

**Law 4823/2021 (articles 138–163), Secondary Ecclesiastical Education, (articles 236–240), Transitional Provisions.**

## **CHAPTER B**

### **CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOLS**

#### **Article 138**

##### **Post-secondary ecclesiastical education**

Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools provide post-secondary ecclesiastical clergy training as decentralized services of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and are supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.

#### **Article 139**

##### **Purpose of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

The sole purpose of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is the education of prospective clergy of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, as defined in article 3 of the Constitution, who possess a high level of education and ecclesiastical integrity, and who are committed to democratic values, so that they may serve in Greece or in the Greek communities abroad.

#### **Article 140**

##### **Apprenticeship Diploma**

1. Graduates of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are awarded an apprenticeship diploma, which corresponds to Level 5 of the National Qualifications Framework.
2. The apprenticeship diploma is a prerequisite for appointment to a vacant permanent position as a parish priest, following his ordination in accordance with the sacred canons of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, in parishes located in villages or towns with a population of up to forty thousand (40,000) inhabitants. As an exception, holders of an apprenticeship diploma may be appointed to a vacant permanent position as a parish priest in parishes located in towns with a population of more than forty thousand (40,000) inhabitants, provided that no candidates come forward who hold a degree from a domestic Higher Education Institution or a legally recognized degree from a foreign Higher Education Institution, or who are graduates of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies. Clergy who hold an apprenticeship diploma, following their appointment, advance through the Pay Grades of the Secondary Education category, starting at Pay Grade 1 and ending at Pay Grade 13, as provided in article 9 of Law 4354/2015 (A' 176).
3. The acquisition of an apprenticeship diploma does not confer upon the holder the right to appointment to a vacant permanent position as a parish priest.
4. As an exception, a clergy may be appointed to a vacant permanent position as a parish priest without having obtained an apprenticeship diploma in settlements with a population of fewer than two thousand (2,000) inhabitants, belonging to a remote or island Metropolis, provided that all of the following conditions are: (a) he is over thirty (30) years of age and not over fifty (50) years of age, (b) he is married, and (c) he holds a leaving certificate from a General Ecclesiastical High School under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), an Ecclesiastical High School under this Law, a General High School, or a leaving certificate or diploma from a Vocational High School, or an equivalent secondary education qualification from Greece or abroad. The clergy is required to remain in the position to

which he was appointed for ten (10) years and is not permitted to be seconded, transferred or, in general, reassigned during this period. Following his appointment, he is enrolled in a Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of his choice, in addition to the number of admitted students, and must, within seven (7) years from the publication of his appointment in the Government Gazette, submit the apprenticeship diploma to the competent authorities; otherwise, he is automatically dismissed. The place where the apprenticeship is carried out, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of article 143, is considered to be the cleric's post in the permanent position to which he was appointed. By decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the clergy may be permitted to take distance learning, whether synchronous or asynchronous, for specific or all theoretical courses of the educational program of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School in which he has enrolled.

5. Paragraph 2 does not affect the provisions that establish a higher education qualification as a prerequisite for appointment to a vacant permanent position as a parish priest.

#### **Article 141**

##### **Establishment, Organization and Operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

1. By joint decision of the Ministers of Finance and Education and Religious Affairs, upon the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools shall be established in Athens, Ioannina and Crete. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be abolished, their operation may be suspended, or their seat may be transferred, the effective date of the abolition, suspension of operation or transfer of the seat, as well as specific matters concerning the employment status of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools' staff, matters relating to the management and disposal of its technical and material infrastructure, and any other specific matter are also determined.
2. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following an opinion of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the operating regulations of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are established, which are a prerequisite for the beginning of their operation.

#### **Article 142**

##### **Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School**

1. A Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is established and operates at the institution named "Rizarios Ecclesiastical School", following the approval of the Multi-member Council and in accordance with the provisions of this law, which has as its sole purpose the education of prospective clergy of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, who possess a high level of education and ecclesiastical integrity, in accordance with the will of its founders. The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is subject to the provisions of this law in all matters relating to teaching staff, students and academic matters and is supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is housed in a building within the institution's campus complex, in accordance with a decision of its Multi-member Council, which also determines its outdoor area.

