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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

“THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA”

LAW AMENDING

THE LAW ON THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL*

*** Official translation**

Official Gazette of RM, no.83 dated 8.5.2018

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ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

On the basis of Article 75 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, the President of the Republic of Macedonia and the Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia are issuing this

DECREE FOR PROCLAMATION OF THE LAW ON AMENDING THE LAW ON THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The Law on Amending the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia is proclaimed,
which was adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia at its session held on 2 May 2018.

No.08-2975/1
2 May 2018
Skopje

(signed)

President
of the Republic of Macedonia,
Gjorgje Ivanov PhD

Speaker
of the Assembly of the Republic of
Macedonia,
Talat Xhaferi MA (signed)

**LAW AMENDING THE LAW ON JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Article 1

In the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" nos.60/06, 150/10, 100/11, 20/15, 61/15 and 197/17) in Article 1 the words "disciplinary procedure for establishment of disciplinary responsibility of judges the procedure for" shall be replaced with the words "procedure for establishment of responsibility of a judge of president of a court".

Article 2

Article 8 is amended and reads:

"The work of the Council is chaired by a President.

The Council President has a deputy, who deputies him/her in his/her absence.

The Council President and his/her deputy are elected from among the members of the Council by a majority vote of the members with a voting right, by secret ballot.

The term of office of the Council President and Vice President is for two years, without the right to re-election.

The Minister of Justice and the President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia may not be elected as President and Vice President of the Council."

Article 3

In Article 12 paragraph 2 in line 3 the words "the last three years" shall be replaced with the words "two regular consecutive evaluations."

Article 4

In Article 26 the full stop at the end of the sentence is deleted and the words "except for a judge or public prosecutor who at the time of the announcement carries out the office of a judge or public prosecutor" shall be added.

Article 5

In Article 30 paragraph 1 item 4) is amended and reads:
"if he/she is sentenced by an effective court judgment for the criminal offence of misuse of official duty and powers in the carrying out of the function or another criminal offence to an unconditional imprisonment of at least six months, making him/her unfit to perform the duties of a member of the Council."

Article 6

A new heading and a new Article 30-a is added after Article 30, which read:

"Temporary removal from exercising the function of a member of the Council

Article 30-a

A member of the Council may be removed from exercising the office of a member of the Council if:

- an act of indictment is granted in the cases under Article 30 paragraph 1 item 4) of this Law.

The decision on temporary removal from the office of a member of the Council is adopted by the Council by a two-third majority vote from the total number of members with a voting right. The Council member against whom the proceeding was initiated shall be exempted from the session and the voting."

Article 7

In Article 31 paragraph 1 line 13, the words "and a member of a council from performing the office of a member of a council" shall be added after the words "from performing the office of a judge".

After paragraph 3 a new paragraph 4 is added which reads:

"The Council adopts an annual work programme and action plan no later than 15 December in the current year for the following year."

Article 8

After Article 31 a new heading and new Article 31-a shall be added which read:

"Annual work programme

Article 31-a

The Annual Work Programme of the Council shall include:

- measures and activities to promote the independence of the judiciary,
- measures and activities to increase the efficiency of the judiciary,

- plan for continuous monitoring of the work of the courts,
- projection of vacancies for judges and upholding the principle of adequate and equitable representation of the members of the communities that are not the majority in the Republic of Macedonia,
- monitoring of the recommendations and proposed measures from the analyses of quarterly and annual reports on the work of courts,
- other activities within its competence which it finds necessary to be contained in the Annual Work Programme of the Council.

Article 9

In Article 33 paragraph 6 after the word "keeps minutes" at the end of the sentence the full stop is deleted and the words "and audio recording is made" shall be added.

Article 10

After Article 35 a new Article 35-a shall be added, which reads:

"Article 35-a

A member of the Council during his/her term of office may not be elected a judge, a judge in a higher court or a president of a court."

Article 11

In Article 39 in paragraph 2 a comma is put after the word "economic" and the word "administrative" is added.

Article 12

Article 45 is amended and reads:

"If after the procedure conducted for election of a judge or president of a court the Council finds that no candidate has applied or all candidates who have applied in the two consecutive evaluations were given a negative evaluation it shall decide to re-advertise the election of a judge or president of a court."

