The *Saeima*1 has adopted and

the President has proclaimed the following law:

**Local Government Referendum Law**

**Chapter I**

**General Provisions**

**Section 1.**The purpose of the Law is to promote the participation of inhabitants of local governments in deciding on issues of local significance.

**Section 2.**The Law prescribes the issues on which a local government referendum (hereinafter – the local government referendum) may be initiated and organised, the source of financing of the local government referendum, and also the procedures for initiating and organising the local government referendum and for announcing its results.

**Section 3.**(1) The local government referendum shall be prepared and led by the election commission of the relevant local government (hereinafter – the election commission).

(2) The Central Election Commission shall, if necessary, provide the election commission with methodical assistance in preparing and leading the local government referendum.

(3) The local government council (hereinafter – the council) and the election commission shall announce the decisions referred to in this Law and the extracts from the minutes of the meeting by publishing in a local newspaper or in a free publication, by posting on the website of the local government, and also by posting in a visible location in the council building, town and rural territory administrations, the premises of the central administration of the local government and its units (hereinafter – publicly announce) unless it has been laid down otherwise in this Law.

(4) It is prohibited to place campaigning information on the local government referendum on the website under management of the State administration institution.

(5) Expenditures related to the preparation and course of the local government referendum, except for expenditures for the collection of signatures on the initiation of the local government referendum, electronic voting, electoral register and other information systems, shall be financed from the local government budget. Financing for the collection of signatures for initiating the local government referendum shall be ensured by the persons who organise the collection of signatures, except for financing for electronic collection of signatures on the single State and local government services portal www.latvija.lv (hereinafter – the portal www.latvija.lv) and the system for the collection of signatures.

(6) The local government referendum may be organised concurrently with the elections of the *Saeima*, the European Parliament, or the council, and also concurrently with the national referendum.

**Section 4.**(1)The collection of signatures for the initiation of the local government referendum shall take place simultaneously in person and electronically. Signing for the initiation of the local government referendum may be done once and in one way, either in person or electronically. The local government referendum signature collection electronic service on the portal www.latvija.lv (hereinafter – the e-service) shall be used for the collection of electronic signatures.

(2) The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development shall be the administrator of the e-service (hereinafter – the e-service administrator), but the State Regional Development Agency – the holder (hereinafter – the e-service holder).

(3) Voting in the local government referendum shall take place in person at local government polling stations and electronically, using the voting system of the Central Election Commission (hereinafter – the voting system).

(4) The procedures for initiating the local government referendum laid down in Chapter II of this Law shall also apply to the initiation of the local government referendum referred to in Chapter IV of this Law by electronic means insofar as it has not been laid down otherwise in Chapter IV.

(5) The Cabinet shall determine the minimum security, technical, and organisational requirements for electronic collection of signatures for the initiation of the local government referendum.

**Section 5.**The local government referendum may be organised as regards the following:

1) the sustainable development strategy of the local government or the amendments thereto;

2) a council decision by which the local government has initiated the construction of a new building – a public building or an object to which the environmental impact assessment procedure – construction – is applicable in accordance with Section 4, Paragraph one, Clause 1 of the law On Environmental Impact Assessment;

3) dismissal of the council.

**Section 6.**(1) The local government referendum on the sustainable development strategy or the amendments thereto may be initiated within two months after their approval.

(2) The local government referendum on a council decision by which the local government has initiated the construction of the object referred to in Section 5, Clause 2 of this Law may be initiated within a month after publication of the relevant council decision on the website of the local government.

(3) The local government referendum on the dismissal of the council may not be initiated one year after the first meeting of the council and a year before the end of the term of office of the council.

**Chapter II**

**Initiation of the Local Government Referendum in Person**

**Section 7.**(1) A citizen of Latvia and a citizen of the European Union who is not a citizen of Latvia, but is registered in the Register of Natural Persons has the right to initiate the local government referendum if he or she complies with all the following features:

1) he or she has attained 18 years of age;

2) his or her place of residence is registered in the administrative territory of the relevant local government or he or she owns immovable property registered in accordance with the procedures laid down in the law in the administrative territory of the relevant local government.

(2) A person who, on the day when the decision referred to in Section 13, Paragraph two or Paragraph six of this Law on the organising of the local government referendum has been taken, meets the requirements of Paragraph one of this Section and is registered in the electoral register (hereinafter – the voter) has the right to participate in the local government referendum.

