

LAW No. 93/2022 ON DECORATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

In accordance with Articles 78 and 83 point 1 of the Constitution, upon the proposal of the Council of Ministers, THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA DETERMINED:

CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Object

The object of this law is to determine the types of decorations awarded in the Republic of Albania, as well as the rules, procedures and criteria for their proposal, review and award by the responsible authorities and their public display.

Article 2: Purpose

This law aims to establish and organize the system of decorations in the Republic of Albania, which are awarded as a sign of gratitude and appreciation to Albanian or foreign citizens for their contribution and outstanding or special merits, civil or military, to the Albanian state and nation.

Article 3: General principles

1. The awarding of decorations in the Republic of Albania is guided by the following principles:

- a) the principle of public gratitude;
- b) the principle of assessment of contribution;
- c) the principle of meritocracy;
- ç) the principle of objectivity;
- d) the principle of accountability and transparency;
- dh) the principle of proportionality;
- e) the principle of gender equality; and
- ë) the principle of international reciprocity.

2. Receiving a decoration in the Republic of Albania is not a right and cannot be claimed as such individually or institutionally.

3. The award of the decoration is not accompanied by financial compensation.

CHAPTER II: THE SYSTEM OF DECORATIONS

Article 4: Beneficiary subjects

The decorations provided for in this law may be awarded to any citizen, Albanian or foreign, legal person, private or public, military force, service or unit, as well as services or units responsible for public order and security.

A person who has been a collaborator of the former State Security may not be a member of the orders provided for in this law.

Article 5: Types of decorations

Decorations in the Republic of Albania are divided into orders and medals, as follows:

- a) Supreme Order of the Eagle;
- b) Order of Skanderbeg;
- c) Order of the Academic Oak;
- ç) Medal of Military Merit;
- d) Medal of Civil Merit;
- dh) Medal of "Mother Teresa";
- e) Medal of "Torch of Democracy";
- ë) Medal of Public Gratitude;
- f) Commemorative military and civilian medals;
- g) Medal of Military Service;
- gj) Medal of Public Order Service.

Article 6: Authorities responsible for awarding decorations

1. The decorations provided for in letters "a" to "e" of Article 5 of this Law shall be awarded by decree of the President of the Republic. The Presidential Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette.
2. The decorations provided for in letter "ë" of Article 5 of this Law shall be awarded by order of the Prime Minister.
3. The decorations provided for in letter "f" of Article 5 of this Law shall be awarded by order of the Prime Minister or of the minister proposing the creation of the decoration.
4. The decoration provided for in letter "g" of Article 5 of this Law shall be awarded by order of the minister responsible for the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania.
5. The decoration provided for in the letter "gj" of Article 5 of this law shall be awarded by order of the Minister responsible for public order and security.

Article 7: The Supreme Order of the Eagle

1. The Supreme Order of the Eagle is the highest decoration in the Republic of Albania and the highest expression of the Albanian state's gratitude, which is awarded for special, distinguished and lasting contributions and merits, whether civil or military, for the benefit of the Albanian state and nation, as well as of society and democratic values.
2. The Supreme Order of the Eagle consists, in descending order, of the following degrees:
 - a) The Great Necklace of the Order;

- b) The Great Star;
- c) Grand Officer;
- ç) Commander;
- d) Officer;
- dh) Knight.

3. The Supreme Order of the Eagle is composed of all the recipients of the order in one of its degrees. The President of the Republic is the head of the order.

4. The degree "Grand Collar of the Order" is held only by the President of the Republic in office and is passed on to the successor president during the inauguration ceremony of the President of the Republic, according to the rules established in the official ceremonial of the Republic of Albania.

5. The President of the Republic is the holder of the degree "Grand Star" from the day of assuming office.

6. The "Grand Star" degree may also be awarded to the Head of State, the Speaker of Parliament or the Prime Minister of a foreign state during official visits on the basis of diplomatic customs and traditions, as well as international reciprocity. The other degrees of the "Supreme Order of the Eagle" may be awarded to a foreign citizen due to function on the basis of diplomatic customs and traditions, as well as international reciprocity.

7. Holders of the "Grand Star" and "Grand Officer" degrees of the Supreme Order of the Eagle are part of the order of precedence in ceremonial activities, such as following the rules set out in the state ceremonial of the Republic of Albania.