Article 13

In Article 54 in paragraph 1 the words "at the request of a member of the Council, the court president, the president of the higher court or the general session of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia" are deleted.

Article 14

Article 56 is amended and reads:

"The application filed for the establishment of responsibility of a judge or president of a court shall be communicated to the Council member-rapporteur (hereinafter: rapporteur) who assesses whether the application is timely and complete.

If the application is untimely and incomplete the rapporteur shall, with a proposed decision, submit it to the Council for further consideration which shall reject the untimely or incomplete application with a decision, and if the application is timely and complete the Council shall, from the members with a voting right by drawing lots, form a Commission for establishment of responsibility of a judge or president of a Court (hereinafter: the Commission) composed of a chairperson and two members, taking into account the composition of the Commission to include members of the Council elected

by the judges and by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

If a Council member is the applicant, he/she may not be a rapporteur or member of the Commission referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

If the Council establishes the responsibility of a judge or president of a court who belongs to the communities that are not a majority in the Republic of Macedonia, the Commission must include one member who belongs to the communities that are not a majority in the Republic of Macedonia."

Article 15

In Article 60 paragraph 4 the words "does not attend the debate before the Council and" are added after the words "the same".

Article 16

In Article 96 paragraph 2 is amended and reads:

"The Council for adjudication upon appeals (hereafter: Appeal Council) is composed of nine members, of which three judges from the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia, four judges from the courts of Appeal and two judges from the court to which belongs the judge against whom the procedure is conducted. The members are elected publicly by drawing lots at a plenary session of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia, that is, at a plenary session of all judges at the relevant court, within 10 days from the date of receipt of the appeal at the latest."

After paragraph 2, two new paragraphs 3 and 4 are added, which read:

"The Appeal Council shall, within 30 days at the latest from its set up, decide on the appeal in a way that it may uphold or repeal the decision of the Council.

In the reopened procedure the Council takes a final decision, appraising the guidelines of the Appeal Council."

Paragraph 3 which becomes paragraph 5 shall be amended to read:

"The President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia and a judge/president of a court participant in the procedure before the Council may not be a member of the Appeal Council referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article."

Paragraph 4, which becomes paragraph 6, is deleted.

Article 17

Before Article 97 a new heading is added that reads:

"Reopening of the procedure on the occasion of a final judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg".

Article 18

Article 97 is amended and reads:

"When the European Court of Human Rights finds a violation of a human right or fundamental freedoms envisaged under the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Additional Protocols, which the Republic of Macedonia has ratified, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, in a proceedings before the Council and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia, the judge or the president of the court whose right has been violated in the proceedings may, within a period of 30 days but within three years at the latest from the date the judgment of the European Court becomes final, apply to the Council for reopening of the proceedings.

The Council shall inform the Inter-Ministerial Commission for execution of the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights of the application filed, in accordance with the Law on Execution of the Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.

The Council is obliged in the reopened procedure to comply with the legal positions stated in the final judgment of the European Court of Human Rights finding the violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Council may, in accordance with Article 25 of the Law on Execution of the Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, reopen the proceedings to eliminate the violation and the consequences arising from the violation.

The Council shall, from its composition, set up within 15 days a Commission of a chairman and three members to act on the filed application for reopening of the proceedings in which the members of the Council who are members of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Execution of the Decisions of the European Court for Human Rights may not be included.

The Commission shall assess whether the filed application is timely, complete and admissible.

If the application is incomplete, untimely or inadmissible, the Commission shall propose to the Council to reject it.

If the Commission finds that the application is timely, complete and admissible the Commission shall forward the case to the Council for further handling, which shall submit the case to the Appeal Council at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia for competent handling within three days.

The Appeal Council shall, within 15 days after receiving, act upon the case and repeal its decision and the decision of the Council, guided by the legal positions noted in the final judgment of the European Court for Human Rights finding the violation, and shall remit the case immediately, and three days at the latest, to the Council for reopening of the procedure.

The reopened procedure regarding the violation found shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Law relating to the establishment of a responsibility of a judge or president of a court in which new evidence may be proposed and examined.

The unsatisfied party shall have a right to an appeal with the Appeal Council against the decision made in the reopened procedure, within 15 days from the date it received the decision."

