



FÉLAGS- OG
TRYGGINGAMÁLARÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Security

**Act on the affairs of people with disabilities, No. 59/1992,
as amended with Act No. 127/1993, No. 148/1994, No. 140/1996,
No. 161/1996, No. 130/1997, No. 156/1998, No. 52/1999, No. 174/2000,
No. 93/2002, No. 95/2002 and No. 83/2003.**

SECTION I

Objectives and Definition.

Article 1

The objective of this Act is to ensure to the people with disabilities equality and living conditions comparable with those of other citizens, and to provide them with conditions that enable them to lead a normal life.

In carrying out the objectives of this Act, the federate organizations of people with disabilities and their member associations shall be guaranteed an influence on the defining of policies and on decisions regarding the affairs of people with disabilities.

Article 2

Those who are entitled to services according to this Act are the mentally or physically disabled who need special services and support for this reason. This refers to mental retardation, psychiatric illness, physical disability, blindness and/or deafness. People with disabilities can also be the consequence of chronic illness as well as of accidents.

SECTION II

Administration and Organization.

Article 3

The Minister of Social Affairs is in the charge of supreme administration of the affairs of people with disabilities according to this Act. The Ministry of Social Affairs shall handle policy-making, the drawing up of Comprehensive Plans and supervision of the execution of the Act.

Article 4

A special board shall counsel the Ministry of Social Affairs on the affairs of people with disabilities. It shall be called the Board of Administration on the Affairs of People with Disabilities [Stjórnarnefnd um málefni fatlaðra] and shall be appointed by the Minister for a period of four years at a time. The Board is composed of five members; The Organization of Disabled in Iceland [Öryrkjabandalag Íslands], the National Association of Intellectual Disabilities [Landssamtökin Þroskahjálp], and The Association of Local Authorities in Iceland [Samband íslenskra sveitarfélaga] appoint one member each. The Minister appoints two members without nomination, one of these to be the Chairman of the Board.

The Board of Administration shall submit proposals to the Minister of Social Affairs for specialized services to people with disabilities on a national level, independent of the division into operational regions according to Article 5. The Board of Administration is also entrusted with the direction of the Investment Fund of People with Disabilities [Framkvæmdasjóður fatlaðra], cf. Article 38.

Article 5

The country shall be divided into operational regions insofar as the affairs of people with disabilities are concerned, these regions to follow the division into electoral districts.

The operational regions may be divided into special service areas. Such service areas may be based on individual municipalities, regional boards or co-owned agencies of the municipalities, cf. the Local Government Act, or on public health districts, cf. the Health Services Act.

Article 6

Each operational region, cf. Article 5, shall have a functioning Regional Board for the Affairs of People with Disabilities.

The Regional Boards shall have the following tasks:

1. To submit proposals to the Ministry of Social Affairs and to the Regional Office regarding services and contribute to their coordination within the region.
2. To ensure that the services, operations and activities of institutions subject to these laws, are in accordance with the objectives of Act.
3. To give comments to the Ministry of Social Affairs on regional plans, cf. Article 12, item 4, on the development of services for people with disabilities, cf. Article 41 and on new or altered activities, cf. Article 45
4. To watch over the rights of people with disabilities, in accordance with section XV, including ensuring that people with disabilities receive the services they are entitled to.
5. To take the initiative regarding increased responsibility of municipalities in the affairs of people with disabilities, cf. the provisions of Article 13 on the service agreements.

[[The regional boards shall consist of seven representatives appointed by the Minister for the period during which the transfer of responsibility for the affairs of people with disabilities to the municipalities takes place, though in no case for longer than four years.]¹⁾ The National Federation for the Aid of People with Learning Disability and The Organization of Disabled in Iceland shall appoint one member each and regional federation of municipalities shall appoint three, one of which shall be the Director in Social Services in the region. [Furthermore, the Director-General of Public Health shall nominate one representative from among the senior physicians in the primary health clinics in the region.]²⁾ The Minister shall act alone in appointing one representative without nomination. The regional boards shall summon experts in school affairs when necessary.]³⁾

The Regional Board elects its chairman.

The Minister of Social Affairs issues regulations on the activities of the Regional Boards.