2. By Presidential Decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following the approval of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, the specific matters concerning the teaching staff, students and academic matters are determined. The approval of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is considered to have been granted upon the expiry, without action, of three (3) months from the date on which it is requested by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs. In this case, the Presidential Decree is issued following the opinion of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

### **Article 143**

#### **Educational programs of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

1. The duration of studies at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is two (2) years. The curriculum consists of theoretical courses, clerical apprenticeship and a graduation thesis.
2. The theoretical courses include: a) common compulsory courses related to the principles of the rule of law, the operation of Public Administration and the exercise of administrative duties in Parishes, b) common compulsory courses related to the liturgical duties of the spiritual-religious minister and the exercise of clerical duties, and c) elective courses related to the teaching role of the religious minister-pastor, which may differ among the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools in terms of title and content or number of teaching hours, without, however, altering the total number of teaching hours prescribed by the curriculum. The educational and teaching material for the theoretical courses of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is developed by the Institute of Educational Policy and distributed electronically or in print by the Computer Institute and Press "DIOPHANTUS", following approval by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.
3. The apprenticeship takes place in the Holy Churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ and other ecclesiastical premises or institutions of the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete or the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese. It may also be held in Holy Churches or ecclesiastical premises or institutions belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate or the Patriarchate of Alexandria or the Patriarchate of Jerusalem or the Patriarchate of Antioch or the Archdiocese of Sinai and are located outside the territory of Greece. All expenses related to the completion of the apprenticeship are not borne by the State Budget.
4. A graduation thesis is assigned after the successful completion of all theoretical courses and is carried out in parallel with the apprenticeship during the second year of studies.
5. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, upon the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the following are determined: (a) The timetables and curricula of the theoretical courses and the student evaluation process. The recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education describes: (aa) clearly formulated intended learning outcomes, broken down into knowledge, skills and competences by course, (ab) course curriculum, structured in accordance with the intended learning outcomes of each course, (ac) teaching guidelines, including teaching techniques, teaching methods and appropriate audiovisual aids. (b) Any matter related to the conduct of the clerical apprenticeship and, in particular, the obligations and rights of students, the intended objectives and the student evaluation process.
6. By decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, all relevant details relating to the completion of the graduation thesis are determined.

## **Article 144**

### **Eligibility for Enrolment in the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

1. Greek citizens are eligible to enroll in the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools provided they hold a leaving certificate from a General Ecclesiastical High School under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), a General Ecclesiastical High School under this Law, a General High School, or a leaving certificate or diploma from a Vocational High School, or an equivalent from a secondary education school in Greece or abroad, possess the qualifications to be ordained as clergy, and have fulfilled their military obligations or have been lawfully exempted from them. The fulfilment of military obligations or lawful exemption from them is proven by a Type A' military service status certificate.
2. Greeks residing abroad are eligible to enroll in the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, provided they have reached the age of eighteen (18) years, hold qualifications equivalent to those referred to in paragraph 1, and are eligible to be ordained as clergy.
3. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, foreign nationals who are citizens of countries within or outside the European Union may be permitted to enroll, provided that they have reached the age of eighteen (18) years and hold qualifications equivalent to those referred to in paragraph 1. The same decision also determines the terms, conditions and enrolment procedure, the selection criteria, the supporting enrolment documents; tuition fees may be established and their amount for citizens of countries outside the European Union, and any other specific matters are regulated.

## **Article 145**

### **Admission of students to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

1. The admission of students to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools takes place following a selection process conducted in two (2) stages. In the first stage, oral interviews of the candidates are conducted. Successful candidates proceed to the second stage, during which they take a written examination.
2. To conducting the selection process, a five-member Selection Committee is established for each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School. Each committee consists of: (a) three (3) members appointed by the Standing Holy Synod of the Church of Greece for the Athens and Ioannina Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and by the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Crete, and one of the three members is a physician specializing in psychiatry, (b) one faculty (1) member of a Theological School in Greece or one (1) teacher of the PE01 teaching category of general secondary education or Ecclesiastical Schools and (c) one (1) faculty member of a School of Philosophy in Greece or one (1) teacher of the PE02 teaching category of general secondary education or Ecclesiastical Schools, appointed by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs. Participation in the Selection Committee is unpaid. The committee is established by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.
3. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the following are determined:
  - (a) The number of students to be admitted to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools. In the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, the number of students to be admitted is determined by decision of the Minister of Education, issued upon the recommendation of the Multi-member Council.
  - (b) The timeframe, method and procedure for the submission of candidates' applications.
  - (c) The common date for the written exams for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools.

