

Act No. 5 of 1991

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
BAHÁ'IS OF THE BAHAMAS (INCORPORATION)**

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

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An Act to incorporate the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of The Bahamas. *5 of 1991*

*[Assent 9th July, 1991]
[Commencement 25th July, 1991]*

WHEREAS certain persons have established within the Commonwealth of The Bahamas a religious Community under the name of the Baha'i Faith;

and WHEREAS it is expedient for the holding and disposing of property of whatever kind belonging to the Community, and otherwise, that the members for the time being of the National Spiritual Assembly being the Trustees of the said Community be created a body corporate under the name and with the powers hereinafter appearing:

1. This Act may be cited as the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of The Bahamas (Incorporation) Act, 1991.

Short title.

2. (1) The present members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of The Bahamas, that is to say, Esther Gibson, Boguslawo Horton, Michael W. Horton, Keva Cartwright-Knowles, Kathie MacLeod, Patricia D. Newton, Alice Nightingale, Charles Nightingale, Ricardo

Incorporation and election of National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is.

Sweating, being Trustees and their successors in office are hereby declared to be a body corporate and have the name the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of The Bahamas (hereinafter called “the National Spiritual Assembly”) and by that name shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and shall have full power to purchase, lease, invest and otherwise deal with and dispose of all property real and personal of whatever kind vested in or acquired by the said body corporate and may sue and be sued in all the Courts of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

(2) The members of the National Spiritual Assembly shall be elected annually in accordance with the principles and practice of Baha'i administration, and its members shall continue in office for a period of one year or until their successors shall be elected.

3. (1) The objects and functions of the National Spiritual Assembly shall be as follows:

- (a) to administer the affairs of the Baha'i Faith for the Baha'i Community throughout The Bahamas, according to the principles of Baha'i affiliation and administration created and established by Baha'u'llah, Founder of the Baha'i Faith; defined and explained by 'Abdu'l-Baha, interpreted and amplified by Shoghi Effendi, and supplemented and applied by The Universal House of Justice, its supreme body ordained by Baha'u'llah in His Sacred Writings;
- (b) to recognize and promote the establishment of local spiritual assemblies of Baha'is in The Bahamas;
- (c) to organize, maintain, carry on and assume in all parts of The Bahamas devotional meetings, public meetings and conferences of an educational, humanitarian and spiritual character;
- (d) to establish, construct and support temples for universal worship and other institutions and edifices for humanitarian service including schools, colleges, hospitals, orphanages and homes for the aged;
- (e) to establish, maintain and support a publishing house or otherwise provide for the publication of books, pamphlets; magazines and newspapers pertaining to the Baha'i Faith;

Objects and
functions of the
National
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Assembly of the
Baha'is.

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- (f) to enter into, make, perform and carry out any contract of every sort and kind for the furtherance of the objects of the National Spiritual Assembly with any person, firm association or any statutory body of any country;
 - (g) to administer the property, business and other temporal affairs of the National Spiritual Assembly;

(2) In the execution of the objects and functions referred to in subsection (1) the National Spiritual Assembly shall be under the general direction and guidance of the Universal House of Justice.

4. All property real or personal of whatever kind now vested in or held in any manner by any person in trust for or for the use and benefit of, or heretofore devised or bequeathed by will or otherwise given to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of The Bahamas (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "the National Spiritual Assembly") shall vest in and be held by and shall be deemed to be the property of the said body corporate.

Vesting of property.

5. (1) The National Spiritual Assembly may make Bye-laws for —

Power of the National Spiritual Assembly to make Bye-Laws.

- (a) the prerequisites of admission and the qualifications respecting any member of the National Spiritual Assembly and local spiritual assemblies of Baha'is in The Bahamas and their release;
- (b) the creation of any special committee or board for the purpose of the National Spiritual Assembly and the appointment or election of the members thereof;
- (c) the calling of regular or special meetings of the National Spiritual Assembly and of the Baha'is of The Bahamas and of any committee or board thereof and fixing the necessary quorum of, and the procedure to be followed at all meetings of the National Spiritual Assembly, the local spiritual assemblies, the Baha'is and of any committee or board thereof;
- (d) the general performance of the objects and functions of the National Spiritual Assembly.

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(2) The provisions of sections 18, 31 and 32 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act shall not apply in relation to any Bye-Laws made under subsection (1).

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) the National Spiritual Assembly shall cause to be kept open at any Baha'i place of worship a copy of the Bye-laws for the information of the members of the Baha'i Community.

Mode of
execution of
documents.

6. All deeds or other documents relating to any real or personal property or any interest therein, shall be deemed to be duly executed if there is affixed thereto the seal of the National Spiritual Assembly and the signature of the Chairperson and Secretary or Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly duly authorized for such purpose.