



# POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN BRIEF No.10

**Under the Basic Law, the Legislative Council is the Legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The main functions of the Legislative Council include enacting laws, approving public expenditure and monitoring the work of the Government. The powers and functions of the Legislative Council are specified in Article 73 of the Basic Law.**

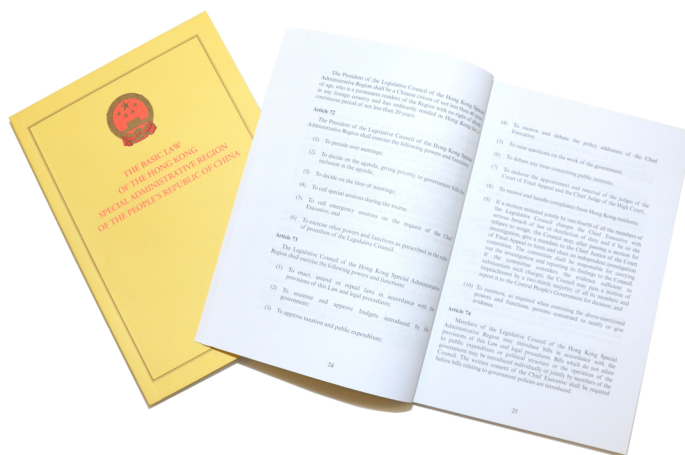
## **POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

As provided for in Article 73 of the Basic Law, the Legislative Council exercises the following powers and functions:

- (1) To enact, amend or repeal laws in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law and legal procedures;
- (2) To examine and approve budgets introduced by the Government;
- (3) To approve taxation and public expenditure;
- (4) To receive and debate the policy addresses of the Chief Executive;
- (5) To raise questions on the work of the Government;
- (6) To debate any issue concerning public interests;
- (7) To endorse the appointment and removal of the judges of the Court of Final Appeal and the Chief Judge of the High Court;
- (8) To receive and handle complaints from Hong Kong residents;
- (9) To report a motion of impeachment passed against the Chief Executive to the Central People's Government. If a motion initiated jointly by one-fourth of all Legislative Council Members charges the Chief Executive with serious breach of law or dereliction of duty and if he or she refuses to resign, the Legislative Council may, after passing a motion for investigation, give a mandate to the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal to form and chair an independent investigation committee. The committee shall be responsible for carrying out the investigation and reporting its findings to the Legislative Council. If the committee

considers the evidence sufficient to substantiate such charges, the Legislative Council may pass a motion of impeachment by a two-thirds majority of all its Members and report it to the Central People's Government for decision; and

(10) To summon, as required when exercising the above-mentioned powers and functions, persons concerned to testify or give evidence.



Article 73 of the Basic Law stipulates the powers and functions of the Legislative Council.

**Further Reference:**

- Legislative Council in Brief No.7 - How Laws are Made
- Legislative Council in Brief No.8 - How does the Legislative Council Approve Public Expenditure
- Legislative Council in Brief No.9 - How does the Legislative Council Handle Complaints from the Public

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