¹⁾ Act No. 156/1998, Article 1. ²⁾ Act No. 93/2002, Article 34. ³⁾ Act No. 161/1996, Article 1.

SECTION III.

General Services.

Article 7

People with disabilities shall be entitled to all general services provided by the State and by municipalities. It shall be endeavoured at all times to provide services for people with disabilities in accordance with general laws in the field of education, health and social services. If it proves that disabled persons need services in excess of those that can be provided under the ordinary service structure, they shall be entitled to receive them under this Act.

SECTION IV

Support Services.

Article 8

Services for people with disabilities shall be provided with the aim of enabling them to live and function in a normal community along with other people. These support services shall be provided in each region in the manner most appropriate for each locality. They shall be based on the following needs of people with disabilities:

1. The need of people with disabilities for services in their homes, which consist in increasing their possibilities of keeping house on their own. These services are regulated i.a. according to the provisions of Section x.

2. The need of people with disabilities for habitation, rehabilitation and work, which i.a. consists in their being able to support themselves and take an active part in society. These services are regulated by i.a. the provisions of Sections XI and XII.
3. The need of people with disabilities for psychiatric services, counsel, social support and social interaction, including the enjoyment of recreational and cultural activities.
4. The need of children with disabilities for care and training along with the necessary assistance to their families so that they can provide the children with safe and stimulating conditions for growing up. These services are i.a. in accordance with Sections VIII and IX.

SECTION V

Service institutions.

Article 9

Service institutions for people with disabilities shall be operated with a view to meeting their specific needs, in order to enable them to lead an independent life.

The following service institutions shall be operated in each region as needed:

1. Habilitation and rehabilitation centres.
2. Day-care centres for people with disabilities.
3. Sheltered workshops.
4. Toy libraries.
5. Short-term foster homes.

The Minister of Social Affairs has the authority to add further service institutions or eliminate others, subject to prior comment from the Board of Administration.

The Minister of Social Affairs grants licenses for the operation of new institutions, as well as for major changes in the activities of functioning institutions, upon proposals from the Regional Boards and the Board of Administration.

SECTION VI

Residence.

Article 10

People with disabilities shall have the option of choosing their residence, in conformity with their needs and wishes, insofar as possible. The residences of people with disabilities that are covered by this Act, may be:

1. Social housing.
2. Protected housing.
3. Group homes.
4. Residential institutions.
5. Children's homes.
6. Half-way homes.

The Minister of Social Affairs grants operational licenses according to items 3–6 of this Article.

Residences for people with disabilities according to this Act shall be located in residential districts, cf. Planning and Building Act.

Article 11

Applications for services in institutions according to items 1–3 of Article 9, as well as those for residences acc. to items 2–6 of Article 10 shall be sent to the relevant Regional Offices for the affairs of people with disabilities, cf. Article 12. An application is considered valid when presented by a person with disability or his/her guardian. The Regional Offices assess the need of the person with disability for services and his/her residence wishes in consultation with the corresponding diagnostic and counselling party. The Regional Offices make decisions as to services and forms of residence in collaboration with the applicant and his prospective cohabitants. In the case of institutions operated by others than the State, the agreement of the operating party must be obtained. The form of residence acc. to items 2–6 of Article 10 cannot be decided without the need for services having previously been assessed.

In the event of disagreement as to the outcome of an application, the Regional Board shall deal with the matter.

SECTION VII
Implementation of the services.

Article 12

Within each operational region cf. Article 5, an office shall be operated for the affairs of people with disabilities, except where municipalities take full charge of the services, cf. Article 13. Regional Offices for the affairs of people with disabilities shall be entrusted with the following tasks:

1. The operation of the institutions for people with disabilities on behalf of the State, as well as providing other services and activities for people with disabilities on behalf of the State, according to this Act.
2. The responsibility for projects concerning the affairs of people with disabilities for which money is granted from the Investment Fund, cf. Article 40, and which are not carried out on behalf of municipalities or independent institutions.
3. The gathering of information on the need for services for people with disabilities, according to this Act.
4. The supervision of the drawing-up of a three-year Regional Plan for the development of services to people with disabilities and submission of this to the Regional Board to comments.
5. The furnishing of advice and services to the Regional Board, so that its members may be able to fulfil their role in the best possible way.
6. The supervision of assessments of the need of people with disabilities for services, cf. Article 2, in consultation with the diagnostic party.
7. Cooperation and consultation with [health care]¹⁾ and Educational Officers on the affairs of people with disabilities.
8. Cooperation with municipalities regarding social services and the accessibility to transport of people with disabilities.
9. The assessment of disabled children's need for care according to the Social Security Act.
10. Ensuring that psychiatric services and social service counselling are available to people with disabilities within the region.

