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Act on the Statutes of Finland

(188/2000; amendments up to 1197/2010 included)

Chapter 1 – *General provisions*

Section 1 – *The Statutes of Finland*

- (1) The Statutes of Finland series exists for the publication of statutes.
- (2) The series has a separate part (*Treaty Series*) for the publication of treaties and other corresponding instruments containing international obligations binding on Finland.
- (3) Regulations, decisions and communications may also be published in the Statutes of Finland and the Treaty Series, as provided in this Act.
- (4) Separate provisions apply to the ministries' and other state authorities' collections of regulations.

Chapter 2 – *Statutes, decisions and communications to be published in the Statutes of Finland*

Section 2 – *Statutes*

The following shall be published in the Statutes of Finland:

- (1) acts of the Parliament;
- (2) the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament and other rules of procedure adopted by the Parliament in plenary session for the organisation of parliamentary work or for the bodies elected by the Parliament;
- (3) decrees of the President of the Republic and of the Government; and
- (4) decrees of ministries, unless otherwise provided in section 4 or in the act containing the authorisation to issue the decree.

Section 3 – *Parliamentary decisions on state finances*

The following shall also be published in the Statutes of Finland:

- (1) the state budget and a supplementary budget;
- (2) the decision of the Parliament on the application of the budget proposal as an interim budget; and
- (3) the decisions on state finances made by the Parliament outside the context of the budget or a supplementary budget.

Section 4 – *Publication of decrees of ministries in collections of regulations*

For a special reason, a ministry may decide that a decree of the ministry, of little general interest, is to be published in the ministry's collection of regulations instead of the Statutes of Finland. In this event, a notice by the ministry in question on the manner of publication of the decree must be published in the Statutes of Finland. The notice must indicate where the decree is available to the public and when the decree enters into force.

Section 5 – *Regulations issued by authorities*

- (1) Regulations issued by other state authorities shall be published in the collection of regulations of the authority in question, as separately provided on the publication of regulations.
- (2) Regulations issued by authorities shall be published in the Statutes of Finland instead of or in addition to the collection of regulations, if so provided in the act containing the authorisation to issue the regulation. The authority may also make a separate decision to the effect that its regulations of general interest are to be published in the Statutes of Finland instead of or in addition to its collection of regulations.

Section 6 – *Other decisions and communications*

- (1) Decisions and communications that under specific provisions are to be published in the Statutes of Finland shall be published there, as shall such statutes on the arrangement of parliamentary work and statutes on bodies elected by the Parliament that the Parliament has separately ordered to be published in the Statutes of Finland.
- (2) Moreover, the Government or a ministry may make a separate decision to the effect that a decision or communication of the Government, a ministry or some other authority, which is of general interest, is to be published in the Statutes of Finland.

Section 7 – *Entry into force of statutes*

- (1) Provisions on the entry into force of acts are laid down in the Constitution.
- (2) Other statutes must indicate their date of entry into force. If a statute has not been published by its indicated date of entry into force, it enters into force on the date of publication.

Chapter 3 – *Treaties, statutes and notices to be published in the Treaty Series*

Section 8 – *Treaties*

- (1) The following shall be published in the Treaty Series:
 - (1) Finland's treaties and the reservations, explanations and notices that Finland has made in respect of the treaties, unless otherwise provided in this Act; and
 - (2) decisions to withdraw from a treaty or to suspend the operation or implementation of a treaty.
- (2) Acts and decrees on the implementation of a treaty, published in the Statutes of Finland, must also be published in the Treaty Series in connection with the treaty in question.
- (3) The provisions of this Act on treaties also apply to other corresponding instruments containing international obligations binding on Finland.

Section 9 – *Publication of treaties elsewhere than in the Treaty Series*

- (1) For a special reason, the Government or the pertinent ministry may decide that a treaty, other than one adopted by the Parliament or requiring the consent of the Parliament, is not to be published in the Treaty Series, if:
 - (1) the treaty provisions are of little general interest; or
 - (2) it is not necessary to enact a specific statute in order to implement the treaty provisions in Finland.

- (2) In a situation referred to in subsection 1, the ministry must keep the treaty available to the public on the public data network. In this event, the Government or the ministry must publish a notice in the Treaty Series informing that the treaty has been published on the public data network and indicating the authority that is to supply copies of the treaty and to provide information on it in Finnish and Swedish. (1197/2010)

Section 10 – *Notices concerning the international relations of Finland*

- (1) In addition to the treaties, decisions and notices referred to in sections 8 and 9, also such notices concerning the international relations of Finland that under specific provisions are to be published in the Treaty Series shall be published in the Treaty Series.
- (2) The Government or a ministry may also make a separate decision to the effect that a notice of general interest concerning the international relations of Finland or an international agreement between authorities with significance to the public at large is to be published in the Treaty Series. (1197/2010)

