

LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Adopted on 21 March 2018

ON REGULATORY LEGAL ACTS

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Subject matter and scope of the Law

1. This Law shall regulate relations pertaining to the public discussion, regulatory impact assessment, expert examination, promulgation, entry into force, effect of, amendment, supplement to and termination of a regulatory legal act, as well as to the application, interpretation, clarification of norms of legal acts in cases of legal contradictions (legal collisions) and legislative gaps, and the rules of legislative technique.
2. The provisions on the legislative technique, structure of a regulatory legal act, making amendments and supplements to regulatory legal acts, termination of regulatory legal acts, calculation of time limits, regarding secondary regulatory legal acts prescribed by this Law, shall extend to individual and internal legal acts, unless otherwise prescribed by law or the regulatory legal act whereby adoption of an individual or internal legal act has been provided for.

3. The Chapters 2 and 3 of this Law shall not extend to laws submitted as a legislative initiative by deputies or factions of the National Assembly, or to draft decisions of the National Assembly, as well as draft laws proposed upon popular initiative.

Article 2. Main concepts used in the Law

1. The following main concepts shall be used in this Law:
 - (1) **regulatory legal act** — a written legal act adopted by the people of the Republic of Armenia, as well as bodies or officials provided for by the Constitution, which contains mandatory rules of conduct for an uncertain number of persons;
 - (2) **legislative act** — a regulatory legal act adopted by the people of the Republic of Armenia or the National Assembly — Constitution, constitutional laws and laws;
 - (3) **secondary regulatory legal act** — a regulatory legal act adopted by the bodies provided for by the Constitution in case of being authorised by law, based on the Constitution and laws and for the purpose of ensuring the implementation thereof;
 - (4) **code** — a law which consolidates all or main norms of a whole branch of law or a separate part thereof, regulating homogeneous public relations;
 - (5) **individual legal act** — a written legal act adopted on the basis of a regulatory legal act and in compliance therewith, which prescribes a rule of conduct or entails legal consequences and relates only to a person or persons individually indicated therein;
 - (6) **internal legal act** — a legal act adopted on the basis of a regulatory legal act and in compliance therewith, which prescribes a rule of conduct for the

- group of such persons who are in employment or administrative relations with the body adopting it or use the services or works of the body adopting it;
- (7) **legislation** — a complete set of legislative and secondary regulatory legal acts;
 - (8) **joint regulatory legal act** — a regulatory legal act jointly adopted by two or more bodies having the competence to adopt a secondary regulatory legal act in the case directly provided for by law;
 - (9) **regulatory impact assessment** — analysis of changes possible as a result of the adoption of a regulatory legal act, and in case of a Draft law on the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia — information presented by the Budget Message of the Government;
 - (10) **public discussion** — a process for raising public awareness of the draft regulatory legal act prescribed by this Law, as well as revealing the public opinion, receiving comments and recommendations thereon and summing them up, for the purpose of ensuring the participation of the society in the law-making process, the transparency and accountability of the process.

CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Article 3. Drafts to be submitted for public discussions

1. Draft legislative acts shall be subject to public discussion, except for the draft law on ratification of (accession to) an international treaty.

2. Other draft regulatory legal acts may be put to public discussion upon the initiative of the body developing the draft or adopting it.

Article 4. Requirements for public discussions

1. A public discussion shall be organised by the body or the member of the Government having the competence to adopt the act.
2. The duration of public discussions shall be at least 15 days.
3. Public discussions shall be held through promulgating, by the body prescribed by this Article, of the draft regulatory legal act and the justification of its adoption concurrently with submitting to interested bodies.
4. Results of holding public discussions and the draft regulatory legal act elaborated based thereon shall be promulgated as well.
5. The Government may return the draft, submitted to the Government, which is subject to public discussion, not having passed a public discussion, to the body submitting it.
6. The procedure for organising and holding public discussions shall be prescribed by the Government.

CHAPTER 3

REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND EXPERT EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT REGULATORY LEGAL ACT

Article 5. Regulatory impact assessment of the draft regulatory legal act

1. The governmental body developing the draft law or decision of the Government shall organise — through the procedure and in cases prescribed by the Government — the regulatory impact assessment of the draft.
2. A draft law proposed by a deputy or a faction of the National Assembly or upon popular initiative and put into circulation by the National Assembly may, upon the assignment of the Government or the Prime Minister, be subjected to regulatory impact assessment.
3. According to the fields, the procedure, time limits and cases of conducting regulatory impact assessment, the requirements for the opinion issued as a result thereof shall be prescribed by the Government.

Article 6. Expert examination of draft regulatory legal acts and time limits thereof

1. State legal expert examination (hereinafter referred to as "expert examination") shall be conducted for the purpose of determining the compliance of the draft regulatory legal act with the Constitution and this Law.
2. A draft regulatory legal act shall be subjected to an expert examination in the Ministry developing and conducting the policy of the Government in the area of justice (hereinafter referred to as "Ministry"), after which an opinion shall be issued.

3. Draft legislative and secondary regulatory legal acts shall be mandatorily subject to expert examination, except for cases provided for by this Law.
4. A draft regulatory legal act shall, together with the justification, be forwarded for expert examination by the body or the member of the Government having the competence to adopt the relevant act.
5. The definition of the area or problem subject to regulation, the existing situation (where applicable), purposes of regulation, expected outcome, justifiability of the regulatory nature of the act shall be stated in the justification attached to the regulatory legal act being submitted for expert examination.
6. The opinion of expert examination of the draft regulatory legal act shall be issued within fifteen working days following the day of entry of the draft regulatory legal act into the Ministry, unless otherwise provided for by this Law. The time limit of the opinion of expert examination of a more complicated or voluminous draft regulatory legal act may be extended for up to ten working days, about which those submitted the draft shall be informed.
7. Where, within the time limits provided for by this Article, the Ministry fails to issue an expert opinion on the draft regulatory legal act or to extend the time limit for providing the opinion, the body adopting the act may adopt it and forward for promulgation without an expert opinion.