[The Minister of Social Affairs shall appoint the managers of the regional offices, after receiving the comments of the regional boards, for the period during which the transfer of responsibility for the affairs of people with disabilities to the municipalities takes place, though in no case for longer than five years.]²⁾ The Managers shall be given formal Letters of Appointment.

The Minister of Social Affairs shall establish regulations on the operation of Regional Offices.

¹⁾ Act No. 93/2002, Article 35. ²⁾ Act No. 156/1998, Article 2.

Article 13

The Regional Boards shall take the initiative regarding work on agreements between the State and municipalities on the latter taking full or partial charge of services to people with disabilities, whether on a community level, on a co-owned agency level, or on county commission level. The Ministry shall seek the opinion and comments of the Board of Administration on such agreements. These agreements shall define the services that municipalities are expected to provide, payment of costs out of State funds and contributions to institutions from the Investment Fund of People with Disabilities [Framkvæmdasjóður fatlaðra], subject to this being provided for in Comprehensive Plans, cf. Article 41.

When municipalities take full charge of services to people with disabilities, within special service areas, cf. Article 5, payments shall be based on the number of people with disabilities in the area and their need for services on the one hand, and on provable operational costs of individual institutions on the other hand.

When municipalities take charge of separate service factors, payments shall be based on provable operational costs. The Minister of Social Affairs establishes regulations on agreements with municipalities according to this Article.

Article 14

License for municipalities, associations and independent institutions to establish and operate institutions according to Article 9, or homes for people with disabilities according to items 3–6 of art 10, are granted by the Minister of Social Affairs after he has obtained the comments of the relevant Regional Board. The Minister of Social Affairs has the authority to make special service agreements with associations and independent institutions, cf. item 3 of Article 13.

Article 15

Regional Boards shall exercise supervision of institutions for people with disabilities. Representatives of the Regional Boards shall be granted access to institutions and homes of people with disabilities, for which license has been granted according to Article 14, for supervision purposes and to obtain information on all aspects of their operation and activities, The Regional Boards shall supply guidance on any factors that may be improved. The Minister of Social Affairs can deprive an operator of his operational license, ant the suggestion of the Regional Board and Board of Administration, if he has not, within set time limits, fulfilled their requirements, or those of the Ministry, regarding whatever is found wanting in the operation concerned.

SECTION VIII

The State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre.

Article 16

...¹⁾
¹⁾ Act No. 83/2003, Article 10.

SECTION IX

The Affairs of Children and Families of People with Disabilities.

Article 17

If symptoms appear after birth, indicating that a child may have disability, a preliminary assessment should be arranged. If such preliminary assessment reveals the need for further diagnosis or means of therapy, this shall be notified to The State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre, or other appropriate parties, who will then seek adequate solutions in consultation with the parents.

Article 18

Health service, educational and social workers should pay special attention to children's mental and physical condition. If they discover that a child shows symptoms of a disability, they shall inform its guardians accordingly. This shall be dealt with in accordance with Article 17.

Article 19

Children with disabilities shall be entitled to attend a pre school (nursery school) operated by municipalities. They can attend public playschools, where necessary support services are provided, or specialized sections, cf. the Pre Schools (Nursery Schools) Act no. 48/1991.¹⁾

¹⁾ Now Act No. 78/1994.

Article 20

Children with disabilities shall be entitled to toy library services. In addition to loans from the toy library, developmental and play training shall be supplied. Toy libraries shall give educational counselling and guidance as to the use of toys for training purposes.

Article 21

The families of children with disabilities shall be ensured the services of support families as needed. The stay of an individual with disability with a support family shall be laid down in an agreement on the basis of a specified period. These services are dealt with according to regulations.