(3) The local government referendum may be initiated by the council if at least two-thirds of the total number of council deputies vote in favour thereof.

**Section 8.**(1) Inhabitants may propose the local government referendum on the following issues:

1) on the issues referred to in Section 5, Clauses 1 and 2 of this Law – not less than 10 per cent in the capital city Riga, not less than 15 per cent of the number of inhabitants in other local governments who were included in the electoral rolls of the relevant electoral district on the election day of the last council elections;

2) on the issue referred to in Section 5, Clause 3 of this Law – not less than 30 per cent of the number of inhabitants who were included in the electoral rolls of the relevant electoral district on the election day of the last council elections.

(2) The local government referendum on the dismissal of the council may not be initiated by the council.

**Section 9.**The council shall propose the local government referendum by means of a council decision stating the issue on which the local government referendum will take place. The council shall submit the decision to the election commission and the election commission shall determine the date on which the local government referendum shall be held.

**Section 10.**(1) A person who meets the requirements of Section 7, Paragraph one of this Law at the time of submitting the submission is entitled to submit a submission on the initiation of the local government referendum. The following shall be indicated in the submission:

1) the issue (Section 5) on which the local government referendum is initiated;

2) the justification for the need to organise the local government referendum on the relevant issue;

3) the information on the submitter of the submission – the given name, surname, personal identity number.

(2) The local government shall, using the connection with the Register of Natural Persons and the State Unified Computerised Land Register, examine the conformity of the submitter with the requirements of Section 7, Paragraph one of this Law.

(3) If several submitters submit a submission, the decisions provided for in this Law which are to be notified to the submitter in accordance with the Law on Notification are notified to the first three submitters who have signed the submission or to not more than three other submitters specified in the submission.

(4) The local government shall, within 15 days after the time limit referred to in Section 6, Paragraph one or two of this Law has expired, take one of the following decisions:

1) the decision that the local government referendum may be initiated on the relevant issue;

2) the decision that the local government referendum cannot be initiated on the relevant issue if the requirements laid down in Section 5 or 6 of this Law or Paragraph one of this Section have not been met.

(5) If a local government has taken the decision referred to in Paragraph four, Clause 1 of this Section, it shall determine in the decision:

1) the number of votes necessary to initiate a referendum (Section 8, Paragraph one);

2) the wording of the issue to be presented in the referendum. The issue shall be formulated in such a way that the answer to this question is “for” or “against”.

(6) The local government shall notify the submitter or submitters of the submission (Paragraph three of this Section) within three working days of the relevant decision referred to in Paragraph four of this Section, but the decision referred to in Paragraph four, Clause 1 of this Section shall also be notified to the holder of the e-service.

(7) The submitter or submitters of the submission (Paragraph three of this Section) to whom the local government decision referred to in Paragraph four, Clause 2 of this Section has been notified may contest it to the council. The decision of the council may be appealed to the Regional Administrative Court.

(8) If a local government has taken the decision that the local government referendum may be initiated on the relevant matter, a voter is entitled to start the collection of signatures for initiating the local government referendum. The collection of signatures shall start after the date of publishing the notification referred to in Section 25 of this Law and shall last for 30 days.

**Section 11.**(1) The collection of signatures in person shall be organised by a submitter who has submitted a submission in accordance with Section 10, Paragraph one of this Law. Each signature shall, not earlier than 30 days before the end of the collection of signatures, be certified by a sworn notary, at the place of declaration of the place of residence in the local government, in the Orphan’s and Custody Court which performs notarial activities, or in the municipality by the head of the rural territory or town administration. Signature witnesses shall register the signing in the system for the collection of signatures of the Central Election Commission.

(2) If the number of signatures necessary for the initiation of the local government referendum has been collected, the submitter shall, within three working days after the end of the collection of signatures, submit a submission to the election commission regarding the organisation of the local government referendum.

**Section 12.**The council shall suspend the direction of such decision by which the local government has initiated the construction of the object referred to in Section 5, Clause 2 of this Law until:

1) expiry of the time period referred to in Section 6, Paragraph two of this Law if the local government referendum has not been initiated within the specified time period;

2) the day when administrative proceedings on the decision referred to in Section 10, Paragraph four, Clause 2 or Section 13, Paragraph three of this Law have ended;

3) the notification of the results of the local government referendum.

