

Law 5224/2025 (A' 142) "Establishment of a Legal Entity under Public Law under the name 'Greek Orthodox Sacred Royal Autonomous Monastery of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai in Greece', regulations on matters under the competence of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, enhancing security in higher education institutions, provisions on sports, granting of a lifetime pension to literary figures and artists for the year 2025, and other provisions"

REGULATION OF MATTERS WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

CHAPTER VII

OTHER PROVISIONS FALLING WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Article 44

Recognition of the Legal Personality of the Church of Sweden in Greece – Addition of point (θ) to paragraph 5 of Article 13 of Law 4301/2014

1. In paragraph 5 of Article 13 of Law 4301/2014 (Government Gazette, A' 223), concerning the recognition of the legal personality of the Catholic Church in Greece, other existing Churches and their legal entities, point (θ) is hereby added as follows: "(θ) The Church of Sweden in Greece, as a religious legal entity under the name 'Church of Sweden in Greece Religious Legal Entity', seated in Athens."
2. Within a strict time limit of one (1) year from the publication of the present Act in the Government Gazette, the religious legal entity under the name "Church of Sweden in Greece Religious Legal Entity" shall submit an application, together with the supporting documents provided for in Article 3 of Law 4301/2014, to the Court of First Instance of its seat, in order to be registered in the relevant register of religious legal entities. The founding act and the regulation governing its organization and operation, signed by the members of the legal entity, shall be mandatorily submitted and notified to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. Registration shall be effected by an act of the Head of the Court. Should the time limit set out in the first subparagraph lapse without action, no public authority shall enter into transactions with the above religious legal entity.

Article 45

Publication of Declaratory Acts of paragraph 3 of Article 347, paragraph 3 of Article 348 and paragraph 7 of Article 482 of Law 4957/2022

The declaratory acts referred to in the fifth subparagraph of paragraph 3 of Article 347, concerning the permanent positions of Parish priests in the Church of Greece, in the fifth subparagraph of paragraph 3 of Article 348, concerning the permanent positions of Parish priests in the Church of Crete, and in the third subparagraph of paragraph 7 of Article 482 of Law 4957/2022 (Government Gazette, A' 141), concerning the transitional provisions of Chapter A, which have been issued up to the entry into force of the present Act, shall be published in the Government Gazette in accordance with the form and content of the declaratory act as determined by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs

and Sports; otherwise, they shall be re-issued in accordance with the form and content of the declaratory act specified in the aforementioned ministerial decision and subsequently published within six (6) months from the entry into force of the present Act.

Article 46

Reallocation of Permanent Positions of Parish priests and ecclesiastical employees of the Holy Metropolises and regulation of issues concerning hierodeacons of the Panhellenic Holy Foundation of the Evangelistria of Tinos

1. The forty-five (45) established positions of ecclesiastical employees allocated to the Holy Archdiocese of Athens under serial number 2 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Ecclesiastical Employees” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023 (A’ 30), as referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 61 of Law 5128/2024 (A’ 118), shall be reduced by four (4), resulting in a total of forty-one (41) positions. Simultaneously, the permanent positions of Deacons allocated to the Holy Archdiocese of Athens under serial number 2 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Deacons” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023 shall be increased by four (4), resulting in a total of fifteen (15) positions. The provisions regarding the allocation of the transferred permanent positions shall be governed by paragraphs 3, 5, 7, and 9 of Article 347 of Law 4957/2022 (A’ 141).
2. One (1) of the three (3) permanent positions of preachers allocated to the Holy Metropolis of Kastoria under serial number 34 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Preachers” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023 shall be reduced, resulting in a total of two (2) positions. The position thus removed shall be converted into a position of ecclesiastical employee within the same Holy Metropolis, thereby increasing by one (1) the permanent positions of ecclesiastical employees allocated to the said Holy Metropolis under serial number 34 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Ecclesiastical Employees” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023, resulting in a total of four (4) positions. The provisions regarding the allocation of the transferred permanent positions shall be governed by paragraphs 3, 5, 7, and 9 of Article 347 of Law 4957/2022.
3. One (1) of the nineteen (19) permanent positions of Parish priests allocated to the Holy Metropolis of Symi under serial number 5 of the vertical column in Table 2 of paragraph 3 of Article 335 of Law 4957/2022 shall be reduced, resulting in a total of eighteen (18) positions. The position thus removed shall be transferred within the same Holy Metropolis, thereby increasing by one (1) the permanent positions of Deacons allocated to the same Holy Metropolis under serial number 5 of the aforementioned Table, resulting in a total of one (1) position.
4. One (1) of the two (2) permanent positions of Preachers allocated to the Holy Metropolis of Maroneia and Komotini under serial number 47 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Preachers” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023 shall be reduced, resulting in a total of one (1) position. The position thus removed shall be converted into a position of ecclesiastical employee within the same Holy Metropolis, thereby increasing by one (1) the established positions of ecclesiastical employees allocated to the said Metropolis under serial number 47 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Ecclesiastical Employees” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023, resulting in a total of four (4) positions. The provisions regarding the

allocation of the transferred established positions shall be governed by paragraphs 3, 5, 7, and 9 of Article 347 of Law 4957/2022.