Article 7. Regulatory legal acts not subject to expert examination

1. Draft decisions of the Government on declaring martial law or state of emergency shall not be subjected to expert examination.
2. Draft decisions of the Board of the Central Bank, aimed at defining the mandatory reserve standard or special economic standards, defining, by the Central Bank, the settlement rate of bank interest shall not be subjected to

expert examination. Where there are significant shocks in the financial markets or there is a real risk that they take place or a martial law or a state of emergency has been declared, the Central Bank may abstain from forwarding decisions on defining economic standards and restrictions on financial operations of banks for mandatory expert examination.

3. Draft regulatory legal acts on calling a referendum or elections, as well as — in the period of elections — draft regulatory legal acts of the Central Electoral Commission shall not be subjected to expert examination.
4. Draft decisions of the Public Services Regulatory Commission of the Republic of Armenia on tariffs, mandatory fees and their rates shall not be subjected to expert examination.

Article 8. Mandatory expert examination of draft secondary regulatory legal acts

1. Where a negative opinion has been issued on draft secondary regulatory legal acts, except for those provided for by part 2 of this Article, the body having the competence to adopt the relevant secondary regulatory legal act shall, after eliminating the shortcomings revealed by the expert examination, adopt it and forward for official promulgation. In case of disagreeing with the negative opinion of the expert examination, the act may be forwarded for promulgation, informing the Ministry in writing.
2. Where a negative opinion has been issued on draft secondary regulatory legal acts of the Deputy Prime Minister, a Minister or other bodies of the state administration system, the body having the competence to adopt the relevant secondary regulatory legal act may adopt it and forward for official promulgation after eliminating the shortcomings revealed by the expert examination. In case of disagreeing with the negative opinion of the expert examination, the body having

the competence to adopt the relevant secondary regulatory legal act may submit the draft and the negative opinion to the discussion of the Prime Minister. In case of disagreement of the Prime Minister with the negative opinion of the expert examination, the body having the competence to adopt the act may forward it for promulgation, informing the Ministry about the position of the Prime Minister in writing.

3. Where the Ministry finds that the promulgated secondary regulatory legal act fails to comply with the requirements of the Constitution or this Law, it shall apply to court for declaring the secondary regulatory legal act adopted in violation of the requirements of this Law invalid.

CHAPTER 4

RULES OF LEGISLATIVE TECHNIQUE

Article 9. General requirements for a regulatory legal act

1. The regulation of a regulatory legal act must not extend beyond the scope of its subject matter.
2. A regulatory legal act must not contradict the regulatory legal acts having equal or higher legal force.
3. Requirements of the law-making body indicated the first in the authorising norm of the law as the adopting body for the regulatory legal act shall be applied to regulatory legal acts being adopted jointly.

Article 10. Language of a regulatory legal act

1. Regulatory legal acts shall be stated in the state language — Armenian.
2. In regulatory legal acts, names of foreign organisations, names of natural persons, names of geographic objects, their abbreviations, as well as legal, financial, technical and other terms not subject to translation must be written in Armenian transliteration. Where appropriate, abbreviations or terms in Latin or a foreign language may be used in brackets along with the Armenian abbreviations or terms.
3. Forms prescribed by regulatory legal acts may be stated in a foreign language or Armenian in combination with the foreign language.

Article 11. Requisites of a regulatory legal act

1. Requisites of a regulatory legal act shall be:
 - (1) the name of the adopting body or official;
 - (2) the year, month, day of adoption;
 - (3) the title;
 - (4) the reference (registration) number and a note on its nature;
 - (5) the name of the type;
 - (6) the position, initial of the name, surname, signature (signatures) of the signing official (officials), the year, month, day and place of signing.

Article 12. Title of a regulatory legal act

1. A regulatory legal act shall have a title which corresponds to the content of the regulatory legal act.
2. The title of a regulatory legal act shall be written in capital letters, and no punctuation mark shall be put at the end of the title.
3. In titles of regulatory legal acts, use of abbreviations or short forms of words is prohibited.
4. Regulatory legal acts may not have the same title, except for the titles of legal acts providing for amendments or supplements to the regulatory legal act.
5. In the title of a legal act providing for amendments or supplements to or terminating the legal act, only the short name of the legal act being amended or terminated shall be mentioned.

Article 13. Structure of a regulatory legal act

1. A regulatory legal act may contain a preamble which defines the objectives of and reasons for the adoption of the legal act. The preamble shall not be stated as a separate article, shall not be numbered and shall not be divided into articles (points). The preamble shall not prescribe regulatory provisions. A secondary regulatory legal act shall have a preamble wherein the article or part of the legislative legal act shall be indicated, which shall include authorising norms prescribed by part 2 of Article 6 of the Constitution.
2. A regulatory legal act shall have a main part wherein legal norms shall be stated.
3. A regulatory legal act shall have a final part, where the following shall be prescribed:
 - (1) time limits for entry into force of the regulatory legal act;

- (2) validity period, when the regulatory legal act or a separate part thereof is envisaged for a limited validity period (a temporary act or a temporary provision). In this case, the exact validity period of the act or a separate part thereof shall be specified.
4. A regulatory legal act shall have transitional provisions, where:
 - (1) time limits or certain conditions are required for putting the regulatory legal act into effect entirely, or
 - (2) for certain time limits (a limited period) or conditions prescribed by the main part of the regulatory legal act, it is necessary to prescribe norms other than those prescribed by the main part of the legal act, or
 - (3) after the entry into force of the norms prescribed by the main part of the regulatory legal act, it is necessary to prescribe other norms for a certain circle of persons and territory for the effect of the norms prescribed by the main part of the act.
5. Where the norm prescribed by a legislative act (except for the Constitution) may be fulfilled only through the adoption of the secondary regulatory legal act provided for by that act or its fulfilment is directly conditioned by the adoption of the secondary regulatory legal act, the following shall also be prescribed by the transitional provisions of the legislative act:
 - (1) the parts of the legislative act, which shall have effect from the moment of entry into force of the secondary regulatory legal act;
 - (2) the envisaged time limit for the adoption of the secondary regulatory legal act.
6. A regulatory legal act shall contain transitional provisions, where it is envisaged to give a retroactive effect to the regulatory legal act improving the legal condition of a person or it is necessary to prescribe relevant norms to give a

retroactive effect to the legal act improving the legal condition of a person. In this case, the transitional provisions of the regulatory legal act shall prescribe:

- (1) the regulatory legal act or the parts thereof which are given a retroactive effect;
 - (2) relevant norms necessary for the legal regulations for giving a retroactive effect (time limits, conditions, scope of persons).
7. The final part and transitional provisions of a regulatory legal act may be stated in the form of separate chapters or articles or points, as prescribed by this Law.
 8. In regulatory legal acts, unjustified repetitions of legal norms and internal contradictions shall be excluded.
 9. Rules, statutes, procedures, lists, tables, etc., being approved by a regulatory legal act shall be enshrined (or formulated) in the form of annexes deemed to be an inseparable part of the regulatory legal act. The annexes shall not have legal force without the given regulatory legal act. Relevant parts of the regulatory legal act shall contain a reference to those annexes.

