large economic sites (dam lakes, airports, industrial sites, etc.) shall be carried out by decree of the President at a proposal of the Council of Ministers. In the cases of remaining parts of land-use areas of deleted settlements, upon approval of the regulation plan of the site, the respective municipal council shall adopt a motivated decision for accession of these parts to the neighbouring land-use areas.

Article 33. (1) (Amended, SG No. 46/2005) In order to declare a village as a town, it shall be necessary that it should have a population of over 3500 people and existing social and technical infrastructure, and a population of not less than 1000 people - in resort settlements.

(2) The order of introducing the change shall be:

1. (amended, SG No. 46/2005) at a proposal of the mayor of the mayoralty settlement or the mayor of the municipality, the municipal council shall, within two months, adopt a decision to introduce the change, which is to be sent to the regional governor;

2. the regional governor, within two weeks, shall send the decision of the municipal council, along with its opinion, to the Council of Ministers;

3. the decision of the Council of Ministers for a change shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the State Gazette.

Article 34. (Declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria, SG No. 51/1996, new, SG No. 154/1998) Any change of the name of the settlement shall be carried out by a decree of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 35. (1) (Declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria, SG No. 51/1996, new, SG No. 154/1998) Any change of the name of a settlement formation of national importance shall be introduced by a decree of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

(2) Any change of the name of a settlement formation of local importance shall be introduced by a decision of the municipal council, and the decision shall enter into force upon its publication in the State Gazette.

(3) Any settlement formation may obtain the status of a settlement under the terms of Article 19 and the procedure of Article 20.

Chapter five

CATEGORISATION AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Article 36. (1) Municipalities, quarters, mayoralties and settlements shall be categorized based on criteria and indices determined by the Council of Ministers.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) Categorisation shall be made by an order of the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, which shall be published in the State Gazette.

Article 37. (1) (Previous text of Article 37, SG No. 154/1998, amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) The National Institute of Statistics, in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, shall maintain a Single Classifier of the Territorial Administration and Territorial Units.

(2) (New, SG No. 154/1998, amended, SG No. 36/2008, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The National Institute of Statistics, in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall maintain a National Register of Settlements. Each of the indicated administrative bodies shall provide free of charge the information required for maintenance of this information register.

(3) (New, SG No. 154/1998) The contents of the Classifier and the Register under the preceding paragraphs, as well as the criteria and indices contained in them, shall be approved by the Council of Ministers at a proposal of the National Institute of Statistics and the interested administrative bodies.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

§ 1. Within the meaning of this Act:

1. "Merging" is a change in the territorial administration, manifested in pooling of the units under paragraph 2 or 3, whereby a new unit of the same type is created, and the hitherto existing ones are closed down.

2. "Division" is a change in the territorial administration, manifested in establishing two or

more units under Article 2 or 3 from one unit of the same type, which is being closed down.

3. "Accession" is a change in the territorial administration change where a unit under Article 2 or 3 is included into an existing unit, and the acceding unit is being deleted.

4. "Separation" is a change in the territorial administration where a part of the existing unit under Article 2 or 3 is differentiated into a new unit of the same type, whereas the existing one is being preserved.

5. "Closing down" is a consequence of carrying out merging or division of the units under Article 2 or 3 and representing grounds for their deletion from the Single Classifier pursuant to Article 37.

6. (New, SG No. 27/1998) "General referendum" is the referendum held simultaneously in several settlements on a common issue.

7. (New, SG No. 154/1998) Changes in the territorial administration of the units under Article 2 and 3 of this Act shall not be allowed, in the cases when these changes violate the conditions of their establishment.

8. (New, SG No. 154/1998) "Land-use area" is the entirety of land properties belonging to a settlement. The boundaries of the land-use area shall be identified and determined under a procedure, prescribed by a law.

§ 2. New procedures for changes in the territorial administration structure, carried out under the procedure of this Act, may be introduced again not earlier than two years.

§ 3. (Amended, SG No. 69/1999) Elections for mayors of mayoralties shall be held simultaneously with the elections for mayors of municipalities and municipal councillors only in these mayoralties which have been established by the date of publication of the decree of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria for calling local elections.

