candidate wins a majority or if the majority is less than one-third of the registered voters in the district, a run-off election is held in 14 days. Under this system, an absolute majority is required in the first round and a simple majority in the second round. The top two candidates from the first round proceed to the second round, and the one who wins the majority of votes after the second round wins the seat.

The d'Hondt model is being used for the 35 parliamentary seats elected by proportional representation. Since large parties tend to be over-represented under the this formula, it is considered the least proportional variant of the proportional representation systems.[4] The d'Hondt method takes the votes obtained by each list and divides them by one, two, three, four, and so on up to the number of seats to be filled. The quotients obtained are ranked from the largest to the smallest, and seats are allocated to the lists with the highest average. The d'Hondt method's relatively severe treatment of small parties and its discouragement of party fragmentation have made it popular, at least with the dominant parties, as a practical formula for allocating seats to party lists.

Under the new legislation, political parties must receive a minimum of five percent of the total vote cast in order to be selected from the proportional list. Inevitably, this five-percent threshold hurts the smaller ethnically-based parties which are effectively obliged to form coalitions or merge with larger parties to survive.

B.   Administration of the Elections

The composition of the election oversight committees was a source of great contention during the legislative deliberations. A compromise was eventually agreed whereby the supreme oversight body or the State Electoral Commission (SEC) is comprised of a president and eight members. The president and two of the members are Supreme Court justices, while three members are nominated by the political parties in power and three members are nominated by the opposition parties, which received five percent of the vote in the previous election.

Each of the 85 electoral districts will be represented by a District Election Commission (DEC), which is comprised of a president and four members. Two members (and their replacements) of each DEC are nominated by the political parties in power, and the other two members are nominated by the opposition. The commission members will serve a four-year term. These commissions, in turn, appoint the Polling Election Boards (PEB) for each polling station. The PEB consists of a president, four members and their replacements, who are

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[4] Michael Gallagher, "Proportionality, Disproportionality and Electoral Systems", *Electoral Studies* (1991), 10:1, pp. 33-5.