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Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142)

CHAPTER H

BEKTASHI ALEVI MUSLIMS OF THRACE

Article 49

Recognition of the Religious Community of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace as a Religious Legal Entity

1. The religious community of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace is hereby recognized as a religious legal entity under private law, pursuant to Article 2 of Law 4301/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223), under the name *“Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity”*, with its seat in Roussa, of the local community of Mikro Dereio, in the municipal unit of Orfea of the Municipality of Soufli, in the Regional Unit of Evros, without the obligation of submitting an application by the said religious legal entity in accordance with the procedure of non-contentious jurisdiction before the competent Single-Member Court of First Instance.
2. Within a mandatory time limit of one (1) year from the publication of this Law in the Government Gazette, the religious legal entity *“Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity”* shall submit the relevant 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 automatically registered in the relevant registry of religious legal entities. The instrument of constitution and the rules of organization and operation, signed by at least three hundred (300) members of the said legal entity, shall be mandatorily submitted together with the other required supporting documents and shall be mandatorily notified to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports. Registration shall be effected by an act of the head of the court. If the period in the first subparagraph expires without any action, no public service shall deal with the above religious legal entity.
3. The members of the religious community of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace, including the members of the religious legal entity *“Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity”*, as members of the Muslim minority of Thrace, shall retain the rights provided for in the provisions on the protection of minorities in the Treaty of Lausanne and in Greek legislation, and Article 146 of Law 4964/2022 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 150) on the jurisdiction, competences, and duties of the Muftis of Thrace shall not apply to them.
4. The religious legal entity *“Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity”* shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter A of Law 4301/2014, unless otherwise provided for in Chapter H of this Law.

Article 50

Places of Worship of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. The existing houses of prayer and places of worship, such as cems, cemevis and tekkes, as well as those to be established in the future by the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace, of the religious legal entity under private law under the name "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*", shall be administered and represented by the said entity within the framework of its organization and operation, as provided for in its internal regulation.
2. Within a period of two (2) years from the publication of the present law in the Government Gazette, the establishment and operation permits of lawfully existing and functioning places of worship shall be reissued in the name of the religious legal entity under the name "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*", following an application by the said entity, co-signed by the religious minister (dede) officiating at the place of worship, without any further formality and without the submission of additional supporting documents.
3. The time limit set forth in paragraph 2 may be extended for one (1) year, by decision pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 62, up to three (3) times, for one (1) year each time.

Article 51

Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. A non-state legal entity governed by private law, of public benefit and non-profit character, under the name "Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace (M.C.W.-B.A.M.T.), which shall be supervised by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, is hereby established. The core mission of the legal entity is the administration of the Waqfs and the management of buildings, plots of land, estates and, in general, all types of urban, rural and forest immovable property, as well as movable assets and revenues, which have been dedicated, up to the entry into force of this Law, for a pious, charitable and generally public-benefit purpose, or in favor of a philanthropic, religious, benevolent non-profit foundation, in particular for the preservation, maintenance and operation of monuments, cems, cemevis and tekkes, cemeteries of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace and other public-benefit structures, and for the implementation of charitable activities, subject to the provisions of the Code of Legislation on the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general (Law 4858/2021, A' 220).
2. The M.C.W.-B.A.M.T. shall be the bearer of all rights and obligations over the dedicated immovable and movable property and revenues that have devolved upon it, and shall carry out any necessary administrative act for the continuous fulfillment of its mission and the pursuit of the general or specifically expressed particular purpose set by the donor of a given asset. Its mission also includes the management of all kinds of immovable and movable property and revenues that, under the general provisions of law, devolve upon its ownership, possession or holding.

Article 52

Administration of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. The governing body of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace (M.C.W.-B.A.M.T.) shall be the Board of Directors (BoD). Its members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. The BoD shall consist of five (5) members, drawn exclusively from the religious legal entity "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal*

Entity”, who have attained the age of twenty-one (21) years, and shall be appointed by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports following a proposal by the said religious legal entity. The members of the BoD may simultaneously participate in the administration of the religious legal entity or serve as religious ministers or as Islamic Religion teachers under Article 58, unless they are spouses or blood relatives up to the third degree of members of the administration of the said religious legal entity.

2. At its first meeting, the BoD shall elect from among its members the President, who shall also be the legal representative of the M.C.W.-B.A.M.T., the Treasurer and the Secretary. If the religious legal entity *“Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity”* does not propose five (5) members with their alternates, the remaining members needed to complete the required number shall be selected by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports. In the event of the dissolution of the religious legal entity *“Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity”*, all members of the Board of Directors of the M.C.W.-B.A.M.T. shall be appointed by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, and must in all cases be Bektashi Alevi Muslims.
3. Decisions of the Board of Directors with a financial object exceeding one thousand five hundred (1,500) euros, as well as all decisions concerning the rental or lease, purchase or sale, transfer, granting of a real security right over the immovable property of the M.C.W.-B.A.M.T., the undertaking of any kind of loan obligations on its part, the acceptance of any kind of donations, grants, contributions and inheritances or bequests, and the recruitment of personnel, shall be approved prior to the commencement of their implementation procedures by the decision referred to in paragraph 4 of Article 62 and shall be published on the website of the M.C.W.-B.A.M.T., 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 repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation, L 119), and Law 4624/2019 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 137).

