

# *Cuban parliament passes three laws, sets up National Electoral Council*

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Havana, July 13 (RHC)-- Cuban lawmakers approved unanimously three laws during its plenary session on Saturday. The first to get approved was the electoral law, which enacts changes provided in the new Constitution.

The new law reduces the number of National Assembly lawmakers to 474 from 605, to be implemented at the next elections in 2024.

The composition of the Council of State, the country's highest governing body, is also reduced from 31 to 21 members, including its directorate.

It also replaces provincial assemblies with councils made up of municipal leaders and led by governors.

Moreover, the law stipulates that the president presides over the Republic rather than the Council of State and Council of Ministers.

The assembly is set to elect the president under this new system in October, national assembly head Esteban Lazo said last month.

The second bill passed by the Cuban lawmakers was the one related to national symbols, and after a noon recess, the lawmakers approved the new law on fisheries.

The agenda this afternoon also included the elections of the National Electoral Council whose main mission is to organize, direct and supervise the elections, popular consultations, plebiscites and referendums that are convened.

Unlike its predecessor, that was convened when elections were held, the new body will work permanently.

Alina Balseiro Guitierres, was elected by the lawmakers to chair the Council.

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