8. Holders of the "Great Star" degree are accompanied after death by official ceremonies and military honours.

Article 8: The Order of Skanderbeg

1. The Order of Skanderbeg is awarded to appreciate distinguished and sustainable contributions and merits, civil or military, for the benefit of the Albanian state and nation, as well as of society and democratic values.

2. The Order of Skanderbeg consists, in descending order, of the following degrees:

- a) Great Star;
- b) Grand Officer;
- c) Commander;
- ç) Officer;
- d) Knight.

3. The Order of Skanderbeg consists of all the recipients of the order in one of its degrees. The President of the Republic is the head of the order.

4. The President of the Republic is the holder of the "Big Star" rank from the day of assuming office. The "Big Star" rank is awarded, by reason of function, after the end of

his function, also to the Speaker of the Assembly and the Prime Minister, when they have exercised their function for no less than 2 (two) years.

5. The holders of the "Big Star" rank and "Grand Officer of the Order of Skanderbeg" rank are part of the order of priority in ceremonial activities, according to the rules established in the state ceremonial of the Republic of Albania.

6. The holders of the "Big Star" rank are accompanied after death with official ceremonies and military honours.

Article 9: The Order of the Academic Oak

1. The Order of the Academic Oak is awarded for merit and special contributions in the fields of art, culture, knowledge, science, education, sports, journalism, as well as in the development of Albanian society and democratic values.

2. The Order of the Academic Oak consists, in descending order, of the following degrees:

- a) Grand Star;
- b) Commander;
- c) Knight.

3. The Order of the Academic Oak consists of all the recipients of the order in one of its degrees. The President of the Republic is the Chairman of the Order.

4. Holders of the "Grand Star" degree of the Order of the Academic Oak are part of the order of precedence in ceremonial activities according to the rules set forth in the state ceremonial of the Republic of Albania.

Article 10: Military Merit Medal

1. The Military Merit Medal is awarded to subjects who are part of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania for acts of selflessness, sacrifice, bravery and courage during or because of their duty, in peacetime or wartime.

2. In special cases this medal is also awarded to other subjects for acts performed by them in the function of protecting the territorial integrity of the Republic.

3. The Military Merit Medal may also be awarded for acts of selflessness, sacrifice, bravery and courage on behalf of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania within the territory of the Republic of Albania.

4. The Military Merit Medal consists, in descending order, of the following grades:

- a) Gold Medal of Military Merit;
- b) Silver Medal of Military Merit;
- c) Bronze Medal of Military Merit.

5. The Military Merit Medal may be awarded more than once for the same grade.

6. Holders of the Gold Medal of Military Merit rank shall be part of the order of precedence in ceremonial activities according to the rules established in the state ceremonial of the Republic of Albania and shall be accorded military honours after death.

Article 11: The Medal of Civil Merit

1. The Medal of Civil Merit is awarded to Albanian and foreign citizens for acts of bravery, courage, sacrifice and selflessness performed on the territory of the Republic of Albania.
2. The Medal of Civil Merit consists, in descending order, of the following ranks:
 - a) The Gold Medal of Civil Merit;
 - b) The Silver Medal of Civil Merit;
 - c) The Bronze Medal of Civil Merit.
3. The Medal of Civil Merit may be awarded more than 1 (one) time for the same degree.
4. Holders of the degree of the Gold Medal of Civil Merit are part of the order of priority in ceremonial activities according to the rules set forth in the state ceremonial of the Republic of Albania.

Article 12: The "Mother Teresa" Medal

1. The "Mother Teresa" Medal is awarded for merits and outstanding contributions in the fields of charity, medical and social care, voluntary engagement in helping categories in need, as well as in the development of society and humanistic values.
2. The "Mother Teresa" Medal consists, in descending order, of the following degrees:
 - a) The "Mother Teresa" Gold Medal;
 - b) The "Mother Teresa" Silver Medal;
 - c) Bronze Medal "Mother Teresa".
3. The Medal "Mother Teresa" may be awarded more than once for the same degree.
4. Holders of the Gold Medal "Mother Teresa" degree are part of the order of priority in ceremonial activities according to the rules set out in the state ceremonial of the Republic of Albania.