Article 19

Article 98 is amended and reads:

"The monitoring of the work of the judge and the president of a court shall take place through regular and extraordinary evaluation.

The judge is evaluated according to the overall results from the performance achieved in the work through the established qualitative and quantitative criteria in accordance with the provisions of this Law."

Article 20

Article 100 is amended and reads:

"Regular evaluation of the judge and president of a court shall be carried out every two years, by the end of June of the current year, for the work of the court, the judges and the president of the court in the previous two years.

Extraordinary evaluation of the work of the judge and president of a court shall be carried out in the case when a judge applies for election of a judge in a higher court, that is, election of a president of a court.

If the judge or president of a court applies for a judge in a higher court or president of a court, and in the current year they have already been evaluated for the previous year through regular evaluation, no extraordinary evaluation shall be carried out for them."

Article 21

Article 103 is amended and reads:

"Qualitative criteria for evaluating the work of the judge shall be as follows:

- quality of the judge's work in the number of repealed decisions for committed serious violation of the procedure in relation to the total number of decided standardised cases;
- quality of the judge's work in the number of modified decisions in terms of the total number of decided standardised decisions;
- quality in the conduct of the court proceedings (respecting legal deadlines for taking process actions in the proceedings, respecting legal deadlines for adoption, publication and drafting of the decisions, length of court proceedings and respecting the principle of a trial within a reasonable time);
- quality of the decision taken is determined by inspecting five cases selected randomly by the automated court cases management information system and five cases selected by the judge, in the evaluation period; and
- imposed disciplinary measure."

Article 22

Article 104 is amended and reads:

"The quality of the work of the judge regarding the repealed and modified decisions shall be evaluated by inspecting the automated court case management information system thereby taking into account only the number of decisions against which remedies are allowed and filed and they are repealed because of committed essential violation of the procedure.

The quality in the conduct of the court proceedings is evaluated by inspecting the data from the automated court case management information system which shows the active work on the case and the taking of all process actions and observing legal deadlines.

The quality of the decision taken is established by inspecting five cases selected randomly by the automated court case management information system and five cases selected by the judge, in the evaluation period, the ability for verbal and written expression is evaluated which is seen also through the juridical expert action (application of legal theory and practice, complexity of the case, etc.) by three-member commissions set up by drawing lots, at a session of judges from the competent higher court, that is, plenary session of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia.

An imposed disciplinary measure written warning, reprimand or reduction of salary is assessed with negative points only for one period of evaluation."

Article 23

In Article 105 paragraph 2 after the word "Council", the words "prescribes the methodology with an act" are replaced with the words "adopts the methodology with indicators". The full stop at the end of the sentence is deleted and the words "posts it on its website" are added.

In paragraph 3 the full stop at the end of the sentence is deleted and the words "based on the opinion of the session of the judges, that is, the plenary session of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia" are added.

Article 24

Article 106 is amended and reads:

"The sum of the results of qualitative and quantitative criteria is taken as the basis for calculating the grade for the work of the judge.

Qualitative criteria in terms of quantitative ones are with the ratio of 60% versus 40% in the formation of the final grade.

In calculating the grade for the judge's work the effective time of work is considered. The manner of calculation of the effective time of work of the judge is prescribed by the Council and is posted on the website of the Council."

Article 25

Article 107 is amended and reads:

"For the quantitative criteria the judge may receive a maximum of 80 points.

If the number of decided cases in certain types of cases in relation to the projected approximate number is 100%, it is considered that the judge met the quantitative criteria and is valued with 60 points.

Greater or lesser number of decided cases in relation to the projected approximate number of cases is valued in a way that for every initiated 1% more or less, the number of points of paragraph 2 of this Article increases, that is, decreases by 0.5 points."

Article 26

Article 108 is amended and reads:

"For the qualitative criteria of Article 103 of this Law the judge may receive a maximum of 120 points."

Article 27

A heading is added before Article 109 which reads:

"Scoring of qualitative criteria."