- (d) Any detail relating to the operation of the Selection Committees of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools.
  - (e) Any specific matter relating to the interview process, the topics covered in the exam and the grading of the written exams.
  - (f) Any other specific matter relating to the selection process.
4. To participate in the selection process, candidates submit an application along with the following supporting documents: (a) a curriculum vitae, (b) the qualifications referred to in paragraph 1 of article 144, and (c) a certificate from a Metropolitan of the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete or the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, certifying that they possess the qualifications required to be ordained as clergy.

#### **Article 146**

##### **First stage of student selection**

1. The Selection Committee assesses the candidate's overall character and personality, his inclination towards priesthood, and his ability to live up to the principles that inspire Orthodoxy and the Holy Clergy.
2. The Selection Committee of each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School compiles a list of successful candidates from the first stage and sends it to the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations, which posts it on the website of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The Selection Committee of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School also sends the list referred to in the first sentence to the institution's Multi-member Council.

#### **Article 147**

##### **Second stage of student selection**

1. Candidates are tested in writing on the following subjects: (a) Greek History and (b) Religious Studies. The written exams are graded on a scale from one (1) to twenty (20), and candidates are considered successful if they have a score of at least ten (10) in each subject examined.
2. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education selects the common exam topics and issues instructions and clarifications to the Selection Committee concerning the method for grading written exams.
3. Teachers of the Ecclesiastical Schools, appointed by decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, grade the written exams. The Selection Committee of each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School compiles the list of successful candidates and sends it to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education compiles the list of admitted students to each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School and sends it to the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The list of admitted students to each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is approved by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs and posted on the website of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The list of admitted students to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is also sent to the institution's Multi-member Council.
4. Successful candidates are admitted to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools in descending order of scores until the number of admissions specified in the decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs of point (a) of paragraph 3 of article 145. Transfer of an admitted student to another Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is not permitted.
5. If, after the list of admitted students is ratified, vacancies arise, or such vacancies arise due to a successful candidate's failure to enroll, each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School shall announce, through its website, the number of vacancies that have arisen. In this case, any

successful candidate, who has not been admitted, is entitled, within fifteen (15) days of the notification under the first point, to submit an application to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education requesting that the vacancy be filled based on their score. The vacancy is filled by decision of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, upon recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

6. If vacancies arise due to the departure of admitted students within two (2) months of the start of the academic year, the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School announces on its website the number of vacancies that have arisen and shall invite, by email, all successful candidates who have not been admitted to submit an application to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education requesting to fill the vacancy within three (3) working days from the date of the invitation. The vacancy is filled by decision of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, upon recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, based on the scores received by the candidates.

#### **Article 148**

##### **Teaching Staff of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

1. Theoretical courses at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be taught by professors of Higher Education Institutions, in particular those of Theological Schools, the teaching staff of the clerical studies programs of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies, teachers of public general or ecclesiastical secondary education who hold a master's specialization degree or a doctoral degree, and clergy who hold a permanent position as a parish priest, possess the qualifications required for appointment to public secondary education, and hold a master's specialization degree or a doctoral degree.
2. A call for applications from the Secretary General for Religious Affairs is posted on the website of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, following recommendations by the Directors of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, inviting interested parties who possess the legally prescribed qualifications and wish to teach at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools to submit an application, accompanied by the necessary supporting documents, within the deadline specified in the call. The application is accompanied by a curriculum vitae, which sets out the applicant's studies, publications and other work.
3. Candidates for teaching the theoretical courses are selected by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.
4. Selected teachers of public general secondary education may be seconded, by decision of the competent body of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, for three (3) years, or assigned to complete their teaching hours at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School. Selected faculty members of Higher Education Institutions or the teaching staff of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies are employed in accordance with the relevant provisions governing teaching duties. Selected clergy are assigned to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School by decision of the competent body of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, following the consent of the Metropolitan of the Metropolis to which they belong, for a term of three (3) years. The teaching staff of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are not entitled to additional compensation from the State.
5. The teaching and working hours of the Director and the other teaching staff serving at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are determined by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.
6. Clerical apprenticeship is conducted exclusively under the responsibility of the clergy.
7. The criteria, the procedure, including an interview, and any other matter relating to the selection process for teaching staff of the theoretical courses are determined by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

## **Article 149**

### **Governing Bodies of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

The governing bodies of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are, at the national level, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and, at the level of the educational unit, the Director.