Article 13: The Medal "Torch of Democracy"

1. The "Torch of Democracy" Medal is awarded to Albanian and foreign citizens as a sign of remembrance for the direct persecution under the communist regime carried out on the basis of political or religious conviction during the period 29.11.1944 – 31.4.1991.
2. The "Torch of Democracy" Medal consists of one degree and is awarded even after death.

Article 14: The Medal of Public Gratitude

1. The Medal of Public Gratitude is awarded to appreciate outstanding contributions in the service of the Albanian state and the strengthening of democratic society at home and abroad.
2. The Medal of Public Gratitude consists, in descending order, of the following degrees:
 - a) The Gold Medal of Gratitude Public;

- b) Silver Medal of Public Gratitude;
 - c) Bronze Medal of Public Gratitude.
3. The Medal of Public Gratitude is awarded only once for each grade.
4. The lowest grade of the medal cannot be awarded if a higher grade has been awarded previously.
5. Holders of the Gold Medal of Public Gratitude are part of the order of priority in ceremonial activities, according to the rules set forth in the state ceremonial of the Republic of Albania.

Article 15: Military and civil commemorative medals

1. Military and civil commemorative medals are awarded, as appropriate, to subjects who have taken part in:
- a) important military and civil events;
 - b) military operations/missions;
 - c) operations for the management of situations created by natural disasters or civil emergencies;
 - d) other events similar to the above cases, as assessed by the proposing responsible authority.
2. Military and civil commemorative medals are established no later than 1 (one) year from the occurrence of the event and are distributed up to 3 (three) years from its completion.
3. Commemorative medals consist of one degree.
4. Commemorative medals are established by decision of the Council of Ministers, upon proposal of the minister responsible for the relevant field.
5. The criteria for awarding military and civil commemorative medals are determined by decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article 16: Service Medal Military

1. The Military Service Medal is awarded to persons who are part of the military and civilian personnel in the Armed Forces in recognition of their dedication and contribution to the service of national interests and the performance of their duties with high responsibility.
2. This medal is also awarded to foreign servicemen for merit and special contribution to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania.
3. The Military Service Medal consists, in descending order, of the following degrees:
- a) Gold Military Service Medal;
 - b) Silver Military Service Medal;
 - c) Bronze Military Service Medal.

4. The criteria for awarding the Military Service Medal are determined by decision of the Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the minister responsible for the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania.

Article 17: Public Order Service Medal

1. The Public Order Service Medal is awarded to Albanian and foreign citizens as a sign of honour for their contribution to the fight against crime, to the protection of life, public order and peace, to the preservation and administration of property, to the control of extraordinary situations, as well as for the exercise with courage and bravery of the responsibilities and duties provided for in the legislation regulating public order and security.

2. The Public Order Service Medal consists, in descending order of the following degrees:

- a) Gold Medal of Public Order Service;
- b) Silver Medal of Public Order Service;
- c) Bronze Medal of Public Order Service.

3. The criteria for awarding the Public Order Service Medal are determined by decision of the Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the minister responsible for public order and security.

Article 18: Insignia and badges of honour

1. In order to evaluate service, work and professional training in the Armed Forces, special medals, signs and badges of honour for recognition, commemoration or service may be created, which shall be awarded by order of the minister responsible for the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania or other responsible military authorities.

2. The creation of special medals, signs and badges of honour, the criteria, procedures and the authorities responsible for their award, according to point 1 of this article, shall be determined by decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article 19: Technical specifications of orders and medals

Descriptions of The technical specifications of orders and medals, as well as certificates and letters of notification for their award, shall be determined by decision of the Council of Ministers.

CHAPTER III: AWARDING OF DECORATIONS

Article 20: General rules for the awarding of decorations

1. The decoration of one of the orders, as a rule, begins with the lowest degree of the order. Subjects must be awarded each degree of an order, based on the importance of his merits and contributions. Subjects may receive a higher degree of an order only because of a new merit and a special contribution different from that which motivated the initial decoration. Holders of the decoration of an order who receive a higher degree of the decoration shall replace the decoration of the lower degree with that of the higher degree that was awarded to them.