Article 28

Article 109 is amended and reads:

"The quality of the work of the judge in the number of repealed decisions in terms of the total number of decided standardised cases in the period under evaluation is scored according to the following table:

Percentage of repealed decisions in relation to the number of decided standardised cases	Points
Up to 3%	50
From 3% to 6%	40
From 6% to 15%	30
From 15% to 20%	20

More than 20%	0
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The quality in the conduct of the court proceedings (respecting legal deadlines for taking process actions in the proceedings, respecting legal deadlines for adoption, publication and drafting decisions, length of court proceedings and respecting the principle of a trial within a reasonable time) is scored according to the following table:

	Points
- complied with deadlines in more than 90% to 100% of the cases	30
- complied with deadlines in more than 70% to 90% of cases	20
- complied with deadlines in more than 50% to 70% of cases	10
- complied with deadlines less than 50% of the cases	0

The quality of the work of the judge in the number of modified decisions in relation to the total number of decided cases in the period under evaluation is scored according to the following table:

Percentage of modified decisions in relation to the total number of decided standardised cases	Points
Up to 5%	20
From 5% to 10%	15
From 10% to 15%	10
From 15% to 20%	7
From 20% to 30%	4
More than 30%	0

The quality of the court decision taken is scored according to the following table:

Average grade from the commission for the quality of the taken court decision	Points
From 8 to 10	20
From 5 to 8	15
From 3 to 5	10
Less than 3	0

On the basis of qualitative criteria when being evaluated the judge may be given additional 5 points for published professional papers or prepared educational material for the needs of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors.

The judge shall be given the points referred to in paragraph 5 of this Article if the sum of points based on quantitative and qualitative criteria is at least 140 points.

The judge who is imposed a disciplinary measure in conducted disciplinary procedure shall, in the period for which he/she is evaluated, have the number of points determined based on the criteria defined by this Law reduced for each measure imposed according to the following table:

Written warning	5 points
Public reprimand	10 points
Referral to additional hours of professional training	20 points
Reduction in salary	30 points

The judge in the period for which he/she is evaluated shall have the number of points determined based on the criteria defined by this Law reduced by 10 points if as a result of his acting a judgment was passed by the European Court of Human Rights finding a

violation of the right to a fair trial under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights or a decision was made by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia finding a violation of the right to a trial within a reasonable time.

The judge in the period for which he/she is evaluated shall have the number of points determined based on the criteria established by this Law reduced by 5 points for every time-barred case if the statute of limitations occurred as a result of the actions of the judge."

Article 29

Articles 110, 111, the heading before 112 and Articles 112 and 113 are deleted.

Article 30

In Article 114 paragraph 1 the words "and only for that reason he/she cannot be evaluated according to the criteria under Articles 110 and 111 of this Law, he/she is evaluated according to the criteria under paragraph 2 of this Article, for which he/she may receive 100 points" are replaced with the words "the judge shall receive maximum 90 points according to the criteria under Article 109 paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Law, and shall be evaluated according to the criterion under Article 109 paragraph 2 of this Law."

Paragraphs 2 and 3 are deleted.

Article 31

Article 116 is amended and reads:

"Based on the sum of points according to the qualitative and quantitative criteria for monitoring and evaluating the work of judges, the Council shall evaluate the judges with the following grades:

1) positive grade, consisting of three levels:

- satisfactory, if the judge receives 75.5 to 105 points;
- good, if the judge receives from 105.5 to 140 points;
- very good, if the judge receives more than 140.5 points; and

2) negative grade, unsatisfactory if the judge receives less than 75 points."

Article 32

Article 117 is amended and reads:

"Monitoring and evaluation of the work of the president of the court who assumed responsibility for adjudicating cases shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Law relating to the criteria and procedures for monitoring and evaluating the work of the judge, with that that in terms of evaluating the quantitative criterion under Article 107 paragraph 2 of this Law the approximate norm is valued at 70%.

The points obtained from the evaluation of the work of the court president as a judge shall be added to the points obtained in his/her evaluation as president of a court if as president of the court he/she is evaluated at least with a grade good, but the total number of points may not exceed 200 points."

Article 33

The heading before Article 118 and Article 118 shall be amended and read:

"Quantitative criteria for evaluating the work of the president of a Court

Article 118

"The quantitative criteria for evaluating the work of the president of a court as president of a court are a percentage of cases decided at the level of the court and the percentage of decided backlog of cases older than 3 years, which are received through the automated court case management information system."

Article 34

A new heading is added before Article 119 which reads:
"Qualitative criteria for evaluating the work of the president of the court".