Chapter 4 – *Publication of the Statutes of Finland and the Treaty Series*

Section 11 – *Languages of publication*

- (1) The Statutes of Finland and the Treaty Series shall be published in Finnish and Swedish, unless otherwise provided in this Act.
- (2) If a treaty is not authentic in either its Finnish or Swedish version, it must also be published in at least one authentic language.
- (3) Provisions on the publication of Saami translations of acts of primary concern to the Saami as well as other such statutes, treaties and other instruments and communications published in the Statutes of Finland are laid down in section 9(1) of the Saami Language Act. (1197/2010)

Section 12 (1197/2010) – *Format of publication*

- (1) The Statutes of Finland and the Treaty Series must be published and kept available to the public for free on the public data network.
- (2) In addition, the Statutes of Finland and the Treaty Series may be published in print format or in some other format.

Section 13 – *Date of publication of statutes*

- (1) An act of the Parliament must be published in the Statutes of Finland without delay after the President of the Republic has signed the act and the pertinent minister has countersigned it.
- (2) Other statutes must be published in the Statutes of Finland well in advance of their entry into force, unless otherwise follows from the date of adoption of the statute.
- (3) A statute is deemed to have been published, when it has been made available to the public in the manner specified in section 12(1). If a statute cannot, due to a technical problem in the public data network or another special reason, be published on the public data network before its statutory entry into force, the statute is deemed to have been published when it has been made available to the public in print format or some other format. In this event, the statute must be published on the public data network as soon as possible. (1197/2010)

Section 14 – *Date of publication of treaties*

A treaty must be published in the Treaty Series without delay after Finland has been notified of the date of the treaty's international entry into force in respect of Finland.

Section 15 – *Date of publication of notices, decisions and communications*

The provisions of sections 13(2) and 13(3) apply also to notices referred to in section 4 and, in so far as appropriate, to regulations, other decisions and communications to be published in the Statutes of Finland.

Section 16 (1197/2010) – *Identifying information to be entered into the Statutes of Finland and the Treaty Series*

- (1) Each document published in the Statutes of Finland or the Treaty Series shall be preceded by the title "Suomen säädöskokoelma" (*Statutes of Finland*) or "Suomen säädöskokoelman sopimussarja" (*Treaty Series of the Statutes of Finland*) as well as by the number of the document and its date of publication.
- (2) Other details necessary to identify a specific document and references to parliamentary documents, statutes and regulations may also be given in connection with the document. Provisions on the information to be provided in connection with the documents and on the manner of providing it shall be issued by decree of the Ministry of Justice.

Section 17 (1197/2010) – *Publication order*

- (1) A publication order shall be issued for the publication of a document in the Statutes of Finland or the Treaty Series, indicating the identifying information on the statute or treaty, as referred to in section 16(2), as well as containing any other information necessary for the publication.
- (2) The publication order shall be addressed to the person in charge of the practical arrangements of the publication of the Statutes of Finland or the Treaty Series.
- (3) The publication order is issued by a competent public official of the Government or some other authority. However, the publication order for the publication of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament, other rules of procedure referred to in section 2(2), a parliamentary decision referred to in section 3, and a statute adopted by the Parliament referred to in section 6(1) shall be issued by the competent public official of the Parliament.

Section 17 a (1197/2010) – *Publication of a correction*

A correction of an error may be published in the Statutes of Finland and the Treaty Series, if a document or its identifying information contains a clear typographical error or another corresponding clear error.

Chapter 5 – *Miscellaneous provisions*

Section 18 – *Responsibility for the publication and distribution of the Statutes of Finland*

- (1) The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the publication and distribution of the Statutes of Finland. In this respect, the Ministry cooperates with the Parliament, the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, so that the needs of the various parties involved in the publication of the Statutes of Finland and the Treaty Series are appropriately taken into account.

- (2) The Ministry of Justice may delegate practical tasks relating to the publication and distribution of the Statutes of Finland and the Treaty Series to other state authorities, institutions or companies, private individuals, or corporations or foundations.

Section 19 – *Authorisation to issue decrees*

Further provisions on the implementation of this Act may be issued by decree of the Government.

Chapter 6 – *Entry into force*

Section 20 – *Entry into force*

- (1) This Act enters into force on 1 March 2000.
- (2) This Act repeals the Act on the Publication of International Agreements (360/1982) and the Decree on the Statutes of Finland (696/1980), both as later amended.
- (3) Measures necessary for the implementation of this Act may be taken before its entry into force.

Section 21 – *Transitional provisions*

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 18(2), the practical arrangements for the publication and distribution of the Statutes of Finland and the Treaty Series that are in effect at the entry into force of this Act shall remain in effect until 31 March 2003.
- (2) The provisions on the format of references to European Community legislation that are in effect at the entry into force of this Act shall remain in effect until otherwise provided by virtue of section 16 of this Act.