Article 53

Disqualifications

It is forbidden for the following persons to be appointed as members of the Board of Directors (BoD):
a) Members of Parliament, Regional Governors, Deputy-Regional Governors with territorial competence, Mayors, b) any person serving on a Management or Waqf Committee under Law 3647/2008 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 37) and c) any person who has been irrevocably convicted of any felony, or of the following misdemeanours: theft, fraud, embezzlement, extortion, forgery, breach of trust, bribery, unlawful certification or collection of rights due to the State, violation of duty, crimes against sexual freedom and against the financial exploitation of sexual life, perjury, false accusation, slander, dissemination of false information, and bankruptcy. The impediment referred to in point (c) above shall also apply while criminal prosecution for any of the aforementioned offences is pending. The spouses and blood relatives up to the third degree of a member may not serve, concurrently with that member, on the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace (M.C.W.-B.A.M.T.). A member of the BoD of the M.C.W.-B.A.M.T. who has served for two (2) consecutive terms may not be nominated for the immediately following term.

Article 54

Incompatibilities

1. The members of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace (M.C.W.-B.A.M.T.) shall automatically forfeit their capacity as members if: (a) any of the cases referred to in Article 53 applies to them, and (b) they fail to comply with Articles 49 to 56 and the ministerial decisions issued pursuant thereto. The declaratory act of forfeiture shall be issued by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports.
2. Until the completion of the procedure referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 49, the M.C.W.-B.A.M.T. shall be administered by a Board of Directors (BoD) appointed by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, whose members shall mandatorily be Bektashi Alevi Muslims. Immediately after the registration of the religious legal entity under the name "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*" in the relevant registry of religious legal entities, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 49, the procedure for appointing the Board of Directors (BoD) shall commence in accordance with Article 52.
3. The members of the BoD shall be liable, in the exercise of their duties, for intent (dolus) and gross negligence. The President and the Treasurer shall be subject to the obligation of submitting a declaration of assets under Law 5026/2023 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 45).

Article 55

Resources – Revenues

1. The resources and revenues of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace (M.C.W.-B.A.M.T.) shall include, in particular: (a) income from the management of its assets, interest from the use of its available funds, and any other proceeds arising from the exploitation of its assets, (b) all kinds of grants and funding from the Development Program of Public Investments, subject to the specific legal frameworks of the programs it finances and to the provisions of Law 5140/2024 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 154) on the new Development Program of Public Investments, as well as within the approved budget limits of the relevant programs and the annual appropriations approved by the competent Ministry, (c) subsidies, sponsorships, donations, inheritances, or legacies granted or bequeathed to it.
2. The M.C.W.-B.A.M.T. may be subsidized by the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports for the fulfillment of its purposes.
3. The M.C.W.-B.A.M.T. shall be obliged to submit to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, by the end of March each year, a detailed balance sheet and statement of accounts for the immediately preceding year, including full financial data, as well as a detailed budget for the current year, all signed by an accountant or auditor.
4. For the optimal development and fulfillment of its purposes, and in particular for ensuring its continuous operation, the preservation and maintenance of its most important dedications, and the coverage of significant or extraordinary expenses, the M.C.W.-B.A.M.T. may sell, among its dedicated assets, only those immovable and movable items that are subject to transactions, provided that no explicit contrary provision by the donor exists and on the condition that it is not possible to exploit the item in a more beneficial manner. Immovable and movable items that are not dedicated assets may be sold without the restriction of the first sentence, under the terms set by the testator or donor. In all cases, the sale shall take place following an appraisal report on the value of the property, through public auction, by analogous application of the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure on voluntary auction. If the auction is declared unsuccessful, it may be repeated after a period of two (2) months.

After three (3) unsuccessful auctions, direct sale of the property shall be permitted, under the terms and at the price determined by a reasoned decision of the Board of Directors.

5. The dedicated assets shall be utilized in the manner determined by the dedicator, and the remaining assets in the manner determined by the testator or donor; otherwise, they shall be utilized in the manner determined each time by the M.C.W.-B.A.M.T. If the purpose set by the dedicator, testator, or donor has become impossible or economically unfeasible, or if their will cannot, for any reason, be implemented in whole or in its greater part, the court referred to in Article 825 of the Code of Civil Procedure, upon application by the M.C.W.-B.A.M.T., shall determine the most beneficial or secure way of utilizing the property, as well as the purpose for which it shall be used.