Article 35

Article 119 is amended and reads:

"Qualitative criteria for evaluating the work of the president of the court shall be:

1. Realised work programme;
2. Consistent application of the Court Rules of Procedure (annual work schedule, exclusion of judges, redistribution of cases, etc.);
3. Operation of the automated court case management information system;
4. Quality of decisions taken in court administration; and
5. Public relations and transparency in work.

The data for determining the results referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be provided from the annual report of the work of the court which is discussed at the plenary session of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia, the programme for work of the president of the court, the reports from regular and extraordinary controls by the higher court, the Council and the Ministry of Justice."

Article 36

Article 120 is amended and reads:

"Qualitative criteria for evaluation of the work of the president of a court, as president of a court shall be:

- realised work programme is evaluated by inspecting the work programme submitted in the election for president of the court;
- consistent application of the Court Rules of Procedure in particular as regards the procedure for adopting and amending the annual work schedule, respecting the specialisation of judges, procedure for exemption of a judge, reassignment of cases, etc., which is assessed through inspection into the reports from regular and extraordinary controls by the higher court, the Council and the Ministry of Justice;
- functioning of the automated court case management information system which is assessed through inspection into the reports from regular and extraordinary controls by the higher court, the Council and the Ministry of Justice;
- quality of a decision taken in court administration, which is determined through continuous inspection in five cases chosen randomly by the automated court cases management information system and five cases specified by the president of the court, in the period under evaluation, thereby assessing the legal ground, legibility and clarity of the language used in the decision, clear argumentation of all the facts, circumstances and evidence; and
- public relations and transparency in the work, which are assessed by inspecting the website of the court (announcements about the work of the court, posted decisions, analyses and reports on the work of the court, etc.) and free access to public information."

Article 37

The heading before Article 121 is amended and reads:

"Calculation of the evaluation of the work of the president of a court".

Article 38

Article 121 is amended and reads:

“As a basis for calculating the grade for the work of the president of a court is taken the sum of the results obtained from the qualitative and quantitative criteria. The ratio of the qualitative criteria and quantitative criteria is 60% to 40% in the formation of the final grade.

In calculating the grade for the work of the president of a court the total effective working time of all judges in the court in the period under evaluation is taken, divided by a total of 11 working months per year, in the period under evaluation.”

Article 39

The heading before Article 122 is amended and reads:

“Scoring quantitative criteria”.

Article 40

Article 122 is amended and reads:

“The percentage of decided cases in the court in view of the approximate number of cases is determined through the sum of quantitative points of all judges in the court, divided by the average number of judges in the period under evaluation, for which the work of the president of the court is scored as president of the court according to the following table:

Percentage of decided cases in relation to the approximate number of cases	Points
More than 130%	40
From 111% to 130%	25
From 91% to 110%	15
From 70% to 90%	10
Less than 70%	0

The percentage of decided old cases is determined as the ratio between the number of decided old cases older than 3 years in relation to the total number of old cases older than 3 years in the court, according to the following table:

Percentage of decided old cases	Points
More than 60%	40
50% - 60%	25
40% - 50%	15
15% - 40%	10
Less than 60%	0

Article 41

The heading of Article 123 is amended and reads:

“Scoring of qualitative criteria”.

Article 42

Article 123 is amended and reads:

“The realised work programme of the president of the court is scored according to the assessment of the commission for evaluation for a percentage of realised activities by years, according to the following table:

Percentage of realised work programme	Points
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More than 90%	40
80% - 90%	30
60% - 80%	20
40% - 60%	10
Less than 40%	0

The consistent application of the Court Rules of Procedure (annual work schedule, exclusion of judges, reassignment of cases, etc.) is scored according to the following table:

Consistent application of the Court Rules of Procedure	Points
No inconsistencies were identified in the reports from the regular and extraordinary inspections by the higher court, the Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice	20
Inconsistencies were found in the reports from the regular and extraordinary inspections by the higher court, the Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice and they were overcome in accordance with the recommendations and deadlines noted in the reports	10

The operation of the automated court case management information system is scored according to the following table:

Operation of the automated court case management information system	Points
Consistent legal functioning of the automated court case management information system	20
Minor inconsistencies in the legal functioning of the automated court case management information system	10