Article 14. Parts of a regulatory legal act, numbering and titles thereof

1. Legislative acts may have general and special parts. In the given case, the norms constituting the general part of the legislative act shall precede the norms constituting the special part. Chapters and sections of the legislative act, homogeneous in content, shall be included in the general and special parts. General and special parts shall not be numbered. The titles of general and special parts shall be "GENERAL PART" [«ԸՆԴՀԱՆՈՒՐ ՄԱՍ»] and "SPECIAL PART" [«ՀԱՏՈՒԿ ՄԱՍ»] respectively. No punctuation mark shall be put at the end of titles.

2. In legislative acts, norms shall be stated in the form of articles having a reference number. The word "Article" [«Հոդված»] shall be written before the number of an article.
3. In legislative acts, articles shall be divided into only numbered paragraphs called "parts" [«մասեր»]. Parts of articles may be divided only into numbered points, and points — only into numbered sub-points.
4. In legislative acts, articles homogeneous in content shall be consolidated in chapters. Chapters may be consolidated in sections, and sections — in parts. Where necessary, sections may be divided into sub-sections, consolidating separate chapters.
5. In secondary regulatory legal acts, provisions shall be stated in the form of points having a reference number. The points may be divided only into numbered sub-points, and the subpoints — only into numbered paragraphs.
6. In secondary regulatory legal acts, points homogeneous in content may be consolidated in chapters. Chapters may be consolidated in sections.
7. Articles, parts and points of a legislative act shall be numbered in Arabic numerals. In articles, sub-points shall be numbered in small letters of the Armenian alphabet. The numbers of articles and parts shall be separated from the text by dots, and the numbers of points of articles — by parentheses. In the article, the numbers of sub-points, indicated with a small letter of the Armenian alphabet, shall be separated from the text by a dot.
8. Articles of a legislative act shall have titles, except for legislative acts providing for an amendment or supplement. Titles of articles shall correspond to the content of the articles. No punctuation mark shall be put at the end of titles of articles. Parts, points and sub-points of articles shall not have a title.

9. Points, sub-points and paragraphs shall have no titles in secondary regulatory legal acts.
10. Sections and chapters of regulatory legal acts shall be numbered in Arabic numerals. The sections and chapters shall have titles which must correspond to the content thereof. Titles of chapters and sections shall be written in capital letters, and no punctuation mark shall be put at the end of the title.
11. When making amendments or supplements to a regulatory legal act, change of numbers of sections, chapters, articles, parts, points, sub-points, and paragraphs of the legal act being amended or supplemented shall not be made. A new section, chapter, article, part, point, sub-point or paragraph between sections, chapters, articles, parts, points, sub-points or paragraphs of a regulatory legal act respectively may be added only with an additional number.
12. In case of termination of a section, chapter, article, part, point, sub-point or paragraph of a regulatory legal act, the numbers of the other sections, chapters, articles, parts, points, sub-points or paragraphs of the legal act shall not be changed respectively. Another section, chapter, article, part, point, sub-point or paragraph with the same number may not be adopted instead of a section, chapter, article, part, point, sub-point or paragraph which has been terminated.

Article 15. Use of concepts and terms in a regulatory legal act

1. In a regulatory legal act, concepts or terms that are defined by regulatory legal acts or are widely-known shall be used.
2. In a regulatory legal act, the same words, terms or word combinations in a specific succession shall be used when expressing the same idea.
3. Where new or polysemantic or such concepts or terms are used in a regulatory legal act, which are not perceived unambiguously without clarification, or

another definition of those concepts or terms is given by another regulatory legal act, the given act shall give their definitions deriving from the essence of that act. Definitions must be such that they ensure their uniform and unambiguous perception and application.

4. In case of repetition of the content of the same concept or term in the same regulatory legal act with different meanings, the content of the concept or term deriving from the essence of the given legal act or from the principles of law regulating the given legal relation shall be applied.

Article 16. Use of some conjunctions and words in a regulatory legal act

1. Existence of all the conditions for the application of the norm listed in a regulatory legal act is mandatory, where, in the legal act:
 - (1) the application of the indicated norm depends on conditions separated only by the conjunction "and" [«и»] or "and" [«и»]; or
 - (2) the application of the indicated norm depends on conditions separated only by commas; or
 - (3) the application of the indicated norm depends on conditions separated by commas and the conjunction "and" [«и»] or "and" [«и»].
2. Where the existence of all the conditions listed in a regulatory legal act is mandatory, the conjunction "or" [«или»] may not be used.
3. Existence of only one or at least one of all the conditions for the application of a norm listed in a regulatory legal act shall be sufficient where, in the legal act:
 - (1) the application of the indicated norm depends on conditions separated by the conjunction "or" [«или»]; or

- (2) the application of the indicated norm depends on conditions separated by commas and the conjunction "or" [«կամ»].
4. Where the existence of only one of all the conditions listed in a regulatory legal act is sufficient, the conjunction "and" [«և»] or "and" [«նև»] may not be used, neither may they be separated by a comma or another punctuation mark.
 5. Where the application of a norm indicated in a regulatory legal act depends on conditions separated by commas or the conjunction "and" [«և»] or "and" [«նև»], as well as the conjunction "or" [«կամ»], the existence of all the conditions with respect to the conditions separated by commas or the conjunctions "and" [«և»] or "and" [«նև»] shall be required for the application of that norm, whereas the existence of at least one of the listed conditions shall be sufficient with respect to the conditions separated by the conjunction "or" [«կամ»].
 6. Where the application of a norm indicated in a regulatory legal act depends on conditions separated by detached points, and those points are not separated by a comma or the conjunction "and" [«և»] or "and" [«նև»] or "or" [«կամ»], the existence of at least one of the conditions shall be sufficient for the application of that norm, unless otherwise follows from the content of the given norm.
 7. Where the application of a norm indicated in a regulatory legal act depends on conditions separated by the words "as well as" [«ինչպես նաև»], the conditions stated after the words "as well as" [«ինչպես նաև»] shall be deemed as conditions not connected with the previous conditions.
 8. Where a word is used in singular in the regulatory legal act, it shall also extend to the plural of that word and vice versa, unless otherwise provided for by or directly follows from the content of that legal act.