Article 22

Parents shall be entitled to having short-term foster homes for their children with disabilities when needed. Short-term foster homes are intended to give people with disabilities a short-term stay for rest purposes or in the event of a difficult domestic situation, such as due to illness or other stress factors.

Article 23

It shall be endeavoured to give children with disabilities the option of a summer vacation stay when needed. Such summer vacations are intended to give people with disabilities the opportunity for a change of environment and a stay outside their homes for their enjoyment and as a break from routine.

SECTION X

Personal support.

Article 24

Municipalities shall, within possible means, give people with disabilities the option of personal support services. Personal support is understood as person-to-person support and assistance which chiefly aims at breaking through social isolation, for instance by assistance in enjoying cultural and social events.

Article 25

In special circumstances, people with disabilities shall be given further personal support, consisting in various kinds of assistance concerning the multiple functions of daily life, if such assistance is needed to prevent institutionalization. Regional offices make decisions as to further personal support according to authorized budget expenditures at each given time, upon prior opinion from the Regional Board.

SECTION XI

Social habilitation and rehabilitation.

Article 26

People with disabilities shall enjoy social habilitation and rehabilitation with the aim of reducing the effects of the disability and increasing the habilitation of people with disabilities for work and participation in daily life. Special habilitation and rehabilitation centres shall be operated, as well as day-care centres for people with disabilities, which can furnish developmental therapy, work training and/or occupational training. Work and occupational training shall also be given at sheltered workshops, cf. Article 30.

As regards medical rehabilitation, this is dealt with according to the Health Services Act.

Article 27

People with disabilities may be granted assistance for social habilitation and rehabilitation as follows:

1. A grant towards the purchase of tools or equipment or other facilitation on account of work at home or independent activities after rehabilitation.
2. A grant towards payment of tuition costs, which are not paid according to the provisions of other Acts.

Regional Offices or municipalities, cf. Article 13, are in charge of the assessment of needs according to items 1–2.

The Minister of Social Affairs establishes regulations¹⁾ on the execution of these provisions, such as the requirements that must be met in order to be eligible for this assistance, and the guidelines for the amounts granted.

¹⁾ Regulation No. 550/1994.

SECTION XII **Employment.**¹⁾

Article 28

Each operational region shall have a selective placement service, with the purpose of obtaining suitable work for people with disabilities. In connection with this placement service, occupational counselling shall be provided. Where municipalities operate a special employment bureau, this bureau shall be entrusted with the operation of a selective placement service for people with disabilities under a special agreement.

¹⁾ *Regulation No. 376/1996.*

Article 29

People with disabilities shall be given assistance in holding jobs on the general labour market when necessary. This shall be done through special personal support at the workplace as well as through information and instruction for other workers.

People with disabilities shall be given work training in general enterprises and/or institutions where this can be arranged. In those instances a special agreement shall be made, with i.a. a definition of the training period and payment of costs.

Article 30

In each operational region people with disabilities shall be offered sheltered work on the labour market. Sheltered work can consist in work that is organised with regard to the disability. Special sheltered workshops for people with disabilities may also be operated. Sheltered workshops shall on the one hand provide remunerated training for people with disabilities to enable them to work on the general labour market. On the other hand, they shall provide remunerated regular jobs for people with disabilities.

Article 31

The Ministry of Social Affairs shall take the initiative, in consultation with the organizations of people with disabilities and the organized labour and employers' associations, to have regular surveys conducted on the status of people with disabilities in the labour force and have these followed up by suggestions for improvements.

Article 32

People with disabilities shall be given priority regarding work for the State and municipalities if their qualifications for a given post are greater or equal to those of other applicants. If a Regional Board is of the opinion that the rights of a person with disability have been disregarded in the granting of an employment position, the Board can request a written explanation for the decision regarding the appointment from the appointing authority.

SECTION XIII

Housing.

Article 33

It shall be endeavoured to offer people with disabilities social housing, i.e. social assistance housing for lease, lease-purchase housing and social assistance housing in private ownership, according to the State Housing Board Act. Money from the Investment Fund of People with Disabilities may be used for the purpose of providing the financing party's contribution towards the construction or purchase of social housing for people with disabilities intended for rent, cf. item 4 of Article 40.