The quality of a decision taken in court administration (legal ground, legibility and clarity of the language used in the decision, clear argumentation of all the facts, circumstances, evidence are assessed) is scored according to the following table:

Quality of a decision taken in court administration	Points
From 7-10 cases	20
From 4-7 cases	10
Less than 4 cases	0

The criterion public relations and transparency in work is scored according to the following table:

Public relations and transparency in work	Points
From 7-10 pieces of information (announcements, requests, etc.)	20
From 4-7 pieces of information (announcements, requests, etc.)	10
Less than 4 pieces of information (announcements, requests, etc.)	0

The president of a court is evaluated with maximum of 120 points for the quality of the work as president of a court.”

Article 43

Article 124 is amended and reads:

“The grade of the Council for the work of the president of the court may be positive or negative.

Based on the sum of points for all criteria for monitoring and evaluating the work of the president of the court, the Council evaluates the president of the court as president of the court with the following grades:

1) positive grade, consisting of three levels:

- satisfactory, if he/she receives from 141 to 155 points,
- good, if he/she receives from 156 to 180 points, and
- very good, more than 181, and

2) negative grade, if he/she receives less than 140 points.”

Article 44

In Articles 126 and 127 the words "by drawing lots" are added after the words "shall be elected".

Article 45

In Article 129 paragraph 3 shall be deleted.

Article 46

In Article 132 paragraph 1 the words "with at least 15 years of experience as a judge" are added after the words "the judges".

Article 47

In Article 135 paragraph 2 the full stop at the end of the sentence is deleted and the words "on the website of the Council" are added.

In paragraph 3 line 1 after the word "discharged" the words "presidents of courts" are added.

In line 2 the words "disciplinary procedures" shall be replaced with the words "procedures for establishing responsibility".

Line 5 is amended and reads:

"- on the situation in the courts according to the annual reports on their work."

Line 6 is deleted.

A new paragraph 5 is added after paragraph 4 which reads:

"The report also contains data on the extent of implementation of the Annual Work Programme of the Council by items."

Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 become paragraphs 6, 7 and 8.

Article 48

In Article 136 paragraph 1 the full stop at the end of the sentence is deleted and the following words are added:

"which carries out administrative, expert-technical, organisational, information and financial affairs."

Article 49

After Article 137, a new Article 137-a is added which reads:

"Article 137-a

In the Council a Centre for Information and Communication Technology, Analytics and Statistics is set up, that is responsible for the database for electronic files of judges, candidate lists for the election of judges and presidents of courts, evaluation of judges and court presidents and database for financial and material operations of individual users of the court budget.

The Centre is responsible for storing a replicated database about the Court Information System which is placed in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia and it is used in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

The Centre coordinates the activities of other information centres in the judiciary in order to improve the software and hardware solutions in the judiciary."

Article 50

The Council shall adopt the bylaws stipulated in this Law within three months from

the date of entry into force of this Law.

Article 51

The decision on establishing the number of vacant judicial posts for the basic courts in the Republic of Macedonia adopted within the deadline defined in Article 38 of the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia", nos.60/2006, 150/10, 100/11, 20/15, 61/15 and 197/17) for 2018 shall be executed by the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors after 30 September 2018.

Article 52

The proceedings for election of a judge or president of a court initiated before the date of entry into force of this Law shall be completed in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" nos. 60/2006, 150/10, 100/11, 20/15, 61/15 and 197/17).

The proceedings for dismissal of a judge or president of a court initiated before the date of entry into force of this Law shall be completed in accordance with the provisions of this Law. The proceedings for determining the disciplinary responsibility of a judge or a president of a court initiated before the date of entry into force of this Law shall be completed in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

The Automated Court Case Management Information System shall be harmonised in accordance with the provisions of this Law for evaluation of judges and presidents of courts within one year from the date this Law enters into force.

The extraordinary evaluation of the judges and presidents of courts until the harmonisation of the Automated Court Case Management Information System shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" nos. 60/2006, 150/10, 100/11, 20/15, 61/15 and 197/17)

The evaluation of judges and presidents of courts shall be conducted within two years from the date this Law enters into force.

The Centre for Information Communication Technology, Analysis and Statistics in the Council shall be established no later than six months from the date this Law enters into force.

Article 53

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day from the date of its publication in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia".