

Decree No15 on Lebanese Nationality

19 January 1925

Amended by

Regulation N°160 dated 16 / 07 / 1934

Regulation N°122 L . R . dated 19 / 06 / 1939

Law of 11 / 1 / 1960

General Saray , High Commissioner of the Republic of France to the countries of Syria , Greater Lebanon , the Alaouite and the Druzes'Djebel ;

Acting upon :

Decree dated 23 November 1920 ;

Regulation N°2825 dated 20 August 1924 ;

The proposal of the Secretary General ;

Decrees as follows :

Article 1

Is considered Lebanese:

- Every person born of a Lebanese father.
- Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory and did not acquire a foreign nationality, upon birth, by affiliation.
- Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory of unknown parents or parents of unknown nationality.

Article 2

The illegitimate child whose nationality has not been established during his minority shall have the Lebanese nationality if one of his parents in respect of whom affiliation is first established and if the proof of affiliation regarding both the father and the mother results from a single contract or judgment, the child shall acquire the nationality of the father should the latter be Lebanese.

Article 3

Conditions of the Lebanese Nationality through Naturalization:

The text of Article 3 was abrogated by article one of regulation 122 L . R . dated on 19/06/1939 provided that such an abrogation shall enter into effect as of the date of implementation of the law issued on 27 May 1939 on obtaining the Lebanese nationality through naturalization by publishing it in the official gazette. However, the law promulgated on 27 May 1939 was annulled by virtue of legislative decree no 48 dated on 31/05/1940 and as a result thereof the text of Article 3 of Order 15, 1925 stipulating the following shall be implemented again:

A natural person may acquire the Lebanese nationality by virtue of an order issued by the Head of the State after fulfilling the following and submitting a request in this regard:

- A foreigner who proves having been living in the Lebanese territories for five consecutive years.
- A foreigner who marries a Lebanese woman and has been living in the Lebanese territories for one consecutive year as of the date of this marriage.
- A foreigner who offers to Lebanon highly significant services. However, he shall be granted the nationality under an order for independent reasons.

The following paragraph was added to Article 3 by virtue of Order 160 dated on 16/07/1934:

The services of effective services mission in the private armies may be taken into consideration if performed for two years or more.

Article 4

The spouse of a foreigner, who has become a Lebanese citizen , as well as the children of full age of such a foreigner , may , if they so request , obtain the Lebanese nationality , without satisfying the residence condition , whether by virtue of the regulation giving this nationality to the husband , the father or the mother or in a special regulation . Likewise , the minor children of a father acquiring the Lebanese nationality , or a mother acquiring the said nationality and who remained alive after the death of the father , shall become Lebanese unless they reject this nationality within the year following their majority .

Article 5

(As amended by the law dated 11 / 01 / 1960)

The foreign woman married to a Lebanese shall, upon her request, become Lebanese after one year from the date of registration of the marriage in the Civil Status Office.

Article 6

(As amended by the law dated 11 / 01 / 1960)

The Lebanese woman who gets married with a foreigner remains Lebanese until she requests the striking off of her registration in the census records on account of acquiring the nationality of her husband.

Article 7

(As amended by the law dated 11 / 01 / 1960)

The woman who has lost her Lebanese nationality as a result of her marriage with a foreigner may, upon her request, recover this nationality after the dissolution of her marriage.

Lebanese female citizens who were married prior to the 1932 census and who have lost their nationality by marriage and did not have any record in the census registers of that date, may, subsequent to the dissolution of their marriage, obtain a court judgment ordering their registration should it be established that, on 30 August 1924, they were on the Lebanese territory. As concerns those who were residing abroad at that date, they may recover their Lebanese nationality under article 2 of Law dated 31 January 1946.

Article 8

Shall cease to be Lebanese:

The Lebanese subject having acquired a foreign nationality should this acquisition take place pursuant to an authorization granted by a regulation issued by the Head of the State.

The Lebanese who accepts a public office from a foreign government and maintains such office despite that he has been instructed by the Lebanese government to abandon it within a specified period,

Article 9

Examination of lawsuits relating to nationality falls within the exclusive jurisdiction of courts of law.

Temporary Provisions

Article 10

1st While preserving the option rights provided for in the Peace Treaty signed at Lausanne in 1923 , is considered Lebanese every person born on the Greater Lebanon territory of a Lebanese father also born in the said territory and was on November 1914 an Ottoman subject .

Article 11

Children and married women having acquired a foreign nationality, in accordance with article 36 of the Lausanne Treaty, may obtain, after investigation, the Lebanese nationality by decision of the Head of State provided they reside in the Lebanese territory and submit a declaration to this effect within the year following maturity or dissolution of marriage.

Article 12

All provisions contrary to the provisions of the present regulation are hereby repealed.

Article 13

The Secretary General and the Governor of Greater Lebanon , each within his jurisdiction , shall implement the present regulation which shall come into force as of the date of its publication in the official bulletin where the affairs of the Higher Commissariat are published