## **Article 150**

### **Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School**

1. The Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is a clergy who holds a permanent position as a parish priest in a Holy Metropolis within the territory of Greece, a member of the school's teaching staff, and is appointed by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a reasoned recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The term of office is three (3) years and may be renewed. The Director receives the salary corresponding to the permanent position and the allowance provided for in article 16 of Law 4354/2015 (A' 176) for holding the position of Director of a public Vocational Training Institute. In particular, candidates for the position of Director at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is interviewed by the Multi-member Council of the Institution prior to the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, which may also be conducted remotely via teleconference. The Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School promptly sends its opinion on each candidate to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, without ranking them. The Multi-member Council may raise a specific and fully reasoned objection to the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education within an exclusive deadline of three (3) working days from the day following its notification to the Council of the Institution. In this case, the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations shall decide, and the first sentence shall then apply.
2. The Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, in particular, has the following competences:
  - a) Coordinates and is responsible for the smooth administrative operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School,
  - b) Ensures and is responsible:
    - ba) for compliance with the laws, decisions, instructions and circulars issued by the competent administrative bodies,
    - bb) for timely and reliable communication and cooperation with the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, so as to resolve any issue relating to the operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School,
  - c) assigns specific duties to the teaching staff relating to the overall educational work of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, the implementation of innovative educational programs and activities, as well as the implementation of programs for the utilization of new technologies and information technology,
  - d) Grants the staff of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School their statutory leave.The Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is also responsible for any other matter related to the operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School.
3. If the Director is unable to perform his duties or is temporarily absent, he shall designate a member of the teaching staff of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School to act as his deputy.

4. If the Director resigns or dies before the end of his term of office, a member of the teaching staff shall be selected as Director for the remainder of the term of office, in accordance with the provisions hereof.

5. The specific responsibilities of the Directors of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are determined by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

6. The Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School notifies the Multi-member Council of the Institution of the leaves of absence that he grants pursuant to point (d) of paragraph 2.

7. The Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School submits, every six months, to the Multi-member Council of the Institution a report on activities concerning the operation of the School, which he notifies to the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

#### **Article 151**

##### **Accommodation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

1. The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be accommodated in buildings provided for use free of charge and owned by Holy Metropolises, Holy Parishes, Holy Monasteries, ecclesiastical institutions, non-profit institutions, first- or second-level local government entities, or the State, subject to the last sentence of paragraph 1 of article 142. Holy Metropolises, Holy Parishes, Holy Monasteries, ecclesiastical institutions and non-profit institutions are exempt from the obligation to pay any kind of taxes and fees on real estate which they provide free of charge to house the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools.

2. Any specific matter relating to the accommodation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is regulated by joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and of Environment and Energy, upon the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, as well as the Multi-member Council specifically for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School.

#### **Article 152**

##### **Medical and Hospital Expenses of Students**

The State covers the medical and hospital expenses of the students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, provided they are not directly or indirectly insured. By joint decision of the Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs, Education and Religious Affairs, Health and Finance, the relevant details shall be regulated.

#### **Article 153**

##### **Admission to Theological Schools and to the Clergy Studies Programs of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies**

1. Holders of the apprenticeship diploma of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be admitted to Departments of Theological Schools in Greece or to the Clergy Studies Programs of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies, exclusively through placement exams conducted under the responsibility of the host institutions.

2. The placement exams consist of an exam with essay questions on three (3) courses from the host institution's curriculum. In the selection of candidates, the transparency and integrity of the process are ensured. The ranking of candidates is determined by the aggregate score from all the courses in which they are examined. This ranking includes those who have obtained a total score of at least thirty (30) points, provided that they have obtained at least

ten (10) points in each of the three (3) courses. Ranking is based on descending order of scores until the specified percentage is filled.

3. By decision of the competent bodies of the host institutions, admitted candidates may, upon their request, be exempted from the obligation to enroll in and attend courses in the curriculum, both compulsory and elective, whose content they have been fully or sufficiently taught at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, but under no circumstances may they be exempted from the obligation to take exams in these courses, in accordance with the provisions of the curriculum. Exempt from the examination requirement are those courses in which they were examined for admission.