SECTION XIV

Accessibility to transport and transport services.

Article 34

Municipal councils shall attend to matters regarding the accessibility to transport of people with disabilities in an organized manner, i.a. through drawing up plans for improved access to public buildings and service institutions in accordance with the provisions of construction laws and regulations, cf. also Planning and Building Act and Planning Regulations. Regional Offices shall forward pointers to construction committees as regards improvements in the field of accessibility to transport.

A municipal council may appoint a coordinating committee on the accessibility of people with disabilities, with the participation of the associations of people with disabilities, for the purpose of making proposals for the order of priority of projects in the field of accessibility.

Article 35

Municipalities shall provide transport services for people with disabilities. The aim of such transport services for people with disabilities shall be to enable those who cannot make use of public transport to hold jobs, pursue studies and enjoy leisure activities. Municipalities shall establish rules for the operation of transport services for people with disabilities.

People with disabilities shall also be entitled to transport services operated by municipalities for the purpose of driving to service institutions according to items 1–4 of Article 9, and on account of other specialized services granted to people with disabilities.

SECTION XV

Watching over the rights of people with disabilities.

Article 36

The Regional Boards for the Affairs of People with Disabilities shall watch over the rights of people with disabilities to services according to this Act as well as other acts, as appropriate. Employees who provide services to people with disabilities and who work in institutions for people with disabilities shall guard their interests and see to it that their rights are respected.

Article 37

In order to further ensure the rights of people with disabilities staying in home for people with disabilities according to items 3–6 of Article 10, regarding their private affairs and the handling of their valuables, Regional Boards shall appoint a special Confidential Representative for people with disabilities in each region.

The Confidential Representative supervises the conditions of people with disabilities and the directors of the homes concerned shall give him/her all necessary relevant information. In the case of registered information on personal affairs or information on private valuable of a person with disability, the said person's agreement shall be sought.

If the person with disability believes that his/her right is being infringed, he/she can inform the Confidential Representative, who shall give him/her the necessary support and immediately investigate the matter. After such an investigation, the Confidential Representative evaluates whether the case should be brought before the Regional Board. The same procedure applies if the Confidential Representative has reason to believe that the rights of the person with disability are not being respected.

If relatives of an individual with disability, associations of people with disabilities or others concerned with the condition of the person with disability believe that the rights of a person with disability staying in a home for people with disabilities according to items 3–6 of Article 10 are not being respected, they shall notify the Confidential Representative who shall immediately investigate the matter. After such an investigation, the Confidential Representative evaluates whether the matter should be brought before the Regional Board.

The Regional Board ensures that matters according to this article are dealt with in an appropriate manner in each instance, in accordance with the law. The Confidential Representative shall assist the person with disability in dealing with the matter, if so requested.

SECTION XVI

The Investment Fund of People with Disabilities.

Article 38

The Investment Fund of People with Disabilities, which was established by the Act on the Affairs of People with Disabilities no. 41/1983, shall be kept in the custody of the Ministry of Social affairs and administered by the Board of Administration, cf. Article 4. When the Board of Administration deals with matters concerning the Investment Fund of People with Disabilities, a representative appointed by the Budget Committee of the Althing shall sit in the Board.

The Fund's Board makes proposals to the Minister as to allocations from the Fund.

Article 39

The Fund's income is constituted by:

1. ...¹⁾
2. The allocation of the State Treasury according to the decision of the Althing on the Fiscal Budget.
3. A special contribution from the State Treasury according to the decision of the Althing, for the development of services for people with mental disabilities for the next five years subsequent to the coming into force of this Act.
4. Free contributions and other incidental income.
5. Interest income.

¹⁾ Act No. 174/2000, Article 5.