§ 4. (1) (Previous text of § 4, SG No. 154/1998, amended, SG No. 69/1999, SG No. 9/2011, SG No. 19/2014, effective 5.03.2014) Upon creation of a new municipality or mayoralty, the elections of municipal councillors and mayors shall be conducted within three months after the promulgation in the State Gazette of the decree of the President of the Republic on the creation of the new municipality or, respectively, of the Municipal Council resolution on the creation of the new mayoralty. The municipalities and mayoralties, from the territories of which new units of the same type were established, retain their existence and elections for local self-government bodies shall not be held until the end of the current mandate.

(2) (New, SG No. 154/1998, amended, SG No. 69/1999) In cases when, after carrying the territorial administration changes of the respective type in the municipalities and mayoralties, the result is a reduction of their territory over 50 percent or of their population by over 30 percent as compared with their original territory and population, they must hold new elections for local self-government bodies within the deadlines under paragraph 1.

§ 5. (Repealed, SG No. 33/1998).

§ 6. The region sub-division of the territorial structural units and offices of the ministries and administrative bodies may not disrupt the boundaries of the territorial administration units, unless stipulated by a law.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 7. (1) (Amended, SG No. 154/1998) Municipalities, settlements and settlement formations, existing on the date of entry into force of this Act, shall retain their status. The capital municipality, in its territorial administration boundaries, shall also retain its status as a region.

(2) (Repealed, SG No. 69/1999).

(3) Settlements of the kind of hamlets, shacks, railway stations, mining and industrial settlements, existing on the date of entry into force of this Act, shall acquire a status of villages.

§ 8. (Repealed, SG No. 154/1998).

§ 9. The provisions of Article 9 for establishing new municipalities shall apply as of January 1, 1997.

§ 10. Article 34, paragraph 2 of the Territorial and Urban Development Act (Promulgated, SG No. 29/73; corrected, SG No. 32/73; amended and supplemented, SG No. 87/74, SG No. 3 and 102/77, SG No. 36/79, SG No. 3/80, SG No. 45/84, SG No. 19/85, SG No. 36/86, SG No. 14/88, SG No. 31/90; corrected, SG No. 32/90; amended, SG No. 15/91) shall be repealed.

§ 11. Implementation of this Act of the act shall be assigned to the Council of Ministers.

§ 12. (New, SG No. 27/1998) Throughout this Act the phrases "Minister of Territorial Development and Construction" and "Ministry of Territorial Development and Construction" shall be replaced by "Minister of Regional Development and Public Works" and "Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works".

FINAL PROVISION **(New, SG No. 63/2007)**

§ 13. (New, SG No. 63/2007) Settlements, which, as of the date of entry into force of the Act to Amend and Supplement the Local Elections Act adopted on 27 July 2007, comply with the provision of Article 16, item 1, and in which deputy-mayors have been appointed, shall acquire the status of mayoralties and elections for mayors of mayoralties therein shall be held simultaneously with the local elections.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Territorial
Administration Of The Republic Of Bulgaria Act
(SG No. 154/1998)

§ 21. (1) The Council of Ministers, within one month from the publication of the decree of the President for determining the boundaries of the new regions and their administrative centres, shall specify the structure and the number of personnel of the regional administrations.

(2) The Minister of Finance, within the term under paragraph 1, shall distribute the movable possessions and the monetary resources of the extra-budgetary accounts of the hitherto existing regions to the new regional administrations.

(3) Any pending files and archives of the hitherto existing regions shall be re-distributed within the term under paragraph 1 to the new regional administrations.

(4) Any pending court proceedings, parties to which have been the regional governors of the previous regions, shall be continued with the participation of the new regional governors according to their territorial administration competence.

§ 22. (1) The regional governors of the hitherto existing regions and their administrations shall continue the fulfilment of their functions until the appointment of each of the regional governors of the new regions.

(2) The legal terms of employment of the employees of the respective regional administrations shall be settled under the conditions of Article 328, paragraph 1, item 1 of the Labour Code.

§ 23. The resources for support of the new regions shall be provided by the 1999 national

budget, including through re-allocation of resources from the budget of the hitherto existing regions and of the budgets of the respective state bodies with decentralised structures at regional level.

§ 24. The procedures related to changes in the territorial administration, having started before the enactment of this act, shall be concluded by applying the provision of Article 8, paragraph 1, item 1 before its amendment.

§ 25. The Council of Ministers, within three months from publication of the decree of the President for determining the boundaries of the new regions and their administrative centres, shall bring the existing regional division of the decentralised state structures in compliance with the approved boundaries and territorial range of the new regions, unless a special law stipulates otherwise.