**Section 13.**(1) The election commission shall, not later than within five working days from the date of receipt of the submission, take the decision to organise the local government referendum or on refusal to organise the local government referendum. Before taking the decision, the election commission shall:

1) using the connection with the Register of Natural Persons and the State Unified Computerised Land Register, verify whether the person had the right to sign for the initiation of the local government referendum and shall remove such persons from the list who did not have the right to sign for the initiation of the local government referendum;

2) verify whether the persons have not signed several times on the initiation of the local government referendum, comparing the list of persons who have signed in person with the list of persons who have signed electronically and the information included in the Register of Natural Persons. If it is established that the same person has signed both in person and electronically, the signature made in person shall be valid;

3) count the signatures.

(2) If the submission meets the requirements of Section 8, Paragraph one and Section 11, Paragraphs one and two of this Law, the election commission shall take the decision to organise the local government referendum and shall determine the date on which the local government referendum will take place. The local government referendum shall take place not later than four months after taking of the decision to organise it.

(3) If the submission does not meet the requirements of Section 8, Paragraph one or Section 11, Paragraphs one and two of this Law, the election commission shall take a decision on refusal to organise the local government referendum.

(4) If, after the decision of the election commission to organise the local government referendum has been publicly announced, but not later than 20 working days before the day of the course of the local government referendum, the election commission has received a submission regarding organising of a referendum on another issue referred to in Section 5 of this Law, the initiated local government referendums shall be organised on one day if it is possible to conform with the time period indicated in Paragraph two of this Section. Persons who, on the day when the election commission has taken the decision to organise referendums on one day, meet the requirements of Section 7, Paragraph one of this Law and are registered in the electoral register have the right to participate in the local government referendums.

(5) The election commission shall, not later than within five working days from the day of taking the decision referred to in Paragraph two or three of this Section, notify the council thereof and, in accordance with the Law on Notification, notify the submitter or submitters of the submission thereof (Section 10, Paragraph three).

(6) The submitter or submitters of the submission (Section 10, Paragraph three) are entitled to contest the decision of the election commission with the council within five working days from the date of notification of the relevant decision. The council shall, not later than within five working days from the date of receipt of the submission regarding contesting of the decision of the election commission, examine it and take the decision to organise the local government referendum or to leave the decision of the election commission unchanged. The council shall submit the decision to organise the local government referendum to the election commission. The council shall, in accordance with the Law on Notification, notify the submitter or submitters of the submission (Section 10, Paragraph three) of the decision by which the decision of the election commission has been left unchanged.

(7) The submitter or submitters of the submission (Section 10, Paragraph three) may, within five working days, appeal the decision of the council referred to in Paragraph six of this Section to the Regional Administrative Court.

**Section 14.**(1) The election commission shall publicly announce the decision referred to in Section 9 and Section 13, Paragraphs two and six of this Law to organise the local government referendum or the decision referred to in Section 13, Paragraph three of this Law on refusal to organise the local government referendum within 10 working days after taking the decision.

(2) The following shall be indicated in the notification of organising the local government referendum:

1) the issue on which the local government referendum will take place;

2) information on when and where the vote on the issue referred for the local government referendum will take place;

3) if necessary, other information in order to promote the understanding of voters regarding the issue referred for the local government referendum, except for the case of campaigning information.

(3) The notification of the refusal to organise the local government referendum shall indicate the issue on which organising of the local government referendum was initiated and the grounds for refusal.

**Chapter III**

**Course of the Local Government Referendum and Notification of the Results**

**Section 15.**(1) The advance voting on the issue referred for the local government referendum shall take place electronically on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before the day of the referendum, all day and night by Latvian time. Following the end of the electronic voting, the Central Election Commission shall deny access to the voting on the issue referred for the referendum in the voting system.

(2) The issues referred to in Section 5, Clauses 1 and 2 of this Law may be referred for advance voting.

(3) The Cabinet shall determine the security and technical requirements which shall be met if the voting takes place, using the voting system, and the authority which shall assess the conformity of the voting system with the security and technical requirements stipulated by the Cabinet.

**Section 16.**(1) The voting on the issue referred for the local government referendum shall take place on a Saturday from 7.00 in the morning till 8.00 in the evening.

(2) Before 7.00 in the morning, the chairperson of the polling station commission or the secretary shall, in the presence of the polling station commission, ascertain that the ballot boxes, allotted for depositing ballot papers, are empty. After this the ballot boxes shall be sealed.

(3) The polling station commission shall ensure the verification of the following at the entrance to the polling premises:

1) whether the citizens who arrived are voters;

2) whether the voter presents a valid personal identification document.