Article 56

Inventory of Waqfs

1. The Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace shall be deemed to have passed into the full ownership, possession, and holding of the Management Committee of the Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace (M.C.W.-B.A.M.T.) as their quasi-universal successor, according to their respective purpose. For the transfer of ownership of the Waqfs, the President of the M.C.W.-B.A.M.T. shall draw up an inventory report of the immovable properties, which shall also include the real rights attached thereto. The report shall be approved by the Board of Directors, executed in the form of a notarial deed, and, together with the summary of the inventory, registered in the relevant books of transcriptions of the competent mortgage registry or cadastral office. The inventory report shall have probative and declaratory effect and shall not constitute a constitutive or conveyancing act of real rights.
2. The Waqfs of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace established after the entry into force of the present Law, consisting of movable or immovable property, shall be governed, as regards their establishment and administration, by the provisions of the Civil Code on Foundations, and, as regards their management, by the provisions of the present Law.

Article 57

Religious Education of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. For pupils who are Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace and who attend public or minority schools in Thrace, provided that: (a) they have been exempted from the Religious Education course pursuant to Article 37 of Law 4777/2021 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 25) and the ministerial decisions issued under its delegated authority, and they do not wish to attend an alternative course, they are at least ten (10) in number per class in public schools, irrespective of their number in minority schools, and they so wish, the type and form of their engagement during the teaching hours of the Religious Education course from which they have been exempted shall be the teaching of the doctrine of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace.
2. The teaching of the doctrine of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace shall be provided either by educators of branch PE 73 who are members of the religious legal entity "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace – Religious Legal Entity*", or by the Islamic Religion Teachers referred to in Article 58.
3. The educational and teaching material for the course on the doctrine of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace taught in the minority and public schools of Thrace shall be prepared by the Institute of Educational Policy (I.E.P.) or by a committee of experts appointed by decision

of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sport, and shall be distributed electronically or in print by the Computer Technology Institute and Press (I.T.Y.E.) "DIOFANTOS". If, by 30 June of each year, the preparation of the material by the I.E.P. has not been completed, or if for any other reason it is not possible to distribute teaching and educational material prepared by the I.E.P., then the instructors shall select educational and teaching material which, following its approval by the I.E.P., shall be distributed free of charge to pupils. The decision appointing the committee of experts shall determine the terms of operation, the deliverables, and the remuneration of its members.

Article 58

Islamic Religion Teachers of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. For the support of the work of religious and spiritual cultivation of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace, up to fifteen (15) Islamic Religion Teachers in total may be recruited for the Regional Units of Rhodope, Xanthi, and Evros of the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, under fixed-term private law employment contracts of up to ten (10) months, following a public call for applications. The contract shall be signed by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports.
2. The task of the Islamic Religion Teachers is the teaching of the doctrine of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace in their places of worship. The Islamic Religion Teachers may also, if they so wish, following a relevant decision of the competent, as applicable, Director of Primary or Secondary Education, teach the doctrine of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace in public and minority primary and secondary schools of Thrace, even if they do not possess pedagogical training and eligibility to teach, to students who are Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace and have been exempted from the Religious Education course, and where a relevant need arises, during teaching hours, without such teaching being included in the official curriculum timetable.

Article 59

Qualifications and disqualifications of the Islamic Religion Teachers of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. Candidates for the position of Islamic Religion Teachers referred to in Article 58 must be Greek citizens, permanent residents of Thrace, members of the religious legal entity "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*", and holders of a degree from a Higher Theological School or a Department of Primary Education, or a degree conferring eligibility for appointment to secondary education in Greece or abroad, recognized by the Interdisciplinary Organization for the Recognition of Academic Titles and Information (D.O.A.T.A.P.).
2. The religious ministers (dedes) of the religious legal entity "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*" may be candidates for the position of Islamic Religion Teachers provided that: (a) they are Greek citizens, permanent residents of Thrace, and members of the religious legal entity "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*"; (b) they are graduates of primary or secondary education or holders of a higher education degree recognized by D.O.A.T.A.P.; and (c) they are registered in the registry provided for in Article 14 of Law 4301/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223).
3. The following persons may not be recruited as Islamic Religion Teachers: those placed under judicial guardianship, as well as those who have been irrevocably convicted or against whom criminal prosecution has been initiated for a felony or for any of the following offences: (a) theft, embezzlement, fraud, extortion, forgery, bribery, breach of trust, breach of duty, slander, perjury, false accusation, any offence against sexual freedom or any offence of

