

BRIEF 3 cont.

- vote to approve Presidential declarations of a state of defence, state of siege or state of intervention;
- and on October 5th 1993, to decide whether to reconvene the Constituent Assembly to revise the present Constitution. (Art 57, DT 3)

The annual session of Congress will run from February 15th until June 30th and from August 1st to December 15th and shall not end until the government's budgetary law has been passed (see below).

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The legislative process includes the following legal measures:

- Constitutional amendments, which require approval of 60% of the membership of both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies;
- Complementary laws, which implement general norms outlined in the constitution, which require the approval of 50% of the total membership of both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies;
- Ordinary laws, which require a approval by a majority of present members of both the Senate and Chamber of Deputies;
- Provisional measures with the effect of law, which the President can decree in the case of urgent need. These measures must be approved by Congress and converted into ordinary law within 30 days or they cease to be valid.
- Delegated laws, to be elaborated by the President at the request of a majority of both chambers of Congress. (Arts 59, 60, 62, 69);

Any Deputy or Senator may propose a piece of legislation. Once approved in the chamber in which it was proposed, it must go to the other chamber for approval before becoming law. If amended in the second chamber, it must return to the originating chamber for approval. (Art 65)

Draft laws may be presented by the President, the Attorney-General, judges of the Supreme and Superior federal courts to the Chamber of Deputies for consideration. In addition, draft laws may be presented by public petition to the Chamber of Deputies, if they receive the signature of one percent of the electorate, representing at least three tenths of one percent of the electorate in at least five states. (Art 61)

Draft constitutional amendments must be proposed by one third of the members of the Senate or the Chamber of Deputies, the President or by majority vote of more than half