

Regional Governors Act

Legislation of the Novum Domitros Union

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Executive Summary:

The **Regional Governors Act** implements significant reform to the management of local issues. It formally dissolves city and regional councils, creates new regional boundaries, and outlines elected Regional Governor positions.

While this act strikes down the old Local Government Act, it maintains a framework for responding to emergencies while aligning with constitutional principles.

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SECTION 1: Strike Down Notice

- 1) Upon passage of this act through Parliament and the Oversight Council, the Local Government Act shall become null and void.
 - a) Any direct references to the Local Government Act, including any responsibilities or powers, in other legislation¹, motions, or resolutions of the Union shall be redirected to this act and become the responsibility of the relevant Regional Governor.
 - b) Any income, debts or expenditure remaining, committed or owed to bodies under the Local Government Act shall also be redirected to the relevant Regional Governor as defined in this act.

SECTION 2: Regional Boundaries

- 1) Upon passage of this act, the current regional boundaries of the Novum Domitros Union shall change according to the following direction;
 - a) The Visus Primus region shall remain unchanged.
 - b) The Terra Cibus Region and Ventus Region shall combine into the 'Terra Ventus Region'.
 - c) The Novum Centrum Region and Trinus Point Region shall combine into the 'Novum Centrum Region'.
 - d) The Lacus Region and Portus Region shall combine into the 'Lacus Portus Region'.
 - e) The North Lacus Region and Harena Region shall combine into the 'North Harena Region'.
- 2) Further changes to regional boundaries shall require an amendment to this act.
 - a) Any small disputes regarding regional boundaries can be settled by the High Court.

¹ Business and Employment Act - Sector 6: Employment Court, Homeland Security Act - Section 2: Police Powers, Prime Minister Act - Section 4: Extraordinary and Demonstrable Societal Need

SECTION 3: Regional Governors

- 1) This Act, in conjunction with the Union Elections Act, creates a publicly elected Regional Governor position, for each region.
- 2) This Act establishes an Office of the Regional Governor, in each region, to support each Regional Governor.
- 3) The Office of the Regional Governor shall hold several functions, powers and responsibilities including;
 - a) Manage regional infrastructure including roads, pipes, public transport and public education; and
 - b) Oversee and coordinate inter-city and inter-town projects including large-scale infrastructure; and
 - i) Regional Governors may construct Government infrastructure² with approval from the Secretary of Home Affairs.
 - c) Oversee regional economic initiatives, environmental protection and resource management; and
 - d) Coordinate regional disaster response in emergencies; and
 - e) Manage municipal services including waste disposal, local health initiatives and zoning; and
 - f) Maintain community facilities including libraries, parks and recreational areas; and
- 4) The Regional Governor will:
 - a) Lead the strategic direction and operations of the Office of the Regional Governor; and
 - b) Work closely with the Secretary of Home Affairs to deliver services to the community; and
 - c) Legally hire and dismiss staff and volunteers, as necessary to support operations, including Regional Advisors to hold particular portfolios at the Regional Governor's discretion; and
 - d) Ensure the Office of the Regional Governor, within its jurisdiction, is successful in fulfilling its legal duties to the Union.
- 5) Regional Governors are responsible to their electorates and are funded through a mixture of regional stipends, investments, and duties collected through Ordinances.
 - a) Regional Governors are authorised to take on debt to support their legal obligations to the Union.

² E.g. Police Stations, Fire Stations, Hospitals, Power Plants etc.

- i) The interest rate on this debt shall be determined by the national interest rate.
 - ii) Any regional budget surplus shall be automatically assigned to regional debt repayment.
- 6) Where a region is without an elected Regional Governor for any reason, the Secretary of Home Affairs may appoint a temporary Regional Governor from another region or request that the Oversight Council appoint a caretaker Regional Governor until an election can be held.
 - a) A temporary Regional Governor may serve no longer than four weeks.
 - b) A caretaker Regional Governor may serve until the next available election.
- 7) Parliament may remove an elected Regional Governor through a resolution.

SECTION 4: Regional State of Emergency

- 1) Regional Governors may declare a Regional State of Emergency in their respective boundaries.
 - a) Emergencies include any event that significantly endangers public safety or the local economy.
- 2) Notification of a Regional State of Emergency must be delivered to the Secretary of Home Affairs and the public.
- 3) A Regional State of Emergency shall last no more than 30 days unless extended by the Secretary of Home Affairs via the Union Gazette.
 - a) A Regional Governor can end a Regional State of Emergency within their region at any time.

SECTION 5: Extraordinary and Demonstrable Societal Need

- 1) This Act, in conjunction with the Prime Minister Act, sees extraordinary and demonstrable need as a key constitutional principle that requires close legal considerations.
 - a) The use of any emergency powers as part of a Regional State of Emergency must consider the rights of all citizens of the Union protected under the constitution.
 - b) Any emergency power which limits or infringes upon the rights of a citizen of the Union must be for an extraordinary reason where the societal need can be demonstrated.
 - i) Any limit or infringement must be proportionate, narrowly tailored, time-bound and subject to oversight from the Department of Home Affairs and Parliament.

