

**TITLE XV
FINAL AND TEMPORARY PROVISIONS**

**CHAPTER 1
FINAL PROVISIONS**

ARTICLE 324. This Constitution shall become effective as of October 11, 1972.

ARTICLE 325. Any treaties or international conventions signed by the Executive Branch, relative to the Locks Canal, its adjacent zone, and the protection of said Canal, as well as the construction of a sea level Canal or a third set of locks, must first be approved by the Legislative Branch, and, not before the three months following its legislative approval, shall be submitted for approval in a national referendum.

No amendment, exception, or agreement relative to such treaties or conventions shall be valid, if the requirements established in the above paragraph are not met.

This provision shall also apply to any proposal made by the Panama Canal Authority to build a third set of locks or a sea level Canal through the existing route, through its administration or through contracts entered into with any private firm or firms, or any firms belonging to another country or countries. In these cases, the construction proposal must first be approved by the Executive Branch, then submitted for approval or rejection by the Legislative Branch, and finally submitted for approval in a national referendum. Any project to build a new Canal shall also be submitted for approval in a referendum.

ARTICLE 326. All laws and provisions which contradict this Constitution are hereby repealed, except for any provisions relative to parental authority and child support; any parts of these provisions relative to child support and parental authority which contradict this Constitution shall remain in effect for not more than twelve months after the effective date of this Constitution.

**CHAPTER 2
TEMPORARY PROVISIONS**

ARTICLE 327. The following temporary provisions, which refer to the amendments introduced by the Legislative Act of 2004, are adopted:

1. In general terms, the provisions of this constitutional amendment shall become effective immediately, as of the date of its promulgation, except in the following cases:
 - a. In the event that a temporary provision indicates a different date for its effectiveness.
 - b. If the effectiveness of specific titles or articles of the 1972 Constitution that are substituted or amended is maintained temporarily.

2. The changes in the dates of the beginning and end of the regular legislative sessions shall become effective as of July 1, 2009.
3. The judges of the Electoral Tribunal who are designated when the period of the present judges expires, shall be designated for the following periods: the judge designated by the Judicial Branch shall be designated for a period of six years; the judge designated by the Executive Branch shall be designated for a period of eight years; the judge designated by the Legislative Branch shall be designated for a period of ten years, with the purpose of establishing a system of staggered terms for the judges of the Electoral Tribunal.
4. Until such time as the Law regulating the Accounts Tribunal is passed and is effective, all existing rules and procedures governing accounts jurisdiction shall continue to be in effect.

Once the Accounts Tribunal is in operation, all cases being tried in the Patrimonial Responsibility Bureau, Office of the Comptroller General, shall be tried under the jurisdiction of the Accounts Tribunal.

To ensure designation by staggered terms of the judges of the Accounts Tribunal, the first judges who constitute the Accounts Tribunal shall be designated as follows: the judge designated by the Judicial Branch shall be designated for a period of six years; the judge designated by the Executive Branch shall be designated for a period of eight years; and the judge designated by the Legislative Branch shall be designated for a period of ten years.

5. Officials elected by popular vote to hold office for the period 2004 through 2009 shall conclude their term on June 30, 2009.
6. The Legislative Branch shall designate a Drafting Commission to arrange the articles of the Constitution, and their amendments, in continuous numerical order, and it shall ensure that their numbers are in accordance with the numbers of the articles that the constitutional provisions make reference to.
7. This Legislative Act of 2004 shall become effective upon its publication in the Official Gazette by the Executive Branch, who shall do so within ten work days following its ratification by the National Assembly.
8. The elimination of positions by popular election indicated by this Constitutional Reform shall become effective as of the general elections of 2009.
9. Government officials whose designations are contemplated in this Constitution, and who are holding office at the time these amendments become effective, shall continue to hold office until expiration of the term for which they were designated.

ARTICLE 328. Unless otherwise provided by this Constitution, the Panama Canal Authority shall adopt in its organization an administrative and operational structure similar to that existing on December 31, 1999, including the departments, offices, positions, effective rules, regulations, and collective bargaining agreements that existed in the

Panama Canal Commission on December 31, 1999, until such time as they are modified in accordance with the Law

Given in the city of Panama, on October 11, 1972, amended by Modification Acts No. 1 and No. 2 dated October 5 and 25, 1978, respectively; by the Constitutional Act approved on April 24, 1983; by Legislative Acts No. 1 of 1993, and No. 2 of 1994; and by Legislative Act. No. 1 of 2004.