4. The competent bodies of the host institutions decide on the examination conduct and determine the requirements, terms, admission and registration procedure, the time and place of the exams, the subjects to be tested, the number of students to be admitted and any other specific matter.

5. The placement exams for holders of the apprenticeship diploma of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are exclusively governed by the provisions of this.

#### **Article 154**

##### **Funding of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

The operating expenses, expenses for educational materials and equipment, and routine maintenance expenses for the buildings in which the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools operate are borne by the Regular Budget or the Public Investment Program of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The expenses referred to in the first excerpt for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is covered by the Institution's annual budget.

#### **Article 155**

##### **Supervisory Board for the Operation of Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

1. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, a three-member Supervisory Board may be established to support the administrative operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and its competences shall be determined therein. The term of office for members is two years, and the Board shall comprise: (a) the local Metropolitan, as Chair, along with his lawful alternate, (b) the Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, with his alternate in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 150, and (c) a prominent member of the local community, designated by the Standing Holy Synod, with his alternate.
2. The Multi-member Council exercises the competences of the Board to support the administrative operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School and has general oversight of all buildings and the Holy Church on the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School estate. By decision of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School and in cooperation with the Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, following approval of the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations, artistic events, lectures, performances and participation in national or international competitions may be organized at the Institution's expense.

#### **Article 156**

##### **Affiliation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools with Institutions**

The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be affiliated with: (a) The Theological Schools and the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies of Greece, (b) research institutions, and (c) public-benefit foundations. The affiliation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship

Schools, its content, the relevant requirements and the procedure are provided for by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a specifically reasoned recommendation from the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. If the institution or public-benefit foundation falls under the jurisdiction or is supervised by another Ministry, a joint decision is issued by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister competent in each case.

#### **Article 157**

##### **Evaluation of the Educational Program of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and their Staff**

1. The evaluation concerns the effectiveness of the educational program of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and the efficiency of the teaching staff, with the sole purpose of ensuring and continuously improving the quality of the educational work provided and of the educational outcomes.
2. At the end of the second year of study of each intake, an internal evaluation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is conducted. In particular, during the last fortnight of May, the graduating students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools evaluate, by means of special reports, the curriculum, the educational and teaching materials of the theoretical courses, the clerical apprenticeship and the teaching staff, including the Director.
3. During the period specified in the second sentence of paragraph 2, the Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School evaluates, in a special report, the curriculum, the educational and teaching materials of the theoretical courses and the clerical apprenticeship.
4. At the end of May every four years, an external evaluation is conducted by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and by the Church of Greece for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools of Athens and Ioannina, and by the Church of Crete for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Crete, in order to assess the schools' achievement of the objectives set out in paragraph 1. The internal evaluation reports referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 serve as the basis for the external evaluation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools. On the basis of the evaluation report, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education issues an opinion or makes recommendations to the Secretary General for Religious Affairs on matters falling within the subject of the evaluation.
5. The external evaluation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is conducted both by the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School and the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. On the basis of the evaluation report, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education issues an opinion or makes recommendations to the Secretary General for Religious Affairs on matters falling within the subject of the evaluation.
6. The procedure, manner and methods of evaluation, as well as any other detail concerning the evaluation of the educational program of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and their staff, are determined by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a specifically reasoned recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the Church of Greece and the Church of Crete.

#### **Article 158**

##### **Residences for Students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

1. Room and board needs of the students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are covered by the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete.

2. At each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, a students' residence may be established and operated to meet the room and board needs of the students.
3. Since their establishment, students' residences have operated under the responsibility of the legal entity under private law "Ecclesiastical Education Residence". The Board of Directors of the legal entity under private law "Ecclesiastical Education Residence" issues the operating regulations for the students' residence, which regulates any detail concerning its administration and operation. These regulations take effect upon their publication in the official monthly bulletin of the Church of Greece, "Ekklesia", or in the official monthly bulletin of the Church of Crete, "Apostolos Titos".
4. It is not permitted to cover room and board needs of students of Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools in the same premises where an Ecclesiastical School or an Ecclesiastical School students' residence operates.
5. A residence may be established and operated within the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School to meet room and board needs of its students, by decision of the institution's Multi-member Council and under its responsibility. All expenses for the operation of the residence are borne by the institution. The operating regulations for the residence are determined by decision of the Multi-member Council, which must be mandatorily notified to the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations and posted on the websites of the institution and the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School.