**Section 17.**(1) Voting shall be held by secret ballot. Each voter shall vote in person, except for the cases referred to in Section 19 of this Law.

(2) In the polling premises, a member of the polling station commission shall, by using the online electoral register, ascertain that the voter has not already voted in the local government referendum in person, make a notation regarding voting in the electoral register, and issue a ballot paper stamped with the seal of the polling station commission to the voter. The voter shall sign the electoral roll regarding receipt of the ballot paper.

(3) If there is a notation in the electoral register regarding the participation of the voter in the referendum, however, he or she denies that, the polling station commission shall contact the polling station commission in which the voter, according to the information in the electoral register, has voted, and shall clarify whether the signature of the voter is in the electoral roll of the polling station. If the absence of the signature is confirmed, the voter may vote. If there is a signature, the voter shall be refused the possibility to vote.

(4) The ballot paper shall indicate the issue referred for the local government referendum, and also the following options: “for” and “against”.

(5) A separate room or booth shall be installed in the polling premises where the voter may make a mark on the ballot paper alone. The voter shall mark the preferable answer with the “+” mark at the discretion thereof: “for” or“against”. When the voter has made the mark on the ballot paper, he or she shall fold the ballot paper and drop it into the ballot box in the presence of a member of the polling station commission.

(6) On the day of voting after 8.00 in the evening, only voters who arrived at the polling premises before 8.00 in the evening may hand over their ballot papers. Afterwards the polling premises shall be closed.

**Section 18.**(1) The polling station commission shall record the course of voting in the voting logbook.

(2) During voting, the order in the polling premises shall be supervised by the chairperson of the polling station commission. He or she shall ascertain that restrictions on the freedom to vote and disturbances of order, and also campaigning do not occur in the polling premises and closer than 50 metres from the entrance to the building where the polling station is located.

(3) Without disturbing the work of the polling station commission, the course of voting at the polling station may be observed concurrently by not more than two observers authorised by the initiators of the local government referendum, and also members of the Central Election Commission and the relevant local government election commission and persons authorised by these commissions, mass media representatives. The objections expressed by the abovementioned persons and the proposals for voting shall be indicated in the logbook referred to in Paragraph one of this Section.

**Section 19.**(1) If certain voters are unable to come to the polling premises due to their state of health, the polling station commission shall, on the basis of a written submission from such voters or their authorised persons which has been submitted to the electoral commission or polling station commission and registered in the voting logbook, organise voting at the location of such voters, ensuring a secret ballot. Observers authorised for this purpose are entitled to observe such voting.

(2) Voting at the location of voters shall be organised also for the carers of the voters and sick persons referred to in Paragraph one of this Section if they have submitted a written submission regarding voting at their location.

(3) Voting of voters not referred to in Paragraphs one, two, and six of this Section outside the polling premises is not permissible.

(4) Voting at the location shall take place only if the voter is located in the territory of the local government in which the relevant referendum is taking place.

(5) On the day of voting, the polling station commission shall continue to accept written submissions regarding voting at the location of voters. If the submission is submitted after 12.00 noon, the polling station commission shall organise voting at the location of the voter if it is possible to arrive at the location until 8.00 in the evening.

(6) For voters who have been imposed a security measure related to deprivation of liberty, and also for persons who are at a place of temporary detention, voting is organised at the location of such voters in accordance with the procedures laid down in Paragraphs one and five of this Section. The submissions of such voters shall be delivered to the relevant election commission by the administration of the institution.

(7) Voters who vote at their location in accordance with Paragraphs one, two, and six of this Section are entered in a separate electoral roll and ballot papers are deposited in a separate sealed box.

**Section 20.**(1) The polling station commission shall perform the counting of votes cast at the station, but a special polling station commission appointed by the Central Election Commission (hereinafter – the Internet polling station commission) shall perform the counting of electronic votes.

(2) The polling station commission and the Internet polling station commission shall count the votes in an open meeting in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the Central Election Commission and shall prepare a vote counting report regarding the counting of votes in two copies. The vote counting report shall be signed by all members of the polling station commission present.

(3) Without disturbing the work of the polling station commission, the meeting may be concurrently attended by not more than two observers authorised by the initiators of the local government referendum, and also members of the Central Election Commission and the relevant local government election commission and persons authorised by these commissions, mass media representatives. After completion of the counting of votes, the abovementioned persons have the right to familiarise themselves with the vote counting report.