Article 17. Use of references in a regulatory legal act

1. In the same type of regulatory legal acts adopted by the same body, norms prescribed by regulatory legal acts in effect must not be repeated unjustifiably.
2. For the purpose of avoiding unjustified repetitions of norms prescribed by regulatory legal acts, references shall be used in the legal act. References in the articles, parts, points, sub-points, and paragraphs of a regulatory legal act to other articles, parts, points, sub-points, and paragraphs of other regulatory legal acts, as well as to other regulatory legal acts or their separate provisions shall also be applied when the mutual relation of those provisions need to be highlighted.
3. References shall be made only to the main act or parts of the main act. References to a legal act on making amendments or supplements to a regulatory legal act shall be made only in the case when the legal act providing for amendments or supplements contains, besides the amendments or supplements, other norms not contained in the main legal act with respect to those norms.
4. References shall be made clearly and directly.
5. It shall be prohibited to make:
 - (1) uncertain references, in particular, when making references to other parts of the same act, the words "above-mentioned" [«վերոհիշյալ»], "above-stated" [«վերոգրյալ»], "previously indicated" [«նախկինում նշված»], "similar" [«նման»], "by this" [«սրանով»], "indicated" [«նշված»], "herein" [«սույնում»], "hereby" [«սույնով»] may not be used separately;
 - (2) circular references, when the norm being referred to makes a reference, in its turn, to the previous norm;
 - (3) continuous references, when the norm being referred to makes a reference, in its turn, to another norm.

6. When making references to the parts of the legislative acts, the short name of the legislative act, the reference number of the article of the act, and, where necessary, also the number of the part of the article, the number of the point or sub-point of the part of the article shall be indicated.
7. When making a reference to parts of a secondary regulatory legal act, the short name of the legal act, the number of the point, sub-point or paragraph shall be indicated.
8. When making a reference, the full name of the regulatory legal act shall be mentioned in the act providing for amendments or supplements to the regulatory legal act or in the act terminating the regulatory legal act. In other cases, when making references to another regulatory legal act, the short name of the legal act may be indicated.
9. Where it is prescribed by a legislative act that separate relations indicated therein shall or must be regulated by a secondary regulatory legal act, the name of the law-making body having the power to regulate relations not regulated in the legislative act being adopted shall be specifically indicated therein.

Article 18. Name of a regulatory legal act and mentioning thereof

1. When mentioning the name of the amendment to the Constitution or indicating, making references thereto in another legal act (hereinafter referred to as "mentioning"), it shall include, in the following sequence, the words "to the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia" [«Հայաստանի Հանրապետության Սահմանադրության»], the year, month (in letters), day of adoption thereof and the word "amendments" [«փոփոխություններ»].
2. When mentioning the full name of a Constitutional law, in the following sequence, the title of the Constitutional law, the year, month (in letters), day of

adoption, the reference number of the Constitutional law and the words "Constitutional Law" [«սահմանադրական օրենք»] shall be included. When mentioning the short name of a Constitutional law, it shall include, in the following sequence, the title of the Constitutional law, and the words "Constitutional Law" [«սահմանադրական օրենք»].

3. When mentioning the full name of a law, in the following sequence, the title, the year, month (in letters), day of adoption, reference number of the law and the word "Law" [«օրենք»] shall be included. When mentioning the short name of the law, the title of the law shall be indicated therein.
4. When mentioning the full name of a code that is a Constitutional law, it shall include, in the following sequence, the year, month (in letters), day of adoption of the law, the title of the code and the words "Constitutional Law" [«սահմանադրական օրենք»]. When mentioning the short name of a code that is a Constitutional law, the title of the code shall be indicated therein.
5. When mentioning the short name of a code that is not a Constitutional law, the title of the code shall be indicated.
6. When mentioning the full name of a secondary regulatory legal act, it shall include, in the following sequence, the name of the body adopting it, the year, month (in letters), day of adoption thereof, the title, reference number, nature and type of the act. When mentioning the short name of another secondary regulatory legal act, it shall include, in the following sequence, the name of the body adopting it, the year, month and day of adoption thereof, the reference number, nature and type of the act.

Article 19. Indicating the reference (registration) number and nature of a regulatory legal act

1. The reference (registration) number of a regulatory legal act shall be prescribed by the body adopting the regulatory legal act, only in Arabic numerals. The sequence of the numbers shall restart from 1 January of each year. Secondary regulatory legal acts shall be numbered only by total numbers.
2. In the legal act, immediately after the reference number of the regulatory legal act, the body adopting the legal act shall make a note with letter "N" [«Ն»] (regulatory [նորմատիվ]) on the regulatory nature thereof.

Article 20. Signing of the text of a regulatory legal act

1. Adopted regulatory legal acts shall be signed by the official having such power under the Constitution or law.
2. The signature shall be put after the text on the last page of the official text of the regulatory legal act, indicating the position, initial of the name, surname of the official and the year, month, day of signing and place of adoption of the legal act.

Article 21. Other rules of legislative technique

1. In regulatory legal acts, the text of explanations or notes shall be provided in the form of separate articles, parts, points, sub-points or paragraphs.
2. Unjustified use of short forms of words or terms, as well as abbreviations of words or terms shall be prohibited in a regulatory legal act.
3. The use of short names of state and local self-government bodies shall be prohibited, except for those provided for by the Constitution and laws.

