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**Law No. (27) of 2005 regarding the Education Services**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Legislative Decree No. (19) of 1995 regarding the Evaluation of Academic Qualifications;

Legislative Decree No. (2) of 1997 regarding the Educational Services Offices for Students Abroad;

And Legislative Decree No. (25) of 1998 regarding Private Educational and Training Institutions;

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives have approved the following Law, which we have ratified and enacted:

**Article One**

In applying the provisions of this Decision, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them below:

**Ministry:**

Ministry of Education.

**Minister:**

Minister of Education.

**School:**

The government educational institution that includes a level of Primary or Secondary Education or any part thereof or more, provided that more than ten students have a formal education therein, and that teaching is conducted by one or more teachers.

**Primary Education:**

The level of education that starts from the Compulsory Schooling Age and lasts at least nine academic years.

**Secondary Education:**

The level of education that begins after Primary Education and lasts for three academic years.

**Compulsory Schooling Age:**

The child attaining the age of six according to the Gregorian date of birth. The obligation ends with the child attaining the age of fifteen.

**Adults:**

All Bahrainis who are over the Compulsory Schooling Age, if they are not enrolled in an educational institution that provides formal education.

**Article Two**

Education is a right guaranteed by the Kingdom to all citizens. The philosophy of education stems from the constants and values of the true Islam religion, human, and civilization interactions, Arab affiliation to the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the cultural and social framework of the people of Bahrain as an extension of their ancient heritage and the provisions of the Constitution, in order to achieve the happiness of the citizen and strengthen his personality and pride in his religion, values, homeland and Arabism in support of the development of society, and achieve its prosperity and progress.

**Article Three**

Education aims to train the learner nationally, scientifically, professionally, and culturally in emotional, moral, mental, social, health, behavioural, and sports aspects within the framework of the principles of the Islam religion, the Arab heritage, contemporary culture, and the nature of Bahraini society, its customs and traditions, and to instil a spirit of citizenship and loyalty to the homeland and the King, in particular:

1- Strengthening the Islamic creed and affirming its role in integrating the personality of the individual, cohesion of family, and unity and cooperation of society, besides highlighting the role of Islam as a holistic approach to life, its validity for every time and place, and its ability to keep pace with the requirements of the times.

2- Deepening the close connections between the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council and strengthening Arab and Islamic belonging.

3- Enhancing the teaching of the Arabic language and elevating its level in a way that enables it to be mastered and used in various fields of knowledge, with an interest in teaching and mastering foreign languages.

4- Developing awareness of the principles of human rights and including them in the educational curricula.

5- Developing the concepts of education for peace, a better human future, international cooperation, and solidarity, on the basis of justice, equality, interaction, and mutual respect between all countries and peoples.

6- Developing environmental awareness and human heritage, and protecting wildlife and ways to preserve it.

7- Developing national capabilities that are able to work and produce to contribute to the formation of a productive learning society in line with technological and scientific progress and continuous changes in this field.

8- Developing the individual's ability to think critically and express freely and soundly, enabling him to create, innovate, and contribute to social, economic, scientific, and technical advancement.

9- Developing the skills of searching for knowledge and self-learning by various means and communicating their sources while employing advanced information technology methods and tools to serve the educational process.

**Article Four**

The Ministry is responsible for directing the educational system in the State, formulating its policy within the framework determined by the Kingdom, supervising its functioning, determining its quality standards, and cooperating with other public and private bodies and institutions in order to develop it and link it to the needs of the individual and society.

**Article Five**

The Ministry's human potential and material resources are directed to achieve the objectives of the educational policy and future directions for the development of education, and it carries out its responsibilities as follows:

1- Providing educational opportunities for each individual to develop his aptitudes, capabilities, and skills to achieve self-fulfilment and develop his life and society.

2- Developing educational plans for the advancement of the educational system, both general and technical, within the framework of the Kingdom's general policy and educational philosophy, and improving the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of education in achieving the goals of society and its suitability for current and future needs.

3- Providing human and technical capabilities and organisational bodies to implement educational plans and manage, supervise, evaluate, and develop the educational system.

4- Establishing schools and educational institutions and supervising their administration at various types and levels.

5- Preparing study plans and curricula for various levels and types of education.

6- Encouraging private education to contribute to the dissemination of education within the framework of the general policy of the Kingdom.

7- Paying due attention to teachers by training them to raise the level of their performance, develop their abilities to cope with the changes of the times, and enable them to continue scientific and professional growth and provide the appropriate environment for that.

8- Developing scientific, cultural, artistic, sports, and scouting activities for students.

9- Developing and updating public and technical education curricula and systems to enable them to deal with a diversity of sources of knowledge, and to change in the fields of work and professions to meet the needs of the labour market.

10- Diversifying educational opportunities according to the varied individual needs of students, caring for talented and excellent students, enriching their experiences, caring for scholastic laggards and people with special needs, following up on their progress, and integrating the able ones in education.

11- Setting the general policy for scholarships and study assistance and following up on their affairs inside and outside the Kingdom, taking into account the needs of society and the specialisations provided by higher education institutions in the Kingdom.

12- Sponsoring students of scholarships and grants in the State and abroad and supervising the ones studying abroad at their own expense.

13- Directing the educational process to integrate the family and the School into one integrated society that facilitates the student's education.

14- Driving the educational process to adopt effective strategies for the concept of lifelong learning.

15- The Ministry works to support and encourage the private sector in establishing kindergartens and to monitor them educationally and administratively.

**Article Six**

Primary Education is a right for children who attain the age of six at the beginning of the academic year. The Kingdom is committed to providing education to them, and parents or guardians are obligated to implement it over a period of at least nine academic years. The Minister shall issue the necessary decisions to organise and implement compulsory education for parents and guardians. Children below Compulsory Schooling Age may be admitted to Primary Education schools which have available places, subject to the rules and regulations issued in a decision of the Minister.

**Article Seven**

Primary and Secondary Educations shall be free of charge in the Kingdom's schools.

**Article Eight**

The parent or guardian of a child shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dinars if he causes the child who has attained the Compulsory Schooling Age to fail to have access to education or to quit, without an acceptable excuse, from attending School for a period of ten consecutive or separate days during the academic year. A criminal lawsuit shall not be initiated in both cases except at the request of the Ministry and after it has warned the violator by a certified letter accompanied by acknowledgement of the receipt.

**Article Nine**

Literacy and adult education are national responsibilities aimed at raising the level of citizenship culturally, socially, and professionally. The Ministry shall implement the necessary plans to eradicate illiteracy.

**Article Ten**

Religious education, civic education, and the Arabic language are basic subjects at all levels and types of education. The Minister shall issue the necessary decisions to closely examine these subjects in order to ensure the strengthening of the personality of the citizen and his pride in his religion, his Arabism, and his homeland.

**Article Eleven**

The Minister shall issue the necessary regulations and decisions for the proper implementation of the educational policy, in particular with regard to determining the duration of the academic year, provided that it is not less than one hundred and eighty school days for the primary and secondary levels of education, the date of the beginning and end of the academic year, the approval of curricula, evaluation systems, and examinations.

**Article Twelve**

The Minister shall issue the necessary regulations and decisions for implementing the provisions of this Law.

**Article Thirteen**

Until the implementing regulations and decisions of this Law are issued, the current regulations and decisions regarding education shall remain in force in a manner that does not conflict with the provisions of this Law.

**Article Fourteen**

The Ministers - each within his jurisdiction- shall implement the provisions of this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of The Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

Issued in Riffa palace:

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