(4) The Internet polling station commission shall count the votes after closing of polling stations on the day of the referendum and receipt of the information on the persons who voted in person in conformity with the conditions of Paragraph five of this Section.

(5) If the voter has voted electronically several times and has not voted in person, the last (the latest) electronic vote shall be counted. If the voter has voted both electronically and in person, only the vote in person is counted and the electronic vote is not counted.

(6) After determining the number of votes cast in electronic voting, each electronic vote is separated from the identity of the voter, anonymised, and the results of electronic voting are counted. The Internet polling station commission shall send the vote counting report to the election commission.

(7) A submitter or submitters of the submission (Section 10, Paragraph three) may, within three working days from the date of signing the vote counting report, contest it with the election commission. The election commission shall review the complaint and take a decision within three working days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The decision of the election commission may be appealed to the Regional Administrative Court within five working days from the date of receipt thereof.

(8) After completion of the counting of votes and after signing of the vote counting report, all valid ballot papers handed over, and also invalid ballot papers and one vote counting report of the polling station commission shall be packaged and sealed.

(9) The election commission shall calculate the results of the local government referendum on the basis of the vote counting reports submitted by polling station commissions and the vote counting report of the Internet polling station commission.

(10) The results of the local government referendum shall be approved by the election commission by a decision. Voting materials are stored in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the Central Election Commission.

**Section 21.**The election commission shall publicly announce the decision on approval of the results of the local government referendum and shall send the results of the referendum for publication to the website of the local government and the Central Election Commission within three working days from the date of the course of the local government referendum referred to in Section 16, Paragraph one of this Law.

**Section 22.**(1) The local government referendum on the issue referred to in Section 5, Clause 1 or 2 of this Law shall be deemed to have taken place if not less than one third of the number of such voters who were included in electoral rolls of the relevant electoral district on the election day of the last council elections has participated.

(2) The issue referred to in Section 5, Clause 1 or 2 of this Law referred for the local government referendum shall be deemed to be supported if more than half of the number of voters participating in the local government referendum have voted in favour of the matter.

(3) The local government referendum on dismissal of the council shall be deemed to have taken place and an issue on dismissal of the council – to be supported if the majority of voters and at least two-thirds of the number of voters participating in the last elections of the council voted in favour of dismissal of the council.

**Section 23.**(1) If the council has not been dismissed by the local government referendum regarding the dismissal of the council, the local government referendum on the same issue may be re-initiated not earlier than one year after the date of public notification of the results of the local government referendum and in conformity with the requirements of Section 6, Paragraph three of this Law.

(2) If it has been voted against the decision referred to in Section 5, Clause 1 or 2 of this Law in the local government referendum, the council may re-decide on the rejected decision not earlier than during the next term of the council.

**Section 24.**(1) The decision taken in the local government referendum (the supported matter), except for the decision on dismissal of the council, shall enter into effect from the moment when the decision of the election commission on approval of the results of the local government referendum has been publicly announced.

(2) The decision taken in the local government referendum, except for the decision on dismissal of the council, shall be examined in a council meeting within five working days from entering into effect of the relevant decision. The council shall take all necessary decisions at this meeting or not later than one month after the meeting in order to comply with the decision taken in the local government referendum.

(3) If the decision on dismissal of the council has been taken in the local government referendum, then:

1) after the decision on approval of the results of the local government referendum has been publicly announced, the election commission shall send a copy of the decision to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development;

2) members of the dismissed council shall continue to perform their duties until the *Saeima* appoints by law a temporary administration in the relevant administrative territory in accordance with the recommendation of the Cabinet.

(4) When appointing a temporary administration, the *Saeima* shall concurrently determine the time period within which new council elections should take place.

(5) A temporary administration shall carry out the functions provided for the council in laws and shall act until the day when the newly elected council convenes for the first meeting.

(6) New council elections shall be organised within three months from the date of the coming into force of the law on appointing of a temporary administration.

(7) The council shall be elected:

1) for the remainder of the term of office of the dismissed council if more than 24 months remain until the regular elections of the council;

2) for the remainder of the term of office of the dismissed council and the term of office of the council to be elected in the regular elections if less than 24 months, but more than nine months remain until the regular elections of the council.

(8) If less than nine months remain until regular council elections, new council elections shall not take place and a temporary administration shall be in operation until regular council elections.