#### **Article 159**

##### **Regulation of Matters Concerning the Organization and Operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, matters relating to the following are regulated:

- (a) The beginning and end of the academic year, public holidays and school holidays of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools,
- (b) Enrolment, attendance, disciplinary penalties, conduct evaluation, and academic degrees awarded by the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools,
- (c) The procedure, grounds and bodies that decide on the suspension of classes or their completion by extending the teaching year of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools,
- (d) The organization of student life, and
- (e) Any other detail relating to the operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools.

#### **Article 160**

##### **Beginning of Operation of Ecclesiastical Schools and Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools**

1. The existing General Ecclesiastical High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools–Junior High Schools are converted into Ecclesiastical Schools, in accordance with the provisions hereof. The Ecclesiastical Schools shall begin operating as of the 2022–2023 school year, unless otherwise specified by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.
2. The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools shall begin operating as of the 2023–2024 academic year, unless otherwise specified by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.

#### **Article 161**

##### **Matters Concerning the General Ecclesiastical High Schools of Vella, Ioannina, and the Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Crete**

1. The General Ecclesiastical High School of Vella and the Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Crete (General Ecclesiastical High School–Junior High School of Chania), under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), shall operate until the end of the 2021–2022 school year. Students of these schools shall enroll for the 2022-2023 school year in a public secondary school or another Ecclesiastical School of their choice.
2. As of the 2023–2024 academic year, the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Vella shall operate at the General Ecclesiastical High School of Vella, and the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Crete shall operate at the Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Crete, in accordance with the provisions hereof.

## **Article 162**

### **Time Limit for Issuing an Opinion, Proposal or Recommendation**

Where the provisions of this Part require an opinion, recommendation or proposal from a competent body, such opinion, recommendation or proposal shall, unless otherwise specified by specific provisions, be issued no later than within an exclusive time limit of two (2) months from the submission of the relevant question or the notification of the relevant matter. Otherwise, the act may be issued directly by the decision-making body.

## **Article 163**

### **Authorizing Provisions**

1. By joint decision of the Ministers of Finance and Education and Religious Affairs, upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are established in Athens, Ioannina and Crete, in accordance with the first sentence of paragraph 1 of article 141.
2. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education:
  - (a) The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be abolished, their operation suspended, or their location relocated; the effective date of such abolition, suspension of operation or relocation of their location may be determined, as well as specific matters concerning the service status of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools' staff, matters relating to the management and allocation of their technical and material infrastructure, and any other specific matter, in accordance with the second sentence of paragraph 1 of article 141.
  - (b) The operating regulations of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are established, which are a prerequisite for the beginning of their operation, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 141.
  - (c) The following are determined:
    - (ca) the timetables and detailed curricula for the theoretical courses and the evaluation process of students, in accordance with point (a) of paragraph 5 of article 143,
    - (cb) any matter relating to the conduct of clerical apprenticeship, and in particular the obligations and rights of students, the intended objectives and the student evaluation process, in accordance with point (b) of paragraph 5 of article 143,
    - (cc) the number of students to be admitted to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (a) of paragraph 3 of article 145,
    - (cd) the timeframe, method and procedure for submitting candidates' applications, in accordance with point (b) of paragraph 3 of article 145,
    - (ce) the common date of the written examinations for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (c) of paragraph 3 of article 145,

(cf) any detail relating to the operation of the Selection Committees of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (d) of paragraph 3 of article 145,  
(cg) any specific matter relating to the interview procedure, the topics covered in the examination and the grading of written exams, in accordance with point (e) of paragraph 3 of article 145,

(ch) any other specific matter relating to the selection process, in accordance with point (f) of paragraph 3 of article 145,

(ci) the criteria, the procedure, including an interview, and any other matter relating to the selection process for teaching staff of the theoretical courses, in accordance with paragraph 7 of article 148,

(cj) the specific competences of the Directors of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 150,

(ck) the beginning and end of the academic year, public holidays and school holidays of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (a) of article 159,

(cl) enrolment, attendance, disciplinary penalties, conduct evaluation and academic degrees awarded by the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (b) of article 159,

(cm) the procedure, grounds and bodies that decide on the suspension of classes or their completion by extending the teaching year of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (c) of article 159,

(cn) the organization of student life, in accordance with point (d) of article 159, and

(co) any other detail relating to the operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (e) of article 159.