Article 40

The Investment Fund of People with Disabilities has the following functions:¹⁾

1. The Fund shall finance the establishment costs of service institutions for people with disabilities, cf. Article 9, and homes for people with disabilities acc. to items 3–6 of Article 10, which are operated by the State.
2. The Fund finances service institutions and homes for people with disabilities operated by municipalities, cf. item 1, as further defined in agreements, cf. Article 13.
3. The Fund is authorized to grant subsidies to associations and independent institutions in order to set up service institutions and homes for people with disabilities, cf. item 1.
4. The Fund is authorized to grant to the financing parties for social rent apartments and tenant-purchase housing being let out, cf. the State Housing Board Act and items 1 and 2 of Article 10 of this Act, subsidies towards payment of the contribution which the financing parties are obliged to furnish according to the State Housing Board Act. [Such grants may cover the entire contribution made by the financing parties.]²⁾ The contribution of the Investment Fund according to this provision is redeemable if an apartment is employed for purposes other than for the benefit of people with disabilities.
5. Up to 10% of the money at the Fund's disposal may be used to improve access to public buildings, with the purpose of enabling the physically disabled and the blind to use them in a normal manner. The Fund's contribution shall exceed one half of the cost of each individual project.
6. It is permitted to spend up to 25% of the money available to the Fund for extraordinary maintenance projects, which cannot be classified as operational maintenance as understood in the Budget, on those homes for people with disabilities and service institutions of people with disabilities, cf. items 1–3, which have been constructed/bought and belong within the scope of this Act. The allocation of money spent on maintenance projects shall be in the hands of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
7. In addition to projects according to items 1–6, the Investment Fund of People with Disabilities is authorized to contribute money to other projects deemed necessary for the benefit of people with disabilities, such as alterations in general workplace employing people with disabilities. The Fund is further authorised to grant money towards surveys and plans regarding the affairs of people with disabilities.

¹⁾ See also provisions of Act No 174/2000, Article 5. ²⁾ Act No. 161/1996, Article 4.

SECTION XVII
Financing and operations.

Initial costs.

Article 41

Regional Offices for the affairs of people with disabilities handle the drawing up of regional plans for services to people with disabilities, these plans to be submitted to the Regional Boards for comments. The Ministry of Social Affairs is charged with drawing up comprehensive plans on the basis of the regional plans and the proposals of the Board of Administration on projects concerning specialized services on a national level.

Article 42

The Board of Administration makes annual proposals for contributions from the Investment Fund of People with Disabilities in conformity with the Comprehensive Plan acc. to Article 41.

Article 43

The Investment Fund of People with Disabilities covers all initial costs of service institutions acc. to Article 9 and of homes of people with disabilities acc. to items 3–6 of Article 10, operated on behalf of the State and according to agreement with municipalities, cf. Article 13.

Article 44

Contributions from the Investment Fund to municipalities, to associations of people with disabilities and to independent institutions, shall be paid out according to special agreement with the Ministry of Social Affairs. Such an agreement should specify that the housing in question may not be rented out except with the consent of the Ministry of Social Affairs, and this condition shall be officially registered. The contribution is redeemable if the dwelling is allocated to others than people with disabilities, cf. item 3 in Article 40.

Operations.

Article 45

The Regional Offices shall make annual budget proposals and send these to the Ministry of Social Affairs. In the case of operations run by municipalities, cf. Article 13, these shall send their budget proposals to the relevant Regional Office for comments. The same applies to associations and independent institutions operating homes for people with disabilities. Proposals for new or modified activities shall be sent to the Regional Office for comments.

Article 46

Budget proposals for support services shall be made with reference to Article 8.

Article 47

Budget proposals for service institutions acc. to Article 9 and homes for people with disabilities acc. to items 3–6 of Article 10 shall be based on an evaluation of the need for the services. Such an evaluation shall be undertaken when the operation starts and after that on annual basis.

Article 48

Services and other operational costs according to this Act shall be paid out of the State Treasury. However, municipalities are responsible for the costs of personal support services, cf. Article 24, accessibility to transport matters, cf. Article 34, and transport arrangements, cf. 35. As to costs for the playschool attendance of children with disabilities, cf. Article 19, this shall be dealt with according to the Pre Schools (Nursery School) Act No. 48/1991.¹⁾ ...²⁾

¹⁾ Now Act No. 78/1994. ²⁾ Act No. 130/1997, Article 7.

Article 49

Incidental income through professional activities of institutions which enjoy State contributions through the Budget shall be deducted from the operational costs.

Article 50

The Minister is empowered, through regulations, to decide that a fee shall be charged for services according to Article 21 and 22, provided that the party in question is enjoying special care indemnities or invalidity pension and income guarantees according to the Social Security Act.