4. Long expressions often used in a regulatory legal act may be defined in the same regulatory legal act in a short variant, by providing for — after the very first use in the legal act — either the definition of the given expression or mentioning that short variant in brackets.
5. In a regulatory legal act, the year and day shall be indicated in numbers, whereas the month — in letters. The word "year" [«թվական»] and its derivatives shall be written fully.
6. When prescribing a time limit in a regulatory legal act, it is necessary to clearly indicate the beginning and expiry of the time limit. Where the time limit is indicated by dates, the last day of the time limit shall also be calculated in that time limit. Where the calculation of the time limit prescribed by a legal act is done not by calendar days but working days, it must be specially indicated. Hours shall be written in numbers, in the twenty-four-hour format. When indicating the hours, two dots shall be put between the numbers expressing hour and minute, and the word "hour" [«ժամը»] shall be indicated before them.
7. The word "DRAFT" [«ՆԱԽԱԳԻԾ»] must be written at the top right corner of the first page of a draft legal act.

Article 22. Official translation of a regulatory legal act

1. Official translation of legislation from Armenian into a foreign language shall be done by the Ministry.
2. At the top left corner of a regulatory legal act with an official translation, the words "OFFICIAL TRANSLATION" [«ՊԱՇՏՈՆԱԿԱՆ ԹԱՐԳՄԱՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ»], as well as the name of the translating body shall be written in the target language.

3. The text of the official translation shall be signed by the Minister developing and implementing the policy of the Government in the area of justice.
4. The procedure for carrying out official translation of regulatory legal acts shall be prescribed by the Government.

CHAPTER 5

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF REGULATORY LEGAL ACTS, PROMULGATION, RECORD REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE THEREOF, AS WELL AS FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF REGULATORY LEGAL ACTS

Article 23. Entry into force of regulatory legal acts

1. Regulatory legal acts shall enter into force within the time limits prescribed therein, but not earlier than from the day following the official promulgation thereof, except for cases when it is prescribed by law that the given regulatory legal act shall enter into force immediately after the promulgation.
2. The body having the competence to adopt a regulatory legal act shall be obliged to provide for a later reasonable time limit for the entry into force of the regulatory legal act, except for the regulatory legal acts prescribed by part 4 of this Article, where the act prescribes such legal regulations for which a reasonable time period is necessary, which will give an opportunity to the addressee to bring the conduct thereof in line with the prescribed requirements, or the prescribed legal regulations deteriorate the legal status of the person.

3. Time limits for the entry into force of sections, chapters, articles, parts, points, sub-points and paragraphs of articles of a regulatory legal act, other than those provided for the entry into force of the given regulatory legal act, may be prescribed by a regulatory legal act. Where, for a certain part of the regulatory legal act to entry into force within another time limit, it is impossible to separate the regulatory legal act in the form of parts of the regulatory legal act, the regulatory legal act shall enter into force partially. In this case, the scope of the relations with regard whereto the regulatory legal act is to enter into force within another time limit must be clearly indicated.
4. Laws deemed to be urgent, regulatory legal acts conditioned by martial law or state of emergency may, in case being provided for by that act, enter into force immediately after the promulgation.
5. The regulatory legal act by which a time limit for entry into force is not provided for shall enter into force on the tenth day following the day of its official promulgation.
6. An individual legal act shall enter into force from the day following the day of duly informing — in person or through another procedure prescribed by law — the persons, whereat the act is aimed, about the adoption of that act, unless another procedure is prescribed by law.
7. An internal legal act shall enter into force from the day following the promulgation, except for acts which contain a state or another secret protected by law. An internal legal act containing a state or another secret protected by law shall enter into force from the day following the day of duly informing — in person or through another procedure prescribed by law — the persons, whereat the act is aimed, about the adoption of that act, unless another procedure is prescribed by law. An internal legal act shall be promulgated on the official web page of the adopting body, by placing under a separate section, and where the

adopting body does not have an official web page — by placing at a place visible and available for the persons whereat that act is aimed. The adopting body shall be obliged to indicate the day of promulgation of the act. The adopting body shall be obliged to promulgate also the incorporated variant of the act after making amendments and supplements to the act.

**Article 24. Putting legal acts of the Commission
of the Eurasian Economic Union into effect**

1. After the adoption of acts of regulatory legal nature by the Commission of the Eurasian Economic Union, where the relation regulated by the act is a subject-matter of the law of the Republic of Armenia, the Government shall undertake a relevant legislative initiative.
2. In cases not provided for by part 1 of this Article, the Government shall put into effect the regulatory legal act of legal nature of the Commission of the Eurasian Economic Union by its regulatory legal act.

Article 25. Official promulgation of regulatory legal acts

1. Official promulgation of regulatory legal acts shall be carried out by promulgating on the unified website for promulgation of regulatory legal acts (hereinafter referred to as "unified website") maintained by the Ministry.
2. The day of official promulgation shall be the day of promulgation the full text subject to promulgation, adopted or signed in the final edition of the act on the unified website for the first time.
3. The Ministry shall be obliged to ensure, within two working days, the promulgation of the regulatory legal act by the body having adopted it on the unified website for regulatory legal acts submitted as prescribed, as well as the official incorporation of regulatory legal acts.

4. Official promulgation shall be carried out in the form they have been forwarded for promulgation. Other persons or bodies shall be prohibited from making linguistic-stylistic, editorial, syntactic changes or those of other nature in the regulatory legal act of the law-making body, adopted in the final edition, except for correcting spelling or punctuation mistakes, in case of correction whereof the content of the text does not change.
5. Where after the promulgation of the regulatory legal act, misprints or such mistakes of technical nature are revealed in the text thereof, in case of correction whereof the content of the text does not change, the Ministry shall, upon the application of the body having forwarded the regulatory legal act for promulgation, carry out a relevant correction in the text of the regulatory legal act, making a note on having done a correction.
6. The procedure for submission — for promulgation — of regulatory legal acts by the body adopting the regulatory legal acts, the procedure for their promulgation on the unified website, doing a correction therein and for the official incorporation shall be prescribed by the order of the Minister developing and implementing the policy of the Government in the area of justice.

Article 26. Registration and maintenance of regulatory legal acts

1. The body adopting a regulatory legal act shall be obliged to carry out, as prescribed, internal registration and maintenance of legal acts adopted thereby.
2. The adopting body shall maintain the registered regulatory legal acts with no time limit.
3. Registration and maintenance of regulatory legal acts shall be carried out as prescribed by the adopting body.