2. Except for cases where this law provides otherwise, the decoration with one of the medals may begin at any degree and may be carried out more than once for the same degree, depending on the act performed.
3. The decoration in one of the orders provided for in this law shall, as a rule, be carried out only when the subject is alive. Exceptionally, the decoration of one of the orders may also be made immediately after death.
4. The Medal of Military Merit and the Medal of Civil Merit, as a rule, are awarded only when the subject is alive. Exceptionally, the Medal of Military Merit and the Medal of Civil Merit may also be awarded immediately after death only for extraordinary acts of bravery, courage, selflessness and sacrifice in the general interest of society, which have caused the loss of the person's life.
5. In the event that a legal person or another subject provided for in Article 4 of this law is decorated, the decoration of one of the orders or medals may only be made when the legal person or subject has not ended or ceased its activity.
6. When the decoration is made for merits or acts in time of war or during combat operations or when the committed act has resulted in the injury of a person or the loss of his life, a decoration decorated with swords shall be awarded.
7. Deputies and members of the Council of Ministers may not be decorated with one of the orders during the exercise of their duties.

Article 21: Decoration of foreign personalities due to function

1. The President of the Republic and the Prime Minister may decorate foreign personalities due to function on the basis of diplomatic customs and tradition, as well as international reciprocity after consultation with the minister responsible for foreign affairs.
2. The decoration of foreign personalities due to their function shall be notified to the Chancellery no later than 30 (thirty) days from the date of awarding the decoration, for the purpose of registration in the register of decorated persons.

Article 22: Annual number of decorations

1. The annual number of decorations that may be awarded for each degree may not exceed the following:

- a) for the Supreme Order of the Eagle:

- i. Grand Star - 2 (two);
- ii. Grand Officer - 3 (three);
- iii. Commander - 5 (five);
- iv. Officer - 10 (ten);
- v. Knight - 20 (twenty);

- b) for the Order of Skanderbeg

- i. Grand Star - 3 (three);

- ii. Grand Officer – 6 (six);
 - iii. Commander - 20 (twenty);
 - iv. Officer – 40 (forty);
 - v. Knight - 50 (fifty);
- c) for the Order of the Academic Oak
- i. Grand Star - 5 (five);
 - ii. Commander - 10 (ten);
 - iii. Knight - 80 (eighty).

2. The President of the Republic, in his capacity as the head of the order, may award decorations annually, without prior proposal from the relevant authorities, up to 10% of each grade, as provided for in point 1 of this article.

3. Decorations of foreign citizens due to function and decorations mainly, as provided for in point 2 of this article, are not included in the annual number of decorations that may be awarded as provided for in point 1 of this article. In any case, decorations shall be notified to the Chancellery no later than 30 (thirty) days from the date of awarding the decoration.

4. The annual number of medals is unlimited.

Article 23: Removal of decorations

Removal of decorations shall be effected:

- a) by a final decision issued by the Albanian courts, when it has been awarded as an additional punishment, according to the provisions of the Criminal Code;
- b) by a decision of the authority responsible for awarding the decoration, when its holder:
 - i. has been sentenced by a final court decision for committing a criminal offence; or
 - ii. has been declared an “undesirable person” according to the provisions of the legislation in force for foreigners in the Republic of Albania.

CHAPTER IV: THE CHANCELLORSHIP OF ORDERS AND MEDALS

Article 24: The Chancellery of Orders and Medals

1. The Chancellery of Orders and Medals is a public legal entity, headquartered in Tirana, which is organized and operates in accordance with the provisions of this law, the regulation approved by decision of the Council of Ministers and the legislation in force.

2. The Chancellery of Orders and Medals is financed from the state budget and from other legal sources.

Article 25: Functions of the Chancellery of Orders and Medals

The Chancellery of Orders and Medals exercises the following functions:

- a) assesses the fulfillment of the criteria formalities of the proposal for decoration forwarded by the relevant authorities;
- b) requests the completion of the file from the proposing authority, if the proposal is not complete;
- c) reviews the files of candidacies for decoration, forwarded by the relevant authorities;
- ç) at the request of the responsible bodies, gives an opinion on:
 - i. decorations of foreign citizens;
 - ii. decorations of Albanian citizens from other countries;
 - iii. the public wearing by Albanian citizens, within the territory of the Republic of Albania, of foreign decorations; and
 - iv) reciprocity of the exchange of decorations for ceremonial reasons;
 - v) any task assigned by the College;
- d) prepares annual reports on the situation of decorations in the Republic of Albania;
- dh) keeps registers and archives regarding decorated persons, as well as proposals received from responsible institutions;
- e) takes care of preserving the heritage and material memory of decorations and their holders;
- ë) supervises the conception, production and compliance of decorations with the relevant specifications, determined by decision of the Council of Ministers;
- f) supervises the preparation of certificates and notification letters for the delivery of decorations, with the relevant specifications, determined by decision of the Council of Ministers;
- g) performs any other task provided for by the legislation in force and the regulations of the Chancellery of Orders and Medals.

Article 26: Organization of the Chancellery of Orders and Medals

1. The Chancellery of Orders and Medals is organized at the central level.
2. The governing bodies of the Chancellery of Orders and Medals are the Chancellor and the College of Orders and Medals.
3. The structure and organizational structure of the Chancellery of Orders and Medals shall be approved by order of the Prime Minister in accordance with the legislation in force on the organization and functioning of the state administration.
4. The detailed rules for the organization and functioning of the Chancellery of Orders and Medals shall be determined in the Regulation of the Chancellery, which shall be approved by decision of the Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the Prime Minister.

5. The Chancellery of Orders and Medals shall have its own logo, emblem and distinctive signs, which shall be approved by decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article 27: College of Orders and Medals

1. The College of Orders and Medals is composed of 9 (nine) members, as follows:
 - a) Chancellor;
 - b) 1 (one) representative appointed by the President of the Republic;
 - c) Head of State Protocol;
 - ç) 1 (one) representative appointed by the Presidency of the Academy of Sciences of Albania;
 - d) 2 (two) experts in the field of decorations, appointed by decision of the Council of Ministers;
 - dh) 3 (three) Deans of Orders, who are the oldest Albanian citizens in age, decorated with the "Big Star" in each of the orders.
2. The members specified in letters "b", "ç" and "d" of point 1 of this article are appointed for 4 (four) years, with the right to reappointment.
3. The Chairman of the College of Orders and Medals is the Chancellor and the Deputy Chairman is the representative appointed by the President of the Republic.
4. The Council of Ministers determines the amount of remuneration for the activities of the members.

Article 28: End of mandate

1. The mandate of a member of the College of Orders and Medals ends when:
 - a) the 4-year mandate ends, in the case of members specified in letters "b", "ç" and "d" of point 1 of Article 27 of this law;
 - b) resigns;
 - c) is dismissed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this article;
 - ç) is removed from office in the case of members specified in letters "a" and "c" of paragraph 1 of Article 27 of this law;
 - d) is proven to be unable to perform his/her duties;
 - dh) is convicted by a court by a final decision for committing a crime.
2. The members specified in letters "b", "ç" and "d" of point 1 of Article 27 of this law may be dismissed by the appointing body if they are absent within a year from more than one-third of the meetings or repeatedly for no less than two consecutive meetings, prevent the formation of a quorum for holding a valid meeting of the College of Orders and Medals.
3. In the event that the mandate of the Dean of the Order expires, according to the reasons specified in point 1 of this article, the President of the Republic, in his capacity as the President of the Order, shall appoint as a member of the College of Orders and

Medals the other member of the Order, the oldest, who has been decorated with the "Great Star of the Order".

4. The expiration of the mandate of a member of the College of Orders and Medals shall be declared by a decision of the appointing body or, in the case of ex officio members, by a decision of the College of Orders and Medals.

Article 29: Duties of the College of Orders and Medals

The College of Orders and Medals shall perform the following duties:

- a) verify the merits and moral qualities of the subjects proposed for decoration in the Republic of Albania;
- b) reviews the files of candidacies for decoration, forwarded by the relevant proposing authorities;
- c) gives a reasoned opinion on the legality and usefulness of the decoration and informs the relevant authorities;
- ç) supervises the drafting of reports by the employees of the Chancellery of Orders and Medals;
- d) supervises the maintenance of registers and archives regarding decorated persons;
- dh) issues instructions for the public display of foreign decorations by Albanian citizens in the Republic of Albania.