- c) Any use of emergency power is subject to judicial review.

SECTION 6: Emergency Powers and Authorisation

- 1) The emergency powers outlined in this Act can be authorised by a Regional Governor and can be delegated to emergency officials where necessary.
- 2) Specific emergency powers include;
 - a) **Evacuating Areas:** Order the evacuation of residents from dangerous zones.
 - b) **Closing Roads and Public Spaces:** Restrict access to hazardous or sensitive areas.
 - c) **Requisitioning Property:** Temporarily acquire property needed for emergency response, with compensation.
 - d) **Entering Premises:** Authorise officials to enter private premises to enforce emergency measures.
 - e) **Restrict Movement:** Impose curfews or travel restrictions to ensure public safety.
 - f) **Accessing Infrastructure:** Use private infrastructure including vehicles and communication systems to manage the emergency.
 - g) **Direct Central Government Resources:** Where Central Government resources exist inside a regional boundary during an emergency³(With the exception of the Novum Domitros Expeditionary Forces), a Regional Governor or delegated officials may coordinate this resource and receive advice from the agency responsible for the resource.
 - i) The Secretary of Home Affairs may override coordination of a Central Government resource where necessary.
 - h) **Request the Novum Domitros Expeditionary Forces:** Petition the Prime Minister for military assistance in disaster relief, security or support with emergency measures.
 - i) **Emergency Ordinances:** Enact temporary ordinances in response to emergencies.

³ E.g. Police Station, Fire Station, Hospital, Power Plant, Sea Port etc.

SECTION 7: Ordinance Powers

- 1) Regional Governors shall have the power to enact local ordinances on matters within their jurisdiction, including but not limited to those listed in this Act;
 - a) Traffic Regulations;
 - i) Speed limits, parking rules, vehicle restrictions, pedestrian zones and other traffic related rules.
 - b) Public Order;
 - i) Noise regulations, event permits.
 - c) Community Standards;
 - i) Building codes, fire safety standards, waste management, zoning rules and public behaviour standards including loitering and consumption of alcohol and drugs.
 - d) Schools;
 - i) Early childhood providers, primary schools, high schools, scholarships and Universities.
 - e) Regional Patriotism;
 - i) Flags, anthems and coat-of-arms.
- 2) Ordinances shall be binding within a regional boundary and enforceable by the Police.
 - a) The Police may issue fines, warnings and other penalties as specified in the ordinances.
- 3) Ordinances may include **finer for non-compliance** if they are reasonable, proportionate, fair and relevant. Ordinances shall not conflict with the laws of state or constitutional provisions. In the case of financial protest or statutory conflict, the laws of state and constitution shall prevail.
 - a) **Therefore, all ordinances are eligible to be tested by the judiciary.**
- 4) All ordinances and amendments to existing ordinances must be submitted to the Union Gazette via Region Press Releases.

SECTION 8: Reporting Obligations

- 1) Regional Governors shall submit a monthly report to the Union Gazette, via Region Press Releases which shall include:
 - a) A description of key focus areas; and
 - b) A regional Budget, including debt and infrastructure planning; and
 - c) An overview of active contracts with private entities or the Union; and
 - d) An overview of assets; and
 - e) An overview of Regional corporations, charities or non-profit organisations and their strategic focus areas.

SECTION 9: Regional Police Forces

- 1) The Secretary of Home Affairs may, with the approval of Regional Governors, allocate Police Stations of the Union Police Force to the jurisdiction of Regional Governors via the Union Gazette.
 - a) These forces may be utilised by Regional Governors to maintain the peace, enforce ordinances and respond to local emergency calls.
 - b) These forces may exercise all powers they are normally granted under the Homeland Security Act and other powers as directed by ordinances.
- 2) Where Police Stations are transferred to regional control, the Regional Governor shall be responsible for maintaining the upkeep of the unit and any new establishment costs.
- 3) During a National State of Emergency, the Office of Homeland Security may retake control of any forces for the length of the emergency or until they issue a release notice.
- 4) The Secretary of Home Affairs may at any time re-distribute Police Stations, this includes recalling police forces to the jurisdiction of the Office of Homeland Security, including the upkeep burden.

SECTION 10: Regional Stipend

- 1) The Secretary of Finance and Finance Committee may allocate Regional Stipends in the Union Budget on a uniform or non-uniform basis between regions.

SECTION 11: Regional Corporations

- 1) Regional Governors may create corporations, charities or non-profit organisations to fulfill the legal objectives of their office.
 - a) These entities shall be designated as Regional Entities by the Office of Economic Development.
 - b) Regional Governors may appoint Boards to run Regional Entities and provide strategic direction, however, they may not become involved in operations.