**Chapter IV**

**Initiation of the Local Government Referendum Electronically**

**Section 25.**(1) A submitter who has undertaken the initiative to organise the collection of signatures for the initiation of the local government referendum shall send a statement to the e-service holder that electronic collection of signatures for the initiation of the local government referendum has been commenced. The notification shall specify:

1) the local government in which the collection of signatures for the initiation of the local government referendum has been commenced;

2) the issue on which the collection of signatures for the initiation of the local government referendum has been commenced;

3) if necessary, other information in order to raise the awareness of voters of the issue on which the local government referendum has been initiated.

(2) The e-service holder shall post the notification in the portal www.latvija.lv on the third working day following the receipt thereof.

**Section 26.**(1) After the end of the collection of signatures, the e-service holder shall deny access to the specific collection of signatures in the portal www.latvija.lv.

(2) The holder of the e-service shall, within three working days, inform the submitter who has undertaken the initiative to organise the collection of signatures for the initiation of the local government referendum of the number of signatures.

**Section 27.**The election commission shall examine the electronically collected signatures for the initiation of the local government referendum and count them in accordance with the procedures laid down in Section 13, Paragraph one of this Law.

**Section 28.**The e-service holder and the election commission shall ensure the storage and destruction of the results of the initiation of the local government referendum in accordance with the requirements of legal acts.

**Chapter V**

**Voting in Registration Envelopes**

**Section 29.** (1) If it is not possible to ascertain that the information on the person is included in the electoral register and that there is no notation already regarding the participation of this person in the referendum, the person shall be entered in a separate electoral roll and a ballot paper, with a ballot envelope stamped with the seal of the polling station commission, and a registration envelope on which the polling station commission has indicated the given name, surname, and order number of the person in the electoral roll shall be issued thereto.

(2) A voter shall, on his or her own, carry out the activities specified in Section 17 of this Law, place the folded ballot paper in the ballot envelope which shall be placed in the registration envelope after being sealed. The registration envelope shall be sealed and handed over to the polling station commission which shall stamp it with the seal of the relevant commission and throw it in a sealed ballot box.

(3) When it is possible to ascertain again that the information on the person is included in the electoral register and that no notation has already been made there regarding the participation of the person in the referendum, the polling station commission shall, without interfering with the voting process, verify this information in accordance with the separate electoral rolls, shall make a notation in the electoral register regarding the participation of the voter in the referendum, and shall mark in the electoral roll whether the vote of the person is countable.

(4) After the end of the voting, the polling station commission shall open the ballot boxes and sort the registration envelopes into two groups – valid and invalid envelopes. The registration envelope shall be invalid if:

1) the given name, surname, and order number of the voter in the electoral roll have not been indicated on it;

2) it has not been stamped with the seal of the relevant polling station commission;

3) the relevant person cannot be found in the electoral register;

4) according to the information in the electoral register, the relevant person has already voted.

(5) The invalid registration envelopes shall be counted and packaged unopened. The polling station commission shall open the valid registration envelopes, ascertain that they contain valid ballot envelopes stamped with the seal of the polling station commission, open them, and count the votes as specified in Section 20 of this Law.

**Section 30.**If it is not possible to ascertain during the voting at the location of a voter that the information on the person is included in the electoral register and that there is no notation regarding the participation of the person in the referendum, it shall be done by contacting the polling station. If it is not possible, the voting shall take place, using registration envelopes pre-stamped with the stamp of the polling station commission, in accordance with the procedures laid down in Section 29 of this Law.

**Chapter VI**

**Examination of Applications at the Regional Administrative Court**

**Section 31.**(1) Applications for the decisions referred to in Section 10, Paragraph four, Clause 2, Section 13, Paragraph six, and Section 20, Paragraph seven of this Law shall be examined by the Regional Administrative Court within 30 days from the date of receipt of the application.

(2) The court shall examine the case as a court of first instance. The case shall be examined in the composition of three judges.

(3) If the law determines a time limit for the performance of a procedural action, but, in performing the relevant procedural action within this time limit, the conditions of Paragraph one of this Section would not be complied with, the court itself shall determine an appropriate time limit for the performance of the relevant procedural action.

(4) A court ruling and also other decisions which are taken by the court when performing procedural actions for the examination of the application submitted or the case initiated may not be appealed.

**Transitional Provision**

The Cabinet shall, by 1 July 2022, submit a draft law to the *Saeima* regarding amendments to the Electoral Register Law which are necessary to ensure the functioning of the electoral register in the local government referendum.

The Law shall come into force on 1 January 2024.

The Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 17 March 2022.

President E. Levits

Rīga, 30 March 2022