Article 30: Chancellor

1. The Chancellery is headed by the Chancellor.

2. The Chancellor is appointed, dismissed or dismissed from office by order of the Prime Minister.

3. The Chancellor must fulfill the following criteria:

- a) be an Albanian citizen;
- b) have full capacity to act;
- c) have a higher education degree, at least at the "Master of Science" level, or its equivalent, according to the legislation in force on higher education;
- ç) have work experience of no less than 5 (five) years in public administration;
- d) be distinguished for professional skills and high ethical and moral qualities;
- dh) not have been previously convicted by a final court decision for committing a criminal offence;
- e) not have been subject to a disciplinary measure of dismissal from work that has not been extinguished according to the legislation in force.
- ë) not have been a member, collaborator or favoured person of the former State Security before 2 July 1991 within the meaning of the law on the right to

information on documents of the former State Security of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

f) not be a collaborator, informant or agent of intelligence services.

4. The employment relations of the Chancellor and the employees of the Chancellery are regulated on the basis of the Labor Code.

5. The Chancellor is a holder of the rank of "Commander of the Supreme Order of the Eagle" from the day he is appointed to office.

6. The Chancellor may not be employed full-time in another position and is subject to the provisions of the legislation in force on conflict of interest.

Article 31: Duties of the Chancellor

The Chancellor shall exercise the following duties:

- a) represent the Chancellery in relations with third parties;
- b) manage the activity of the Chancellery and its employees;
- c) report to the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister periodically and whenever requested on the activity of the Chancellery;
- ç) prepare the agenda of the meetings of the College of Orders and Medals;
- d) ensure the keeping of the minutes of the meetings of the College of Orders and Medals;
- dh) notify the decisions of the College of Orders and Medals to the responsible authorities;
- e) prepare the job requirements for the recruitment of employees of the Chancellery and appoint employees in accordance with the Labor Code of the Republic of Albania;
- ë) issues internal acts for the administrative and financial management of human resources and other internal acts mandatory for the employees of the Chancellery for the realization of the functions of this institution;
- f) any other task assigned by the legislation in force, as well as the regulations of the Chancellery.

CHAPTER V: DECORATION PROCEDURES

Article 32: Right of proposal

1. In addition to cases of decoration in the first place, the following subjects have the right of proposal for the award of decorations:

- a) The President of the Assembly;
- b) The Prime Minister;
- c) The High Judicial Council;
- ç) The High Prosecutorial Council;

- d) The President of the Academy of Sciences;
- dh) Rectors of public institutions of higher education;
- e) Heads of religious communities recognized by law; and
- ë) Local self-government units.

2. The proposal for the award of the Military Service Medal and the Public Order Service Medal shall be made respectively by:

- a) the Chief of the General Staff;
- b) the Director General of the State Police.

3. Every citizen has the right to submit a request for the exercise of the right of proposal for a certain citizen to one of the institutions that have this right, according to point 1 of this article. In this case, the request must also justify the reasons for which the citizen requests the exercise of the right of proposal. The institution to which the request has been submitted shall forward it to the Chancellery, which shall examine the request in accordance with the rules and deadlines set out in the Code of Administrative Procedure and ultimately decide on its acceptance or rejection.

Article 33: Proposal for decoration

1. The proposal for decoration shall be submitted to the Chancellery, as a rule, no later than 60 (sixty) calendar days before the proposed date for awarding the decoration, except in cases when, due to the circumstances of the case, it is not possible to implement this deadline.

2. The proposal act shall specify:

- a) the proposing authority;
- b) the legal basis for the proposal;
- c) the relationship between the proposing authority and the person proposed for decoration;
- ç) the generalities and public activity of the proposed person;
- d) the detailed reasons for the subject's decoration;
- dh) the type and degree of the proposed decoration;
- e) information confirming the fulfilment of the relevant criteria for awarding the decoration, according to the definitions in this law;
- ë) information that the proposed person has not been convicted by a final court decision for committing a criminal offense, and that he is not under investigation or trial for a criminal offense by the responsible bodies;
- f) data on previous decorations of the proposed person;
- g) any other necessary element, which expresses the fulfilment and verification of the relevant criteria for the subject's decoration.

3. The proposal act is accompanied by the evidentiary documentation, which confirms the fulfillment of the relevant criteria for decoration.

