



# The Sámi Act

## **Act of 12 June 1987 No. 56 concerning the Sameting (the Sami parliament) and other Sami legal matters (the Sami Act)**

Law | Date: 29/05/2007 | [Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development](#)

(<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kdd/id504/>)

### **Chapter 1. General provisions.**

#### **§ 1-1. The purpose of the Act.**

The purpose of the Act is to enable the Sami people in Norway to safeguard and develop their language, culture and way of life.

#### **§ 1-2. The Sameting.**

The Sami people are to have their own nation-wide Sameting elected by and among the Sami population.

#### **§ 1-3. The annual report of the Sameting.**

The annual report of the Sameting is to be sent to the King.

#### **§ 1-4. The financial liability of the State.**

The particular expenses incurred by county municipalities and municipalities in connection with elections to the Sameting are to be covered by the State.

The King will issue regulations regarding the implementation of the provision in the first paragraph.

#### **§ 1-5. Sami languages.**

Sami and Norwegian are languages of equal worth. They shall be accorded equal status pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 3.

## **§ 1-6. The Sami flag**

The Sami flag is the flag adopted at the 13th Nordic Sami Conference on 15 August 1986.

The Sameting may issue regulations prescribing further rules for how the flag is to be used.

## **Chapter 2. The Sameting.**

### **§ 2-1. The business and authority of the Sameting.**

The business of the Sameting is any matter that in the view of the parliament particularly affects the Sami people.

The Sameting may on its own initiative raise and pronounce an opinion on any matter coming within the scope of its business. It may also on its own initiative refer matters to public authorities and private institutions, etc.

The Sameting may delegate authority to administer the allocations granted for the purposes of the Sami people over the annual fiscal budget. The Ministry will lay down rules for the financial management of the Sameting.

The Sameting has the power of decision when this follows from other provisions in the Act or is otherwise laid down.

### **§ 2-2. Seeking the view of the Sameting.**

Other public bodies should give the Sameting an opportunity to express an opinion before they make decisions on matters coming within the scope of the business of the Sameting.

### **§ 2-3. Method of election, time of election and electoral term.**

Election to the Sameting is by direct ballot.

Proportional representation is to be the method of election when more than one proposed list of candidates is approved in a constituency. In other cases election is by majority vote.

Elections are to be held on the same day as elections to the Storting.

The Sameting is elected for a period of four years. The electoral term is reckoned from the first day of October in the election year.

#### **§ 2-4. Constituencies and distribution of seats.**

At elections to the Sameting three members with alternates are to be elected from each of the following constituencies:

1. Varanger (South Varanger, Nesseby, Vadsø, Vardø and Båtsfjord municipalities),
2. Tana (Tana, Berlevåg and Gamvik municipalities),
3. Karasjok (Karasjok municipality),
4. Kautokeino (Kautokeino municipality),
5. Porsanger (Porsanger, Lebesby, Nordkapp and Måsøy municipalities),
6. Alta/Kvalsund (Kvalsund, Hammerfest, Sørøysund, Alta, Hasvik and Loppa municipalities),
7. Nord-Troms (Kvænangen, Nordreisa, Skjervøy, Kåfjord, Storfjord and Lyngen municipalities),
8. Midt-Troms (Karlsøy, Tromsø, Balsfjord, Målselv, Bardu, Lenvik, Berg, Torsken and Tranøy municipalities),
9. Sør-Troms (Sørreisa, Dyrøy, Salangen, Lavangen, Gratangen, Skånland, Ibestad, Harstad, Bjarkøy and Kvæfjord municipalities),

10. Nordre Nordland (Andøy, Øksnes, Bø, Sortland, Hadsel, Vågan, Vestvågøy, Flakstad, Moskenes, Værøy, Røst, Lødingen, Tjeldsund, Evenes and Narvik municipalities),

11. Midtre Nordland (Ballangen, Tysfjord, Hamarøy, Steigen, Sørfold, Bodø, Fauske, Skjerstad, Saltdal, Gildeskål, Beiarn and Meløy municipalities),

12. The South Sami area (the municipalities in the county of Nordland from and including Rana and Rødøy and southwards, the counties of Nord-Trøndelag and Sør-Trøndelag and the municipality of Engerdal in the county of Hedmark),

13. South Norway (the counties of Møre og Romsdal, Sogn og Fjordane, Hordaland, Rogaland, Vest-Agder, Aust-Agder, Telemark, Buskerud, Vestfold, Akershus, Østfold, Oppland, Hedmark (except Engerdal municipality) and Oslo.

#### **§ 2-5. The right to vote.**

All persons having the right to vote in local government elections in the constituency and who on polling day are included in the Sami electoral register in the constituency (cf § 2-6) have the right to vote at elections to the Sameting.

#### **§ 2-6. The Sami electoral register.**

All persons who make a declaration to the effect that they consider themselves to be Sami, and who either

a. have Sami as their domestic language, or

b. have or have had a parent, grandparent or great-grandparent with Sami as his or her domestic language, or

c. are the child of a person who is or has been registered in the Sami electoral register

may demand to be included in a separate register of Sami electors in their municipality of residence.

The Sami electoral register is drawn up on the basis of the national population register in the municipality, the register of Sami electors at the time of the last election and the demands for inclusion or deletion received during the electoral term.

When a person has been included in the Sami electoral register, this may be registered in the national population register. Such registration shall only be accessible to the authority responsible for holding elections to the Sameting, or with the consent of the Ministry.

The Sami electoral register may be kept by electronic means.

### **§ 2-7. Eligibility for election and right to propose candidates.**

All persons who are included in the Sami electoral register in the constituency are eligible for election to the Sameting. Those standing for election must also be included in the national population register as being resident in the constituency on polling day. Administrative staff of the Sameting are not however eligible for election.

All persons who are included in the Sami electoral register in the constituency have the right to propose candidates in the constituency. A proposal for a list of candidates must be signed by at least 15 Sami having the right of proposal.

A group, party or similar association may apply to the Sameting for registration under a specified party name. The request for registration shall be supported by the signatures of at least 200 persons who are entitled to vote and propose candidates in elections to the Sameting. Decisions regarding registration may not be appealed. The King may lay down further provisions regarding the conditions and procedure for registration.

### **§ 2-8. Obligation to accept election, grounds for exemption and obligation to attend meetings.**

All those who are eligible for election to the Sameting are under an obligation to accept election unless they are exempted in accordance with the provisions of the second paragraph.