



Analysis of Pending Bills and Legislative Proposals and Their Ratification Process in the Twenty-First Parliament of the National Consultative Assembly (Majles) (1963-1967)

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Extended Abstract

The National Assembly, as one of the main pillars of the country's political system, has been responsible for legislation since its establishment; however, this function has experienced periods of fluctuation. In many cases, bills and legislative proposals submitted to the Assembly have been caught in cycles of delay and persistence. These delays have resulted from several factors, including lengthy administrative approval procedures, the high volume of bills and proposals under review, limited time, internal disputes, and disagreements over specific articles. In some instances, certain bills and proposals were assigned lower priority or deemed unnecessary in comparison with more urgent societal needs. As a result, such legislation remained unresolved for months or even years, was reconsidered at later stages, or was ultimately forgotten and archived.

During the period under study, two parallel factors shaped the legislative process. On the one hand, the short lifespan of the Twentieth Parliament led to the transfer of numerous pending bills and legislative proposals from earlier periods. On the other hand, during the interval between the Twentieth and Twenty-First Parliaments, the government approved and implemented several measures that were subsequently submitted to the Twenty-First Parliament for final approval and legal enactment. Therefore, the Twenty-First Parliament was confronted with a large number of pending bills, most of them inherited from previous parliaments and the inter-parliamentary period, which required review and resolution during its term. In addition, in Iran's bicameral legislative system, bills submitted to the National Assembly were, after presentation, amendment, and approval, transmitted to the Senate. Following review in the Senate and, where necessary, the proposal of amendments, the bills were approved and returned to the National Assembly. Progressing through each of the aforementioned stages was time-consuming, and in many cases, bills submitted to the National Assembly were subject to prolonged uncertainty and delay, an issue that consistently concerned successive parliaments.

This study, conducted as part of a broader parliamentary research project, employs a descriptive-analytical approach. Data were collected through library research, while the



analytical stage drew upon archival documents. The study is guided by the following research question: What factors contributed to the postponement of bills and their transfer to the Twenty-First Parliament of Iran's National Consultative Assembly?

The research hypothesis posits that the pending bills transferred to the Twenty-First Parliament of Iran's National Consultative Assembly can be categorized into two groups: (1) bills originating from the Twentieth and earlier parliaments, and (2) bills approved by the government during the inter-parliamentary period. According to available documents and sources, bills submitted to the National Assembly underwent a lengthy and complex process before approval. Along this process, some bills were delayed, withdrawn, left unresolved, or subjected to preservation and archival procedures. The research findings indicate that, based on documents available in the National Assembly, several bills were transferred from periods preceding the Twenty-First National Assembly and placed on its legislative agenda. These items, which consisted primarily of bills, faced multiple factors that contributed to delays in the approval process.

The Twentieth Parliament lasted only two months, followed by a two-and-a-half-year interval before the formation of the Twenty-First Parliament. Although a list of pending bills had been provided at the beginning of each legislative session, during the period under study, officials reintroduced pending bills into the parliamentary approval process as required. Bills that had been approved and implemented by the government during the interim period were also submitted to the Twenty-First Parliament to undergo final parliamentary approval and legal enactment.

The prolonged intra-parliamentary approval process, combined with persistent external pressures, constituted two major factors contributing to delays in the approval and transfer of bills to the Twenty-First Parliament and subsequent sessions. Such legislative legacies were common in previous and later parliaments, and this research examines their dynamics through a case study. Upon taking office after this period of hiatus, the Twenty-First Parliament reopened the files of pending bills and approvals. Due to the high volume of legislative items, it was necessary to prioritize them based on societal needs or prevailing policies, after which they were reintroduced into the approval cycle and reviewed by parliamentary officials. In addition to administrative procedures, external pressures on bills sensitive to public opinion further delayed their approval, resulting in some legislation remaining pending for several years within the National Assembly.

Keywords: Delayed Bills, Pending Legislation, Twenty-First Parliament, Interim Period, Iran's National Consultative Assembly.



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