5. Two (2) of the four (4) permanent positions of Deacons allocated to the Holy Metropolis of Grevena under serial number 11 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Deacons” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023 shall be reduced, resulting in a total of two (2) positions. The positions thus removed shall be converted into an equal number of positions of Parish priests within the same Holy Metropolis, thereby increasing by two (2) the permanent positions of Parish priests allocated to the said Metropolis under serial number 11 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Parish priests” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023, resulting in a total of fifty-five (55) positions. The provisions regarding the allocation of the transferred permanent positions shall be governed by paragraphs 3, 5, 7, and 9 of Article 347 of Law 4957/2022.
6. One (1) of the three (3) permanent positions of Preachers allocated to the Holy Metropolis of Grevena under serial number 11 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Preachers” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023 shall be reduced, resulting in a total of two (2) positions. The position thus removed shall be converted into a position of ecclesiastical employee within the same Holy Metropolis, thereby increasing by one (1) the permanent positions of ecclesiastical employees allocated to the said Metropolis under serial number 11 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Ecclesiastical Employees” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023, resulting in a total of three (3) positions. The provisions regarding the allocation of the transferred permanent positions shall be governed by paragraphs 3, 5, 7, and 9 of Article 347 of Law 4957/2022.
7. One (1) of the fifty-eight (58) permanent positions of Parish priests allocated to the Holy Metropolis of Goumenissa, Axioupolis, and Polykastro under serial number 10 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Parish priests” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023 shall be reduced, resulting in a total of fifty-seven (57) positions. The position thus removed shall be converted into a position of ecclesiastical employee within the same Holy Metropolis, thereby increasing by one (1) the permanent positions of ecclesiastical employees allocated to the said Metropolis under serial number 10 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Ecclesiastical Employees” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023, resulting in a total of three (3) positions. The provisions regarding the allocation of the transferred permanent positions shall be governed by paragraphs 3, 5, 7, and 9 of Article 347 of Law 4957/2022.
8. One (1) of the three (3) permanent positions of Deacons allocated to the Holy Metropolis of Karpenisi under serial number 31 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Deacons” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023 shall be reduced, resulting in a total of two (2) positions. The position thus removed shall be converted into a position of ecclesiastical employee within the same Holy Metropolis, thereby increasing by one (1) the permanent positions of ecclesiastical employees allocated to the said Metropolis under serial number 31 of the vertical column entitled “Permanent Positions of Ecclesiastical Employees” in Table 1 of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 14/2023, resulting in a total of four (4) positions. The provisions regarding the allocation of the transferred permanent positions shall be governed by paragraphs 3, 5, 7, and 9 of Article 347 of Law 4957/2022.
9. The two (2) positions of hierodeacons provided for in paragraph 2 of Article 3 of the 8/1970 Regulation of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece (A’ 81), which were

maintained in force by subparagraph 1 of paragraph b of Article 7 of Law 349/1976 “On the Administration of the Panhellenic Holy Foundation of the Evangelistria of Tinos” (A’ 149), shall be classified as Category A or B.

Article 47

Marriage and baptism licenses by the Church of Greece and the Procedure for their electronic issuance – Replacement of Paragraph 1 of Article 49 of Law 590/1977

Paragraph 1 of Article 49 of Law 590/1977 (A’ 146), concerning the liturgy of marriage, is hereby replaced as follows:

1. a) The Holy Synod of the Church of Greece shall, by regulation, determine the procedure for granting marriage and baptism licenses, as well as for issuing certificates of their performance or of a spiritual dissolution of marriage, the conditions and impediments for their performance in accordance with the Sacred Canons, the documentation required for issuing the aforementioned licenses and certificates, their content, and the competent authorities responsible for their issuance.

- b) By joint decision of the Ministers of Digital Governance, Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, and the Interior, the online application and the operating authority for issuing the licenses and certificates referred to in subparagraph (a) in electronic format shall be determined, along with the users of the application and the rules of access and operation, the procedure for verifying the identity of individuals, the personal data of the interested parties necessary for issuing the above licenses and certificates and the procedure for their processing; as well as the interconnection and interoperability between the records of the Holy Metropolises, the Parishes, and the Civil Registry Offices for this purpose, in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and the repealing of directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR, L 119), and Law 4624/2019 (A’ 137).

Article 48

Residence permit for students of model ecclesiastical schools residing in dormitories – Amendment of Paragraph 4 of Article 134 of the Migration Code

At the end of the first sentence of subparagraph (b) of paragraph 4 of Article 134 of the Migration Code (Law 5038/2023, A’ 81), concerning residence permits for humanitarian and exceptional reasons, the phrase “or in student dormitories, which operate in accordance with Article 134 of Law 4823/2021 (A’ 136) and in which students of model ecclesiastical schools reside and are provided meals” is added, and subparagraph (b) is revised as follows: “b. A residence permit of type “A.5” shall be granted to minors accommodated in boarding houses operating under the supervision of the competent Ministries or in student dormitories, which operate in accordance with Article 134 of Law 4823/2021 (A’ 136) and in which students of model ecclesiastical schools reside and are provided meals. The residence permit shall be valid for a period of three (3) years and may

be renewed for an equal duration, provided that the conditions for its issuance continue to exist. If the reasons for which the residence permit was granted cease to exist, the third-country citizen may request a change of residence permit category in accordance with Article 12.