

## CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

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## 13 OF 1914.

TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND CONTROL OF CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

]

[October 9, 1914.

**W**HEREAS it is expedient to encourage thrift, self-help and co-operation among agriculturalists, and for that purpose to provide for the constitution and control of Co-operative Credit Societies.

Be it therefore enacted:—

*Title and Definitions.*

Short title.

1. This Law may be cited as the Co-operative Credit Societies Law, 1914.

Definitions.

2. In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires:—

- (a.) "Bye-law" means a registered bye-law for the time being in force and includes a registered amendment of the bye-laws;
- (b.) "Committee and Council" mean the governing bodies of a society to which the management of the affairs of such society is entrusted;
- (c.) "Member" includes a person joining in the application for the registration of a society, and a person admitted to membership after registration in accordance with the bye-laws and any rules;
- (d.) "Officer" includes a chairman, secretary, treasurer, member of committee, or other person empowered under the bye-laws to give directions in regard to the business of the society;
- (e.) "Registrar" means a person appointed to perform the duties of Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies under this Law;
- (f.) "Society" means a co-operative credit society registered under this Law.

*Registration.*

Registrar.

3. The High Commissioner may appoint a person to be Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies under this Law, and may appoint persons to assist such Registrar, and may, by general or special order, confer on any such persons all or any of the powers of a Registrar under this Law.

The Registrar shall have an office in Nicosia.

Repealed  
Law 25/1939

See also Law  
10 of 1929

Law 13 of 1914 (at p. 170) has been amended by the addition thereto of the following section:-

Subject to the approval in writing of the Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies formed under the provisions of the Principal Law may effect sales and purchases of products, commodities or raw material for agricultural purposes, whether such products, commodities or raw material are or are not in being at the time of such sales and purchases provided always that after such approval of the Registrar as aforesaid a memorandum of agreement embodying the terms of such sales and purchases shall be made and signed by the parties thereto.

Vide Law 18 of 1926.

Following proviso has been added to the above section. Provided further that the Registrar may before granting the approval in writing as aforesaid require the Society to forward to him a copy of a resolution and of the minutes relating to it of a general meeting of the Society approving of such sales or purchases as the case may be.

Vide Law 10 of 1928

2 donums in extent; (d) be an agriculturalist; (e) not be a member of any other co-operative credit society, and (f) in the case of a person not being an original member, be elected by the Society in such manner as the bye-laws shall prescribe.

8. Any twelve or more persons qualified in accordance with the requirements of section 7 and agreeing to act in accordance with this Law and any rules and the bye-laws of their proposed society may apply to the Registrar to be registered as a society, and the persons by whom or on whose behalf such application is made shall furnish two copies of the proposed bye-laws of the proposed society, together with such information with regard to the proposed society as the Registrar may require.

Conditions  
for  
registration.

9. If the Registrar is satisfied that a society has complied with the provisions of this Law and the rules and that its proposed bye-laws are not contrary to the law or to the rules, he may, with the approval of the High Commissioner, register the society and its bye-laws.

Registration.

10. A certificate of registration signed by the Registrar shall be conclusive evidence that the society therein mentioned is duly registered unless it is proved that the registration of the society has been cancelled.

Evidence of  
registration

4. Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained a society consisting of at least twelve persons who are agriculturalists and are above the age of eighteen years; operating within a town, or village, or group of villages within a radius of not more than two miles; and having for its object the creation of funds by loans from the Government or the Loan Commissioners or otherwise or deposits to be lent to its members; may be registered under this Law. Provided that the Registrar may if he shall think fit in any particular case extend the said radius of two miles.

Societies  
which may  
be  
registered.

5. The words "Co-operative Credit" shall form part of the title of every society.

Co-operative  
credit.

6. When any question arises whether, for the purposes of this Law, a person is an agriculturalist and a resident in a town or village or group of villages, or whether two or more villages shall be considered to form a group, the question shall be decided by the Registrar whose decision shall be final.

Registrar to  
decide as to  
residence  
and group

7. A person eligible for admission to membership of a society must (a) be above eighteen years of age; (b) reside within the area of the society's operations; (c) possess land therein of not less than 2 donums in extent; (d) be an agriculturalist; (e) not be a member of any other co-operative credit society, and (f) in the case of a person not being an original member, be elected by the Society in such manner as the bye-laws shall prescribe.

Persons  
admissible  
as members.