Article 51

The transport of people with disabilities to and from service institutions according to items 1–4 of Article 9 and on account of other necessary services granted specially to people with disabilities shall be paid by the municipalities. This provision is not valid however, for driving to and from summer vacation homes and short-term foster homes.

The Minister of Social Affairs shall establish rules on the payment of transport expenses of people with disabilities from anywhere in the country outside the Reykjavík area and to The State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre, these costs to be paid out of the State Treasury. In this, account shall be taken of rules regarding transport expenses of patients within the country according to the Social Security Act, as appropriate.

Article 52

The operational costs of Regional Offices, Regional Boards and the Board of Administration shall be paid out of the State Treasury.

Article 53

Independent institutions and institutions operated by municipalities and associations according to this Act, which receive contributions from the State Treasury, shall deliver to the Ministry of Social Affairs, the relevant Regional Board, [Fjársýslu ríkisins]¹⁾ and The Icelandic National Audit Office their annual accounts, signed by a chartered auditor, along with a report on the activities for the preceding year.

¹⁾ Act No. 95/2002, Article 9.

SECTION XVIII Various provisions.

Article 54

Anyone working in accordance with these laws shall observe the utmost discretion regarding whatever he/she may ascertain in the course of his/her work.

Article 55

The Minister of Social Affairs establishes, through regulations¹⁾, further provisions regarding the execution of this Act.

¹⁾ Regulation No. 273/1993, Regulation No. 204/1994, Regulation No. 155/1995, cf. No. 308/2000, No. 67/2002, No. 65/2003, No. 79/2004, No. 1017/2004, No. 1097/2005, No. 1039/2006, No. 1205/2007 and No. 1205/2008. Regulation No. 376/1996. Regulation No. 606/1998. Regulation No. 296/2002, cf. No. 685/2002 and No. 856/2002.

SECTION XIX Commencement.

Article 56

This Act shall take effect on September 1 1992. ... However, the second paragraph of Article 35 and the first paragraph of Article 51 shall come into force on January 1 1993.

Interim Provisions.

I.

...

II.

This Act shall be revised within four years from the date it comes into force, taking into account the revision of the Local Authorities Social Services Act, No. 40/1991, and after consultation with the Federation of Local Authorities in Iceland and the federate organisations of people with disabilities. The revision of this Act shall aim at increasing the responsibility of the municipalities in the affairs of people with disabilities.

III.

After this Act has taken effect, the Minister of Social Affairs shall make arrangements to prepare the transfer of matters of people with disabilities to the municipalities, and appoint project board(-s) in order to do so. During preparation it shall be kept in mind to watch over the rights of people with disabilities.

[Before the transfer of the matter takes effect, the Althing shall among other things have passed:

- a. new act on municipalities social services, that includes the service granted according to current act on the affairs of people with disabilities, no. 59/1992, except on the operation of The State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre,
- b. amendments on the act on municipal revenues,
- c. special act on The State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre.]¹⁾²⁾

¹⁾ Act No. 156/1998, Article 3. ²⁾ Act No. 161/1996, interim provisions.

IV.

For the duration of the temporary agreements made under Article 13, the relevant employees of the regional offices who are in employment when the agreements enter into force shall be considered as being in the service of the relevant municipality, co-owned agency or district committee. In such agreements, the Minister of Social Affairs may assign to the relevant municipality, co-owned agency or district committee all the powers exercised by the managers of the regional offices under the Civil Servants' Rights and Obligations Act, providing that the employees are informed who is to exercise those powers. No formal amendment will be made to the position by engagement of the employees: they will continue to be civil servants and their wages and other terms of service will be subject to the same collective agreements as before.

New employees who are engaged to execute projects covered by the agreements between the parties shall be engaged as employees of the relevant municipality, co-owned agency or district committee.

The Minister of Social Affairs and the Minister of Finance, on the one hand, and the municipality, co-owned agency or district committee, on the other, shall agree on guarantees and payments as regards the rights and terms of service of the employees.]¹⁾

¹⁾ Act No. 52/1999, Article 1.

*[This translation is published for information only.
The original Icelandic text is published in the Law Gazette.
In case of a possible discrepancy, the original Icelandic text applies.]*