Laws

Overview

This database includes information about organic laws, ordinary laws, decree laws and legislative decrees.

Organic laws require the agreement of the absolute majority of members in the Chamber to be passed. They are also subject to limitations in terms of issue content. According to article 81 of the Spanish Constitution, organic laws regulate fundamental rights, the general electoral system, the approval of regional statutes (*Estatutos de Autonomía*), basic institutions like the Constitutional Court or the Ombudsman (*Defensor del Pueblo*) and the states of alert, emergency or siege. Since the Constitutional reform introduced in 2011, according to article 135, an organic law also regulates the maximum structural deficit that the state and regional authorities may have in relation to their gross domestic product.

Decree-laws are provisional regulatory acts passed by the executive in case of extraordinary and urgent need, when exceptional circumstances make following ordinary legislative procedure impossible. According to article 86 of the Spanish Constitution, they are also subjected to issue content restrictions as they can only deal with issues not related to the regulation of basic institutions, or fundamental rights or freedoms regulated in Title I of the Constitution. They are provisional because they have to be submitted for debate and voting by the entire Chamber of Deputies within thirty days of their promulgation. The voting is about the entire content of the decree-law, and deputies do not have the possibility to introduce specific amendments.

Legislative decrees are regulated by article 82 of the Spanish Constitution. The Chamber may delegate to the Government the power to issue rules with the force of law on specific matters not included in the list of issues that have to be regulated by organic law. Legislative delegation must be granted by means of a basic law when its purpose is that of drawing up texts comprising various articles, or by an ordinary law when it is a matter of consolidating several legal texts into one.

Variable names and description

id: identification number
Legislature: legislature in which the law is given
Year: year the law is introduced
Major topic: CAP major topic
Subtopic: CAP subtopic
Type of law:
        0: ordinary law
        1: organic law
        2: decree law
        3: legislative decree
Title: title of the law