Article 27. Fulfilment of requirements of regulatory legal acts

1. Where a provision of the regulatory legal act may be fulfilled only by the adoption of another regulatory legal act provided for by that regulatory legal act, or the fulfilment thereof is directly conditioned by the adoption of another regulatory legal act, that provision of the regulatory legal act shall have effect from the moment of entry into force of another relevant regulatory legal act.
2. Providing for a norm, by a regulatory legal act, on the supremacy over other regulatory legal acts having equal legal force shall be prohibited.
3. Transfer of the competence to adopt regulatory legal acts to other bodies shall be prohibited.

CHAPTER 6

***EFFECT OF REGULATORY LEGAL ACTS IN TIME, SPACE AND AMONG PERSONS,
AND VALIDITY PERIOD OF A REGULATORY LEGAL ACT***

Article 28. Effect of regulatory legal acts in time

1. The regulatory legal act shall extend to relations in effect after its entry into force, unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution, law or the given regulatory legal act.
2. In compliance with Article 73 of the Constitution, laws and other legal acts deteriorating the legal condition of a person shall not have retroactive effect, and laws and other legal acts improving the legal condition of a person shall have retroactive effect where these acts so provide for.

3. In compliance with Article 72 of the Constitution, a law decriminalising an act or mitigating the punishment for it shall have retroactive effect.
4. The repealed regulatory legal act or the part thereof shall extend to relations in effect before the day of repealing thereof, unless otherwise provided for by law, or the regulatory legal act on repealing the act.

Article 29. Effect of regulatory legal acts in space

1. Regulatory legal acts shall extend to the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, unless otherwise prescribed by that regulatory legal act or it follows from its essence that it extends only to a certain territory.

Article 30. Validity period of regulatory legal acts

1. A regulatory legal act shall have effect with no time limit, unless another validity period is provided for by the giver regulatory legal act.
2. A temporary validity period may be prescribed for the whole regulatory legal act or for separate parts thereof. Before the expiry of the prescribed time limit, the body adopting the act may extend the validity period of the act or give an unlimited nature thereto.

CHAPTER 7

CALCULATION OF TIME LIMITS

Article 31. Determination of a time limit prescribed by a regulatory legal act

1. Time limits prescribed by regulatory legal acts shall be calculated in years, months, days and hours.
2. Running of time limits calculated in years, months or days shall start from the day following the calendar year, month, day or an event having occurred, by which the beginning of the time limit thereof is determined.
3. A time limit calculated in years shall expire in the corresponding month and on the corresponding day of the last year of the time limit.
4. A time limit calculated in months shall expire on the corresponding day of the last month of the time limit. Where the time limit calculated in months expires in a month which does not have the relevant date, the time limit shall expire on the last day of that month. The rules for time limits calculated in months shall be applied with respect to a time limit determined by six-months.
5. The rules for time limits calculated in months shall be applied to the time limit calculated by quarters of a year. A quarter shall be deemed equal to three months and calculation of quarters shall start from the beginning of the year.
6. A time limit determined by half a month shall be considered as a time limit calculated in days and shall be equal to fifteen days.
7. A time limit calculated in days shall expire on the last day of that time limit.
8. Where the expiry of a time limit is conditioned by an event having occurred, it shall be deemed expired from the day following the day of the event having occurred, by which the expiry of the time limit has been determined.

9. Where another procedure for calculation of time limits is prescribed by the regulatory legal act regulating a specific legal relation, during the legal relations regulated by the given act, the procedure for calculation of time limits, prescribed by that regulatory legal act, shall be applied.
10. Where calculation of the time limit is conditioned by the fact of occurring of an event conditioned by the activities of state or local self-government bodies, that body shall be obliged to publish the information on the occurring of the event on the official web page thereof.

Article 32. Procedure for performing actions on the last day of the time limit

1. Where the time limit has been defined for the performance of an action, that action may be performed until 24:00 of the last day of the time limit.
2. Where that action must be performed in an organisation or a state or local self-government body, that time limit shall expire at the hour when, relevant operations are terminated in that body or organisation under the rules prescribed.
3. Documents handed over to a communication organisation before 24:00 of the last day of the time limit shall be deemed to have been submitted within the time limit.
4. Where the last day of a time limit is a non-working day, the next working day following it shall be considered to be the day of expiry of the time limit.

CHAPTER 8

MAKING AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO REGULATORY LEGAL ACTS, SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF REGULATORY LEGAL ACTS

Article 33. Amendments and supplements to a regulatory legal act

1. Amendments to a regulatory legal act shall be made by:
 - (1) replacing its separate words, numbers or punctuation marks with other words, numbers or punctuation marks;
 - (2) deleting its separate words, numbers or sentences;
 - (3) amending the wording of its separate sections, chapters, articles, parts, points, sub-points, paragraphs or sentences with new edition;
 - (4) terminating its separate sections, chapters, articles, parts, points, sub-points or paragraphs.
2. The amendments prescribed by point 4 of part 1 of this Article shall be carried out as and under the conditions provided for termination of regulatory legal acts and shall entail relevant consequences provided for the termination of the legal act.
3. Supplements to a regulatory legal act shall be made by supplementing it with new sections, chapters, articles, parts, points, sub-points, paragraphs, sentences, words, numbers or punctuation marks.

Article 34. General rules for making amendments and supplements to regulatory legal acts

1. An amendment or supplement to regulatory legal acts shall be made only by the body having adopted that regulatory legal act, or the legal successor thereof.

2. An amendment or supplement to a regulatory legal act may be made only by a regulatory legal act of the same type and nature. An amendment or supplement to codes shall be made by a law.
3. The form (appearance) of amendments or supplements made to a regulatory legal act must comply with the form (appearance) of the legal act being amended or supplemented.
4. Where voluminous amendments or supplements are made to a regulatory legal act, the act may be fully amended with new edition.
5. No amendment or supplement shall be made to a regulatory legal act — with respect to amendments or supplements — providing for amendments or supplements officially promulgated as prescribed and having entered into force. New amendments or supplements shall be made only to the main act.
6. An amendment or supplement may also be made to a regulatory legal act officially promulgated as prescribed, but not having entered into force, or to the part thereof not having entered into force, and in case when the act has already been incorporated — to the main regulatory legal act.
7. Amendments or supplements to jointly adopted regulatory legal acts shall be made by regulatory legal act jointly adopted by the bodies having adopted the act, or the legal successors thereof.