(d) The attendance of foreign nationals, whether citizens of Member States or non-Member States of the European Union, who have reached the age of eighteen (18) and hold qualifications equivalent to those of paragraph 1 of article 144, is permitted. The same decision also determines the terms, conditions and enrolment procedure, the selection criteria and the enrolment documents; tuition fees may be established, and their amount may be determined, for citizens of countries outside the European Union; and any other specific matter is regulated, in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 144.

3. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a specifically reasoned recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the affiliation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, its content, the relevant conditions and the procedure are provided for, in accordance with the first excerpt of article 156. If the body or charitable foundation falls under the jurisdiction or is supervised by another Ministry, a joint decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister competent in each case is issued, in accordance with the second excerpt of the same article.
4. By presidential decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following the consent of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, specific matters concerning the teaching staff, students and academic matters are determined, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 142.
5. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the recommendation of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, the number of students to be admitted to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School are determined, in accordance with point (a) of paragraph 3 of article 145.
6. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs:
  - (a) The teaching and working hours of the Director and the other teaching staff serving at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are determined, in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 148,

- (b) A three-member supervisory committee may be established to support the administrative operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, and its competences are determined, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 155.
7. By joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and Environment and Energy, upon the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, as well as by the Multi-member Council for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, any specific matter relating to the housing of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is regulated, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 151.
  8. By joint decision of the Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs, Education and Religious Affairs, and Finance, the details relating to the State's coverage of the medical, pharmaceutical and hospital expenses of students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are regulated, provided they are not directly or indirectly insured, in accordance with article 152.
  9. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a specifically reasoned recommendation from the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the Church of Greece and the Church of Crete, the procedure, manner, methods and any other detail relating to the evaluation of the educational program of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and their staff are determined, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 157.
  10. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, a different beginning date may be set for the operation of the Ecclesiastical Schools and the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 160, respectively.

## **CHAPTER C**

### **TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS OF PART E'**

#### **Article 236**

##### **Transitional Provision on the Composition of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education**

Until the selection and placement of the Education Councilors of the PE01 Theologians category, Coordinators of Educational Work of the PE 01 Theologians category, are appointed for the composition of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, in accordance with point (c) of paragraph 2 and point (c) of paragraph 3 of article 111.

#### **Article 237**

##### **Transitional Provisions for Teachers and Principals of General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools**

1. Permanent teachers serving in a permanent position at General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14) during the 2020–2021 school year continue to serve at these schools until the end of the 2021–2022 school year.
2. As of the entry into force of this Law, the special procedure laid down in paragraphs 3 and 4 applies, by way of derogation from the provisions in force, for the transfer of the permanent positions of permanent teachers in ecclesiastical secondary education to general secondary or primary education.
3. The permanent position of permanent teachers of ecclesiastical schools is transferred, by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, to the transfer area of secondary or primary education for the common categories and specializations of primary and secondary education, in which the ecclesiastical school is geographically located.
4. The placement of the teachers referred to in paragraph 3 is carried out by decision of the Director of Education, upon the recommendation of the relevant service council, in one of the

five (5) schools, based on the relevant preference statements submitted to the respective Directorate of Education to which the position is transferred. If more teachers of ecclesiastical schools express the same school preferences during the above procedure, they are compared only with one another, based on the total number of transfer points and their preference statements. If there is no vacant permanent position in any of the five (5) schools, these teachers are asked to state their school preferences before the placement process of surplus teachers and in subsequent school years, until they fill a permanent position. These placements take absolute priority over the placement of surplus teachers to a vacant permanent position in a school within the transfer area to which their post has been transferred.