economic exploitation of sexual life, bodily harm to a fetus or newborn, the offences provided for in Law 3500/2006 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 232) on combating domestic violence, abduction of minors, unlawful detention, unlawful coercion, self-redress, threat, disturbance of religious assemblies; (b) violence against public officials and judicial officers, undue influence on judicial officers, disruption of the operation of a public service, disruption of court proceedings, disobedience, insurrection, impersonation, breach of seals placed by an authority, violation of custody imposed by an authority; (c) incitement to disobedience, incitement to the commission of crimes, acts of violence or discord, solicitation and offering for the commission of a crime, criminal organization, terrorist acts or terrorist organization, punishable support thereof, disturbance of public peace, threat of the commission of crimes, dissemination of false information, insult to symbols or places of particular national or religious significance; (d) the offences provided for in Law 927/1979 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 139) on the punishment of acts or actions aimed at racial discrimination; (e) proselytism under Article 4 of Emergency Law 1363/1938 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 305); (f) the offences provided for in Law 4139/2013 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 74) concerning addictive substances; and (g) impersonation of a religious minister.

4. By way of exception, during the first five-year period following the publication of this Law, the recruitment to positions of Islamic Religion Teachers shall be permitted of Greek citizens who are permanent residents of Thrace and members of the religious legal entity "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*", who are graduates of the Medresses (Islamic Religious Schools) of Xanthi and Komotini or graduates of primary or secondary education and who have served for a period of ten (10) years as Islamic Religion Teachers under Article 36 of Law 3536/2007 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 42).

Article 60

Selection procedure for the Islamic Religion Teachers of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. By the decision referred to in paragraph 9 of Article 62, the exact number of Islamic Religion Teachers to be recruited each time shall be announced, and their specific qualifications are determined by category of formal qualifications, as well as the selection criteria for each category, the disqualifications and incompatibilities, the duration of the contracts, the terms, the conditions, the supporting documents required for the signing thereof, and the place of performance of the duties of each Islamic Religion Teacher, depending on local needs, which may include more than one cem, cemevi, or tekke, together with any other necessary detail concerning the recruitment procedure and the terms of the contract. If an Islamic Religion Teacher agrees to provide his or her services in a public or minority school, it shall be presumed that the employment contract is amended accordingly by mutual consent of both (2) parties, with a corresponding reduction of his or her engagement in the cem, cemevi, or tekke to which he or she was assigned.
2. The selection of the Islamic Religion Teachers is carried out by a five-member committee composed of: (a) three (3) members designated by the religious legal entity "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*"; and (b) two (2) members designated by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports. For the purpose of selecting the most suitable candidates for these positions, the Committee, in order to reach its decision, in addition to the formal qualifications, forms an overall assessment of the candidates' suitability by taking into account their moral character, activity, and overall personality, as well as their previous service as Islamic Religion Teachers. The Committee is established by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, by which the Chair of the Committee is appointed. The duties of Secretary are performed by an employee of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, designated by the same decision.

Article 61

Recruitment of the Islamic Religion Teachers of the Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace

1. The employment contracts of the Islamic Religion Teachers serving under fixed-term private law contracts may be unilaterally extended for a period not exceeding ten (10) months. Contracts that are not extended in accordance with the preceding sentence shall automatically expire, without any further formality and without any right to compensation, as of the date of issuance of the ministerial decision on the recruitment of the successful candidates selected following the public call for applications; such date shall also be deemed the contractual expiry date of those contracts.
2. The level of remuneration of the Islamic Religion Teachers under the present Article shall correspond to the level of remuneration of the Islamic Religion Teachers referred to in Article 37 of Law 3536/2007 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 42). The relevant expenditure shall be borne by the budget of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, and its settlement shall be carried out by the competent Directorates of Secondary Education of Evros, Xanthi, and Rhodope of the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. Islamic Religion Teachers who provide their services in public or minority primary and secondary schools shall not be considered as providing additional services beyond their contractual duties and shall not be entitled to additional remuneration. The Islamic Religion Teachers shall be compulsorily insured with the Electronic National Social Security Entity (e-EFKA).
3. The employment contract of the Islamic Religion Teachers may be terminated at any time upon: (a) the submission of a written, reasoned request by the religious legal entity "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*" to the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports; or (b) the initiation of criminal prosecution for a felony or for the offences referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 59.
4. The Public Prosecutor who initiates the criminal prosecution shall immediately notify the Directorate of Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports that criminal prosecution has been initiated for a felony or for the offences referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 59. Following such notification, the registration of the Islamic Religion Teachers as religious ministers in the registry referred to in Article 14 of Law 4301/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223) shall be suspended. Where they are acquitted by a final and irrevocable court decision, the suspension of their registration shall be lifted.
5. The Islamic Religion Teachers may, if they so wish, following a request by the religious legal entity "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*" and a decision of the Regional Director of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, provide services to the religious legal entity "*Bektashi Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*" as auxiliary administrative staff, within the statutory working hours, with a corresponding reduction of their primary duties and without additional remuneration.