Article 35. Suspension of a regulatory legal act

1. Upon the decision of a law-making body, legal successor thereof or a body vested with relevant powers, the regulatory legal act or a part of the regulatory legal act may be suspended in cases and as prescribed by law.

Article 36. Termination of a regulatory legal act

1. The regulatory legal act, except for the Constitution, shall be terminated:
 - (1) in case the regulatory legal act is repealed;
 - (2) in case the regulatory legal act is declared invalid.
2. Where the regulatory legal act is to be terminated only with regard to a certain part of relations regulated thereby, which is impossible to separate in the form of parts of a regulatory legal act, the regulatory legal act shall be terminated partially. In this case, the scope of relations with regard whereto the regulatory legal act shall be terminated shall be clearly indicated in the act terminating the regulatory legal act.
3. By termination of the regulatory legal act, the regulatory legal act on making amendments and supplements to that regulatory legal act shall also be terminated.
4. In case of adopting a regulatory legal act on termination of the regulatory legal act, the effect of regulatory legal acts terminated by the terminated regulatory legal act or pursuant thereto shall not be restored.
5. Termination of the regulatory legal act shall be performed by the body having adopted it, or the legal successor thereof or the body vested with relevant powers, by a regulatory legal act of the same type or nature. The codes shall be terminated by a relevant law.
6. The rules on termination of regulatory legal acts, provided for by this Law, shall also be applied when terminating the parts thereof. Termination of the part of a regulatory legal act shall not lead to termination of the other parts thereof, except for the annex approved by that part.
7. The jointly adopted regulatory legal act may be terminated by a joint regulatory legal act adopted by the bodies having adopted the regulatory legal act, or the successors thereof.

Article 37. Repealing a regulatory legal act

1. A regulatory legal act, except for the Constitution, shall be repealed by a decision of the law-making body, the legal successor thereof or the body vested with relevant powers.
2. By the expiry of the time limit, performance of the action or occurring of the fact provided for a regulatory legal act having time limits, restricted by performance of an action or occurring of a fact, the regulatory legal act shall be deemed repealed. In such cases, a separate regulatory legal act on repealing the regulatory legal act shall not be adopted.
3. Where a regulatory legal act contradicts a regulatory legal act — having higher legal force — having entered into force at a later date, the law-making body, except for the laws adopted by National Assembly and those adopted by referendum, shall be obliged to adopt a regulatory legal act on repealing the legal act adopted thereby, or making an amendment or supplement thereto, within two months after the day of the entry into force of regulatory legal acts having higher legal force, unless another time limit is provided for by the regulatory legal act having higher legal force.
4. In case of discontinuation of the activities of a law-making body, without a legal successor, the regulatory legal acts thereof shall be repealed from the moment of liquidation of the body adopting the legal act, unless otherwise provided for by the legal act on termination of the activities of the law-making body.

Article 38. Declaring a regulatory legal act invalid

1. A regulatory legal act shall be declared invalid by an act of the law-making body, the legal successor thereof or the body vested with relevant powers, where the secondary regulatory legal act has been adopted or had effect in contradiction with a regulatory legal act having higher legal force.

2. A regulatory legal act declared invalid shall lose its legal force from the moment of entry into force of the act on declaring it invalid (*ex nunc*), except for cases prescribed by part 3 of this Article.
3. A regulatory legal act declared invalid may lose its legal force from the moment of adoption of that legal act, and in case where the ground for invalidity has emerged after adopting the regulatory legal act — from the moment of emergence of the ground for invalidity (*ex tunc*), based on the protection of public interests, in case of directly providing for by the act on declaring invalid.
4. The following shall be settled by the regulatory legal act on declaring a regulatory legal act invalid:
 - (1) issues on recognising persons' rights violated as a result of declaring the regulatory legal act invalid or on restoring the legal condition having existed before the violation;
 - (2) issues on suspending or eliminating actions violating persons' rights or creating a risk for the violation thereof;
 - (3) issues on compensating damages caused as a result of adopting a regulatory legal act declared invalid and declaring it invalid.
5. In case of declaring a regulatory legal act invalid, natural or legal persons shall not be obliged to compensate or restore damages caused to the state or community as a result of enjoying the rights, freedoms or privileges granted thereto based on the regulatory legal act declared invalid.

CHAPTER 9

APPLICATION OF NORMS OF LEGAL ACTS IN CASES OF LEGAL CONTRADICTIONS (LEGAL COLLISIONS) AND LEGISLATIVE GAPS

Article 39. Use of analogy of law and statute (similarity)

1. Where the legislation lacks a legal norm regulating the specific social relation, but the legislation prescribes another legal norm regulating similar relations, legal norms regulating similar relations shall be applied to such relations (analogy of statute) (where it does not contradict the essence thereof).
2. In case, that the legislation lacks a legal norm regulating the specific social relation, and the application of analogy of statute is impossible, the principles of the given branch of law or the general principles of law, corresponding to the essence of the given legal relation, shall be applied to such relations (analogy of law).
3. Analogy of statute or law may not be applied where it restricts the rights, freedoms of persons or provides for a new obligation or liability for them, or makes the measures of liability, coercive measures applied thereto, or the procedure for the application thereof, the procedure for paying taxes, duties and other mandatory fees, the conditions and procedure for exercising control and supervision over the activities persons more severe.
4. Analogy of statute and analogy of law may be applied only where application of analogy is not prohibited by the given law.

Article 40. Rules for settling legal collisions

1. In case of collisions between the norms of regulatory legal acts, the following rules shall be applied, according to the following sequence; moreover, each next rule shall be applied where the previous rule is not applicable:

- (1) the norm of the regulatory legal act having higher legal force;
- (2) in case of collisions between the general norm and special norm, the special norm shall have effect, but where the regulatory legal act has general and special parts, in case of collision between the norms of those parts, the norms of the general part shall have effect;
- (3) the norm of the regulatory legal act having entered into force earlier;
- (4) the norm of the regulatory legal act that is favourable for natural and legal persons, unless the rights or lawful interests of other persons are touched upon by the application of that norm.

