

THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES LAW IS APPROVED

The Legislative Assembly, through Decree No. 856 dated December 15, 2017, approved the "Administrative Procedures Law" (LPA for its Spanish acronym) that will come into effect twelve months after its publication in the Official Gazette. While the LPA comes into force, the Legislative Assembly issued the "Transitory Provisions for the Administrative Procedure and the Public Administration Regime", in order to complement and enable the application of the "Contentious-Administrative Jurisdiction Law" which becomes effective on January 31st of this year.

The LPA has 168 articles that regulates general and uniform procedures for resolving conflicts between the State and citizens, and develop the principles that should govern the activity of the Public Administration, establishing validity and effectiveness requirements, limits and execution means for the administrative acts that impose obligations to the administered; which will allow that the respect for fundamental rights achieves greater effectiveness.

This new Law also establishes the rights of people in their relations with the Public Administration, such as the right to a good Administration - *which is that all matters of public nature are treated with equality, fairness, objectivity and impartiality and are resolved within a reasonable time and in the service of human dignity* -, to access public information, files and records, to submit complains, suggestions and claims to the Public Administration, amongst others.

Furthermore, the LPA promotes the streamlining of procedures and proceedings before State institutions by eliminating unnecessary requirements, standardizing official forms, and using information and communication technologies to simplify actions and optimize the Administration's resources, for the benefit of citizens.

This Law shall apply to all State offices - including municipalities - regarding all administrative procedures; the provisions contained in general or special laws which contravene the LPA are expressly repealed, except for certain exceptions provided in the same Law. This Law shall not be applicable to procedures initiated before it becomes effective, which shall continue to be governed by the previous regulations.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information on this matter.



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