Proposed Greater Jerusalem Law, 2017 - 5777

Definitions

1. In this Law -

“Greater Jerusalem” – Jerusalem and its attached authorities;

“Attached authorities” – the settlements and local councils which were included in the addition.

“Annual Budget” – within the meaning specified in the Budget Foundations Law of 1985 (5745)¹.

Applicability of the Law

2. The court, jurisdiction and administration of the state will apply to the Greater Jerusalem area.

Council of Greater Jerusalem

3. (a) The Council of Greater Jerusalem (referred to as “the Council”) is hereby established, whereas it will work towards enhancing Greater Jerusalem as mentioned in Article (4).

(b) The Council will be headed by the Mayor of Jerusalem, and the heads of the attached authorities will be members in it.

(c) The Minister of the Interior will determine the work schedules of the Council.

Activities of Promoting Greater Jerusalem

4. (a) The government shall act, in partnership with the Council:

(1) to significantly increase the land reserves which are available for residential buildings in the areas of Greater Jerusalem;

(2) to encourage the establishment and development of the high-tech industry in Greater Jerusalem, including the development of new industrial areas, provision of research and development support, and suitable vocational training for human resources.

¹ Statutes Book of 5746 (16 September 1985 until 3 October 1986), Page 60.
(3) to encourage the establishment of residential places for the youth in the Greater Jerusalem area;

(4) to expand and improve the transportation routes to and from Greater Jerusalem;

(5) to expand and improve the public transportation services in the various areas of Greater Jerusalem;

(6) to promote educational, cultural and artistic institutions working in the Greater Jerusalem area;

(7) to improve welfare service in the Greater Jerusalem area.

(b) The financing of activities mentioned in paragraphs (5) and (6) of sub-section (a) will be done through the state’s treasury; and this financing will be added to the basis of the annual budget.

Implementation

5. The Minister of the Interior is in charge of implementing this law.

The Addition

(Article 1)

(1) Municipality of Beitar Illit;
(2) Municipality of Ma’ale Adumim;
(3) Local Council of Givat Zeev;
(4) Local Council of Mevaseret Zion;
(5) Gush Etzion Regional Council;
(6) Local Council of Efrat;
(7) Kfar Adumim;
(8) Alon;
(9) Nofei Prat;
(10) Kedar;
(11) Ma’ale Mikhmas;
(12) Mitzpe Yeriho.

Explanations

The complete and united Jerusalem has been the capital of Israel and the Jewish people for more than three thousand years. Its legal status is based on Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel; which was ratified in 1980 (5740).
In the recent years, on the background of some demographic, cultural, social and political developments, the position of Jerusalem as the leading and most vital city in Israel was undermined, and its strong and leading population has been moving to the Shfela (Lowland) cities. The proposed bill will enable the changing of this trend and will help Jerusalem reclaim its position as the symbol and heart of the Jewish people, and will gather up the finest forces of Israel and world Jewry for the purpose of strengthening the city of Jerusalem.

This bill will enable the residents of Jerusalem’s surroundings to keep a certain municipal autonomy but at the same time to be considered part of Greater Jerusalem as is customary in other parts of the world.

The proposed law will add to Jerusalem a population which will preserve its demographic balance, as well as the addition of many territories which will enable more residential buildings, commerce and tourism for the purpose of maintaining “green lungs”.

This law will promote the transformation of Jerusalem from a city whose centrality is diminishing to a central, metropolitan city for its surroundings in terms of the fabric of life and access to the city.

A similar bill was presented to the eighteenth Knesset’s table by Knesset member Tzipi Hotovely and a group of Knesset members (P/18/2511).

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Submitted to the Knesset Chairman and deputies

and presented to the Knesset’s table on the date of 22.3.2017 [24th of Adar, 5777].