CHAPTER 10

INTERPRETATION OF REGULATORY LEGAL ACTS

Article 41. Interpretation of the norm of a regulatory legal act

1. A norm of a regulatory legal act shall be interpreted taking into account the purpose of the body adopting it when adopting the regulatory legal act, based on the literal meaning of the words and expressions contained therein, the context of regulation of the whole article, chapter and section, the provisions of the regulatory legal act in execution whereof that act has been adopted, the principles prescribed by the given regulatory legal act, and in case such principles are not prescribed — the principles of the branch of law regulating the given legal relation.

CHAPTER 11

OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION OF REGULATORY LEGAL ACTS

Article 42. Official clarification of a regulatory legal act and bodies competent to clarify

1. Official clarification of a regulatory legal act shall be a process aimed at the clarification of the meaning of the provisions of a regulatory legal act, in case of necessity to make their insufficient clarity, different perception, as well as the issues having arisen in the field of application of the regulatory legal act clear.
2. Official clarification on a legislative act (except for the Constitution) and a decision of the Government may be provided by the body of the state administration system applying the act. The list of bodies of the state administration system [entitled] to provide an official clarification on the acts indicated in this part, and the relevant fields shall be prescribed by a decision of the Government. Only one body shall be entitled to provide clarifications on one field, or several competent bodies may provide a clarification — jointly. An official clarification on one issue may be provided only once, unless the previous has been recalled.
3. The bodies prescribed by the Constitution shall provide their official clarifications of sectoral legislative acts, except for the bodies of the judicial system.
4. An official clarification on secondary regulatory legal acts may be provided by the bodies having the competence to adopt the act.
5. The official clarification of a regulatory legal act may be carried out at the initiative of the clarifying body, upon the motion of another state and local self-government body, or upon the application of natural or legal persons.

6. In order to receive an official clarification, a natural or legal person shall indicate in the application thereof the necessity to receive a clarification with respect to the issues prescribed by part 1 of this Article, indicating the legal grounds for the issues set forth, upon self-interest — the situation in relation whereto a necessity has arisen to receive a clarification, as well as the option thereof for clarification.
7. The official clarification shall be provided no later than within fifteen working days following the receipt of the application. The official clarification may be extended for another fifteen working days, informing thereon the person requesting an official clarification.
8. In case of failure to receive an official clarification within the time limit indicated in part 7 of this Article, the applicant shall be entitled to be guided, when fulfilling the requirements of the regulatory legal act, by the option of the clarification submitted thereby.

Article 43. The act on official clarification of a regulatory legal act and promulgation thereof

1. The act of the official clarification of a regulatory legal act shall have a date of adoption (day, month, and year), reference number and title.
2. The act of the official clarification of a regulatory legal act shall comprise introductory, descriptive, reasoning and final parts.
3. In the introductory part, the name of the clarifying body, requisites of the regulatory legal act shall be indicated, wherein the clarifying provision, ground prescribed by part 6 of Article 42 of this Law shall be stipulated. In the descriptive part, the content of the legal norm shall be provided. In the reasoning part, the substantiation for achieving the clarifications or the process of drawing conclusions shall be indicated, and in the final part — the official clarification on the legal norm.

4. The act of the official clarification of a regulatory legal act shall be signed by the head of the relevant body.
5. One copy of the act of the official clarification shall be forwarded, on the day following the day of signing thereof, for the official promulgation envisaged for regulatory legal act prescribed by this Law.
6. After being promulgated as prescribed by part 5 of this Article, the official clarification shall not have a mandatory nature, but in relations with state and local self-government bodies, persons shall have the right to be guided by the official clarification, and the competent body having provided the official clarification shall be obliged to be guided by the clarification provided thereby.
7. The competent body having provided a clarification shall be entitled to recall the official clarification and replace it with a new clarification, where an essential change of circumstances has taken place.
8. The official clarification on a provision may be applied until the amendment or termination of the relevant regulatory provision, unless the competent body has recalled it.

**Article 44. Consequences of the official clarification
of a regulatory legal act**

1. Where the person having submitted an application for receiving an official clarification was guided by the official clarification provided in compliance with the requirements of this Law, in case of contradiction between that clarification and that provided by the competent body in the future, or in case of failure to be guided thereby when performing actions or rendering decisions in relation with him or her, the person shall be exempt from the liability envisaged for violations committed due to the incorrect clarification.

2. The Republic of Armenia or the relevant community shall bear liability, as prescribed by law, for the damage caused due to an incorrect clarification provided by the competent bodies.

CHAPTER 12

FINAL PART AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 45. Final part

1. To repeal Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-320 "On legal acts" of 3 April 2002.
2. This Law shall enter into force on the tenth day following the day of its official promulgation, except for Article 25 of this Law, which shall enter into force from 1 July 2019.

Article 46. Transitional provisions

1. The secondary regulatory legal acts, the adopting bodies whereof are, after the entry into force of the Constitution as amended in 2015 or laws prescribing power for relevant bodies or officials to adopt a secondary regulatory legal act, no longer competent to adopt secondary regulatory legal acts, shall continue to have effect, but making amendments or supplements thereto shall be prohibited. The acts provided for by this part may be terminated by the body having the competence to regulate the relations prescribed by those acts.
2. After the entry into force of this Law, official promulgation of regulatory legal acts adopted until 1 July 2019 shall be carried out in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by the legislation in effect until the entry into force of this

Law, through periodic publications in the relevant journals. The day of official promulgation of regulatory legal acts adopted within the time limit indicated in this part shall be deemed the day of publishing (releasing) the full text thereof in the relevant journals for the first time or posting them on the panels envisaged for that purpose in different places of the territory of the community. The day of publishing of journals shall be deemed the day of delivery — for realisation — of 80 % of the print run envisaged for the given issue, which shall be indicated on the first page of the cover of the journal.

3. The procedure for carrying out the official incorporation of regulatory legal acts until the entry into force of Article 25 of this Law shall be prescribed by the Government.

**President
of the Republic of Armenia**

S. Sargsyan

28 March 2018

Yerevan

HO-180-N