§ 26. The Council of Ministers shall promulgate in the State Gazette, by June 30, 1999, a list of the settlement formations of national importance.

§ 27. The Council of Ministers shall approve, by June 30, 1999, the contents of the Classifier and the Register of the Settlements under Article 37.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS
to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Local
Self-government and Local Administration Act
(SG No. 69/1999, effective 3.08.1999)

§ 45. Within three months from entry into force of this act the municipal councils shall adopt a decision for bringing the territorial administration structure of the municipalities into conformity with this Act. Until the adoption of the decision of the municipal council the mayoralties, which do not meet the requirements of Article 16, item 1 of the Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act by the moment of its entry into force of this act, shall not hold elections for mayor of mayoralty.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS
to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Territorial
Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act
(SG No. 67/2003, amended, SG No. 80/2003)

§ 2. (1) (Amended, SG No. 80/2003) Settlements, which before the date of entry into force of this Act have lost their status of mayoralty, and were not included into other mayoralties, shall regain their status of mayoralties, if by September 15, 2003, they fulfilled the requirements of Article 16, item 1 of this Act, and elections of mayors of mayoralties shall be held therein simultaneously with the local elections.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 80/2003) Two or more settlements which, prior to the date of entry into force of this Act, have been included into a mayoralty which lost its status, and were not included into other mayoralties, shall regain their status of mayoralties, if by September 15, 2003, they fulfilled the requirements of Article 16, item 1 of this Act, and elections of mayors of mayoralties shall be held therein simultaneously with the local elections.

FINAL PROVISIONS
to the Act to Amend the Territorial
Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act
(SG No. 95/2011, effective 2.12.2011)

§ 3. Outside the cases under Article 46a, paragraph 1, first sentence of the Local Self-government and Local Administration Act, deputy-mayors may be appointed in compliance with the other requirements of that Act by decision of the municipal council in mayoralties, where no elections of mayors of municipalities were held on 23 October.

§ 4. This Act shall enter into force as of the day of its publication in State Gazette.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act on Amendment and Supplement of Spatial Development Act
(SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013)

.....
§ 75. The Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act (Promulgated, SG No. 63/1995, Judgment No. 8/6.06.1996 of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria - SG No. 51/1996, amended, SG No. 27, 33 and 154/1998, SG No. 10 and 69/1999, SG No. 57/2000, SG No. 67 and 80/2003, SG No. 46/2005, SG No. 63/2007, SG No. 36/2008, SG No. 9 and 95/2011) everywhere the words "the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works" and "The Ministry of Regional development and Public Works" is replaced by "the Minister of Regional development" "The Ministry of Regional Development."

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§ 117. This Act shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the "State Gazette".

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS to the Election Code

(SG No. 19/2014, effective 5.03.2014)

.....
§ 17. (1) Any nucleated settlements, which satisfy the requirements of Item 1 of Article 16 of the Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act as at the day of promulgation of the decree of the President of the Republic scheduling general elections of municipal councillors and of mayors, shall acquire mayoralty status, and elections of mayoralty mayors shall be conducted therein simultaneously with the conduct of general elections of municipal councillors and of mayors.

(2) The lieutenant mayors in the nucleated settlements which satisfy the requirements of Item 1 of Article 16 of the Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act as at the day of entry into force of this Code shall continue to execute the powers thereof until the newly elected mayoralty mayor takes the oath of office.

(3) Upon pre-term termination of the credentials of a lieutenant mayor under Paragraph (2), the municipality mayor may appoint a new lieutenant mayor.

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TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Spatial Development Act

(SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014)

.....
§ 75. In the Territorial Administration of Bulgaria Act (promulgated, SG, No. 63/1995; Decision No. 8/1996 of the Constitutional Court - No. 51/1996, Amended Nos. 27, 33 and 154/1998, Nos. 10 and 60/1999, No. 57/2000, Nos. 67 and 80/2003, No. 46/2005, No. 63/2007, No. 36/2008, Nos. 9 and 95/2011, No. 66/2013, No. 19/2014) everywhere in the text the words "Minister of Regional Development" and "the Ministry of Regional Development" shall be replaced by "Minister of Regional Development and Public Works" and "the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works", respectively.

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TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Election Code

(SG No. 39/2016, effective 26.05.2016)

.....
§ 153. Elections for mayors of mayoralties shall be held only in those mayoralties, which as

at the date of publication of the President's decree for calling general elections for municipal councillors and mayors meet the requirements of Article 16, item 1 of the Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act.

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