Article 34: Review of the proposal

1. The Chancellery verifies whether the proposal act contains all the formal elements required by this law, by drafting the relevant report for this purpose.
2. If the proposal is incomplete, the Chancellery requests in writing, as a rule, within 15 (fifteen) calendar days from the date of receipt of the proposal, its completion by the proposing authority es. The proposal shall be completed as soon as possible, but, in any case, no later than 15 (fifteen) calendar days from the date of receipt of the notification.
3. If the proposal is complete, the Chancellery shall notify the College, sending it the relevant report for verification of the proposal.
4. The College of Orders and Medals shall examine the matter and forward its assessment through the Chancellor to the authority responsible for awarding the decoration within a reasonable time, according to the specific case, but, in any case, within the deadlines set out in the Code of Administrative Procedure. The Chancellor shall notify the assessment of the College of Orders and Medals and the proposing authority.
5. The process of reviewing the proposal may be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances, which damage the reputation and value of the act of decoration in public opinion, until the clarification of these circumstances.

Article 35: Evaluations of the College of Orders and Medals

1. After reviewing the file of the proposal for decoration, the College of Orders and Medals gives a reasoned opinion on:
 - a) approval of the proposal; or
 - b) rejection of the proposal.
2. In any case, the reasoned opinion of the College of Orders and Medals is notified to the authority responsible for awarding the decoration and the proposing authority.
3. The President decides on the awarding or non-awarding of the decoration, regardless of the respective assessment of the College.

Article 36: Decoration Ceremony

1. The presentation of decorations shall in any case be carried out with a ceremony, which may be public or non-public, at the discretion of the authority responsible for their award.
2. The ceremony for the award of the decoration shall be organized by the authority responsible for the award of the decoration, as a rule, within 30 (thirty) days from its approval or on the days specified in points 3 and 4 of this article. For justified reasons, the ceremony for the award of the decoration may be held within another reasonable period according to the circumstances of the specific case.

3. The ceremony for the award, as a rule, shall be organized on the festive days of the orders, on the days marking anniversaries, important historical events, as well as on the days of official national holidays.

4. The festive dates of the orders are as follows:

a) the festive date of the Supreme Order of the Eagle is November 28;

b) the festive date of the Order of Skanderbeg is March 2;

c) the festive date of the Order of the Academic Oak is March 7.

5. The ceremony of awarding decorations is organized by the proposing authority in cooperation with the Chancellery and the authority responsible for its award or persons authorized by it.

6. The presentation of the decoration of the "Grand Star of Orders", the Gold Medal of Military Merit and the Gold Medal of Civil Merit is made personally by the President of the Republic.

7. The presentation of decorations of other degrees of orders, as well as medals, is made personally by the President of the Republic, or by his representatives, or by another authority delegated by him. Representatives of the proposing authority also participate in the decoration ceremony.

8. Other detailed rules related to the organization and conduct of the ceremony, are approved by decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article 37: Foreign decorations

1. Every Albanian citizen decorated by foreign states or entities, after the entry into force of this law, must forward to the State Protocol the full information about the decoration awarded, its physical description and a copy of the accompanying certificate.

2. The State Protocol reports on each case to the College of Orders and Medals of the Chancellery.

CHAPTER VI: TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 38: Sub-legal acts

The Council of Ministers is charged with approving, within 6 months from the entry into force of this law, the sub-legal acts in implementation of Article 15, point 5; Article 16, point 4; Article 17, point 3; Article 18, point 2; Article 19, Article 26, points 4 and 5; Article 27, point 1, letter "d", and Article 36, point 8, of this law.

Article 39: Repeals

Law no. 112/2013 "On decorations, honorary titles, medals and local honorary titles in the Republic of Albania", as amended, Law no. 9/2015 "On medals in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania", as well as other legal and sub-legal acts, which are in conflict with this law, are repealed with the establishment and functioning of the Chancellery according to this law.

Article 40: Transitional provisions

1. Decorations awarded before the entry into force of this law are recognized and kept according to the motivation and the conditions under which they were awarded.
2. The removal of decorations is carried out according to the provisions of this law.

Article 41: Entry into force

This law shall enter into force 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved on 8.2.2024.

CHAIRPERSON

Lindita Nikolla