8. Any twelve or more persons qualified in accordance with the requirements of section 7 and agreeing to act in accordance with this Law and any rules and the bye-laws of their proposed society may apply to the Registrar to be registered as a society, and the persons by whom or on whose behalf such application is made shall furnish two copies of the proposed bye-laws of the proposed society, together with such information with regard to the proposed society as the Registrar may require.

Conditions  
for  
registration.

9. If the Registrar is satisfied that a society has complied with the provisions of this Law and the rules and that its proposed bye-laws are not contrary to the law or to the rules, he may, with the approval of the High Commissioner, register the society and its bye-laws.

Registration.

10. A certificate of registration signed by the Registrar shall be conclusive evidence that the society therein mentioned is duly registered unless it is proved that the registration of the society has been cancelled.

Evidence of  
registration

Amendment  
of bye-laws.

11.—(1.) No amendment of the bye-laws of a registered society shall be valid until the same has been registered under this Law, for which purpose a copy of the amendment shall be forwarded to the Registrar.

(2.) If the Registrar is satisfied that any amendment of the bye-laws is not contrary to this law or to the rules, he may, if he thinks fit, register the amendment.

(3.) When the Registrar registers an amendment of the bye-laws of a society, he shall issue to the society a copy of the amendment certified by him, which shall be conclusive evidence that the same is duly registered.

Registrar to  
submit  
annual  
report.

12. The Registrar shall prepare and present in each year to the High Commissioner, a report of his proceedings and of the principal matters transacted during the preceding calendar year, together with a statement showing the financial position of all registered societies on the 31st December last preceding.

Registrar  
may supply  
model forms,  
etc.

13. The Registrar may, with the approval of the High Commissioner, prepare and cause to be circulated, for the use of societies, forms of bye-laws, accounts, balance-sheets and valuations as models for all societies.

#### *Rights and liabilities of members.*

Unlimited  
liability.

14. The liability of each member of a society for the debts of the society shall be unlimited.

Voting  
powers.

15. Each member shall, notwithstanding the amount of his interest in a society, have only one vote, and shall only be allowed to exercise such vote in person.

Monies due  
by members  
recoverable  
at law.

16. All monies payable by a member to a registered society under this Law or under any bye-laws of such society shall be a debt due from such member to the society and shall be recoverable as such at law.

#### *Duties of Societies.*

Society to  
register  
address.

17. Every society shall have an address registered with the Registrar to which all communications and notices may be sent, and shall send to the Registrar notice of every change thereof.

Copy of Law,  
etc., to be  
open to  
inspection.

18. Every society shall keep a copy of this Law and of the rules governing such society and of its bye-laws and of its last balance-sheet and any report of the Auditors open to inspection free of charge at all reasonable times at the registered address of the society.



Sec. 19 of Law 13 of 1914 (at p. 173) has been repealed and the following substituted therefor:-

19. (1) The Registrar shall examine or cause to be examined by some person authorized by him by general or special order in writing in this behalf the accounts of every registered Society once at least in every year.

(2) The examination under sub-section (1) shall include an examination of overdue debts, if any, and a valuation of the assets and liabilities of the Society.

(3) The Registrar or any person authorized by general or special order in writing in this behalf by the Registrar shall at all times have access to all the books, accounts, papers, cash and securities of a Society, and every officer of the Society shall furnish such information in regard to the transactions and working of the Society as the person making such inspection may require.

(4) Subject to the general directions and instructions of the Registrar, the Commissioner of the District in which the Society is carrying on business shall be deemed to be a person authorized within the meaning of the preceding sub-section.

Law 10 of 1928 sec.2.

contracts, to institute and defend suits and other legal proceedings and to do all things necessary for the purposes of its constitution.

21. Subject to any prior claim of the Government, or of a landlord in respect of rent or any money recoverable as rent, a society shall be entitled in priority to other creditors to enforce any outstanding demand due to the society from a member or past member:—

Prior claim of society.

(a.) In respect of the supply of seed or manure or of the loan of money for the purchase of seed or manure—upon the crops or other agricultural produce of such member or person at any time within eighteen months from the date of such supply or loan;

(b.) In respect of the supply of cattle, fodder for cattle, agricultural or industrial implements or machinery, or raw materials for manufacture, or of the loan of money for the purchase of any of the foregoing things—upon any such things so supplied, or purchased in whole or in part from any such loan, or on any articles manufactured from raw materials so supplied or purchased.

102 of the loan of money in connection with or for the purpose of cultivation or harvesting.

Law 10 of 1929