

Document from CIS Legislation database © 2003-2025 SojuzPravolInform LLC

LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

of November 11, 1992 No. 1926-XII

About ethnic minorities in the Republic of Belarus

(as amended on 07-05-2007)

This Law is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the principles of international law in the field of human rights and ethnic minorities and is directed to creation of conditions for free development of ethnic minorities, and also to protection of the rights and legitimate interests of persons carrying themselves to ethnic minorities.

Article 1. For the purposes of this Law persons belonging to ethnic minorities are understood as the persons who are constantly living in the territory of the Republic of Belarus and having nationality of the Republic of Belarus who on the origin, language, culture or traditions differ from the main population of the republic.

Article 2. Belonging to ethnic minority is question of the individual choice of the citizen of the Republic of Belarus.

The choice by the citizen of the Republic of Belarus of belonging to ethnic minority does not involve any adverse effects.

Article 3. The citizens of the Republic of Belarus carrying themselves to ethnic minorities shall observe the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and other acts of the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, promote preserving sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Belarus, respect traditions of citizens of all nationalities inhabiting the republic, their language and culture.

Article 4. Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights and freedoms of citizens of the Republic of Belarus for their belonging to ethnic minority, and also attempts of assimilation against their will are not allowed.

Article 5. Nobody can be forced to determination and specifying of the national identity, and also to proof of national identity or refusal of it.

Article 6. The state guarantees to the citizens of the Republic of Belarus carrying themselves to ethnic minorities, the equal political, economic and social rights and freedoms performed in the procedure established by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus including:

the right to the help from the state in development of national culture and education;

the right to use the native language, communication language option, and also right to liberty of the choice of language of education and training;

the right to organization of mass media, publishing activities, and also to obtaining, storage and distribution of information in the native language;

the right to establishment of cultural ties with compatriots outside the Republic of Belarus;

the right to practise any religion or not to profess any, to participate in departure of religious cults, rituals, ceremonies in the native language;

right to preserving the historical and cultural and spiritual heritage, free cultural development, including professional and amateur art;

the right to creation of public associations and the accession to the operating public associations;

the right to choose and be freely elected to state bodies of the Republic of Belarus on the basis of general, equal, direct or indirect voting right in case of secret vote;

the right of equal access to any positions in state bodies of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 7. Under local councils of deputies advisory bodies from representatives of ethnic minorities can be created and be effective on a voluntary basis. The procedure for creation of these bodies is determined by the relevant local councils of deputies.

Article 8. The state according to the procedure, established by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, promotes creation of conditions for development of education and cultures of ethnic minorities by allocation from republican and local budgets of money necessary for this purpose.

Article 9. Public associations of the citizens carrying themselves to the ethnic minorities having the right to perform business activity according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 10. Public associations of the citizens carrying themselves to ethnic minorities can create cultural and educational institutions.

Training of specialists for ensuring interests of ethnic minorities in the fields of education and cultures is performed by organizations of formation of the Republic of Belarus, including on the basis of the agreements signed with public associations of the citizens carrying themselves to ethnic minorities.

Article 11. Historical and cultural values of ethnic minorities are part of culture of the Republic of Belarus and are protected by the state according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 12. Creation and activities of public associations of the citizens carrying itself to ethnic minorities are forbidden if it contradicts the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on public associations and also if the specified public associations organizationally are connected or are part of the political organization of foreign state.

Article 13. Citizens of the Republic of Belarus irrespective of national identity use protection of the state on an equal basis.

Any actions directed to discrimination on national signs, creation of obstacles in realization by ethnic minorities of the rights, kindling of international hostility attract responsibility according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

*Chairman of the Supreme Council
Republic of Belarus S. Shushkevich*