5. Specifically for the 2022–2023 school year, permanent teachers of ecclesiastical schools under Law 3432/2006 may apply to participate in the selection process for an Ecclesiastical School, in accordance with articles 117 and 127 of this Law, concurrently with the process for the transfer of their permanent position provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this article.
6. By way of derogation from the provisions in force, permanent teachers of ecclesiastical schools under Law 3432/2006 have the right to request their transfer to Holy Metropolises of the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete or the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese. Upon acceptance of their application by the relevant Metropolitan, their transfer is effected by joint decision of the competent bodies of the Ministries of Education and Religious Affairs, Finance and Interior.
7. The principals of ecclesiastical schools under Law 3432/2006 serving at the time of entry into force of this Law continue to perform their duties until new Principals are appointed to the Ecclesiastical Schools, in accordance with paragraph 12 of article 117 hereof. Paragraphs 2 to 6 of this article also apply to the Principals of ecclesiastical schools under Law 3432/2006.
8. With regard to personnel matters of the teaching staff of General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools, and until the decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs referred to in paragraph 3 enters into force, the Service Council for Secondary Ecclesiastical Education under article 25 of Law 3432/2006 remains competent, without prejudice to paragraph 1 of article 240.
9. Permanent teachers of the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School are included in the process of transfer of their permanent positions from the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School to general secondary education, in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 5. Their salaries are covered by the regular budget of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

#### **Article 238**

##### **Transitional Provisions Regarding Enrollment, Room and Board for Students of the General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools under Law 3432/2006 and the Housing of Ecclesiastical Schools**

1. Students who, during the school year in which this Law takes effect, are enrolled in the Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14) are not subject to the examinations referred to in paragraph 2 of article 123 hereof for admission to the first grade of the Ecclesiastical High School, but only to the in-school graduation examinations.
2. The Ecclesiastical Schools are housed in the same buildings where, as of the effective date of this Law, the currently operating General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools under Law 3432/2006 are housed, under free concession to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. If these buildings do not meet the requirements of paragraph 3 of article 115, they are repaired or reconstructed, at the initiative of the owner of the property, within seven (7) years from the effective date of this Law, and the related expenses are covered by national or European Union funds of the central government or the Local Government Authorities.

3. Within nine (9) years from the entry into force of the joint ministerial decision referred to in paragraph 6 of article 134 hereof, the existing boarding facilities referred to in the fifth subparagraph of paragraph 2 of article 26 of Law 3432/2006, which provide room and board for students of the General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools, must obtain the operating license referred to in paragraph 5 of article 134 hereof. The necessary work to ensure that the existing buildings of these boarding facilities meet the requirements of the joint ministerial decision of paragraph 6 of article 134 for the granting of the operating license is financed from national or European Union funds and carried out by the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete in cooperation with the company “Building Infrastructures S.A.” or the relevant Local Government Authorities.

#### **Article 239**

##### **Transitional Provisions for the Administrative and Operational Support Staff of the General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools under Law 3432/2006**

1. Permanent staff or staff employed under indefinite-term employment contracts who are responsible for the administrative and operational support of the General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools under Law 3432/2006 (A’ 14) continue to provide their services in the positions they hold at the time of entry into force of this Law.
2. As of the effective date of this Law, the Regional Service Council for Administrative Personnel and the First-Instance Disciplinary Council referred to in sub-point (bb) of point (a) of paragraph 3 of the sixth article of Law 4057/2012 (A’ 54) shall serve as the service and disciplinary council, respectively, for the personnel of paragraph 1 hereof. From the entry into force of this Law, the Service Council for Secondary Ecclesiastical Education under article 25 of Law 3432/2006 shall cease to have jurisdiction over service and disciplinary matters regarding the personnel of paragraph 1 hereof.

#### **Article 240**

##### **Other Transitional Provisions for Secondary Ecclesiastical Education**

1. The term of office of the members of the Supervisory Council for Secondary Ecclesiastical Education referred to in article 24, as well as that of the members of the Service Council for Secondary Ecclesiastical Education under article 25 of Law 3432/2006 (A’ 14), shall expire upon the establishment of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, in accordance with article 111 of this Law.
2. For the purposes of implementing paragraph 3 of article 112, the period of three (3) consecutive school years, beginning with the 2022–2023 school year and thereafter, shall be taken into account.
3. The establishment of the new School Boards and the assumption of their duties, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 133, are completed within six (6) months from the entry into force of this Law. Until then, the School Boards operating at the time of entry into force of this Law continue to perform their duties. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the recommendation of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, the deadline specified in the first sentence may be extended only once.