

**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Adopted on 17 January 2018

ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. The Constitutional Court

1. According to part 1 of Article 167 of the Constitution, constitutional justice shall be administered by the Constitutional Court, ensuring the supremacy of the Constitution.
2. According to part 2 of Article 167 of the Constitution, the Constitutional Court shall be independent in administering justice and shall abide by only the Constitution.

Article 2. Seat of the Constitutional Court and maintenance thereof

1. Sessions of the Constitutional Court shall be held in the city of Yerevan, at the seat of the Constitutional Court.
2. The Constitutional Court may, if necessary, hold sessions elsewhere in the Republic of Armenia, upon the procedural decision.

3. The Government shall provide the Constitutional Court with a separate building and necessary property to ensure the normal operation thereof.
4. The security of buildings and premises of the Constitutional Court shall be ensured as prescribed by law.
5. Persons other than the judges and employees of the Staff of the Constitutional Court may enter the building of the Constitutional Court as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.

Article 3. Financial guarantees for the operation of the Constitutional Court

1. The expenditures expenses of the Constitutional Court shall constitute a part of the expenditures of the State Budget and must ensure normal operation of the Constitutional Court.
2. The activities related to drawing up a budget financing request (draft estimate of expenses) of the Constitutional Court for the forthcoming year shall be coordinated by the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court.
3. The Staff of the Constitutional Court shall — as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the budget system of the Republic of Armenia" — annually draws up and submits to the Government the budget financing request (hereinafter referred to as the "budget request") for the forthcoming year of the Constitutional Court for the purpose of including it in the draft State Budget for the forthcoming year.
4. In case the budget request is approved by the Government, it shall be included in the draft State Budget without amendments, and in case of objections — with amendments. The Government shall submit the budget request to the National Assembly along with the draft State Budget. The Government shall submit to the

National Assembly and to the Constitutional Court the justification for the amendments made with regards to the budget request.

5. For the purpose of covering the unforeseen expenditures to ensure the normal operation of the Constitutional Court, as well as for the purpose of granting incentives to the judges of the Constitutional Court and the employees of the Staff of the Constitutional Court, a reserve fund of the Constitutional Court shall be established, which shall be presented in a separate budget line. The amount of the reserve fund shall be equal to two per cent of the budget of the Constitutional Court provided for by the Law on State Budget for the given year.
6. The Chairperson of the Constitutional Court shall dispose the budgetary means of the Constitutional Court as prescribed by law. Where necessary, the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court may, in the manner prescribed by the Government, carry out internal redistribution among the articles of economic classification of the State Budget expenditures, not exceeding the quota of 15% of the total amount of the allocations, prescribed by the Law on State Budget with regard to each programme implemented by the Constitutional Court.
7. The Constitutional Court shall manage its resources independently, as prescribed by law and the Rules of Procedure thereof.
8. Where the resources of the reserve fund are insufficient to ensure the normal operation of Constitutional Court, the Government shall, upon the application of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court, make up the shortfall from the reserve fund of the Government.

CHAPTER 2

STATUS OF A JUDGE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Article 4. Requirements for a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. A lawyer with higher education, having attained the age of forty, holding citizenship of only the Republic of Armenia, having the right of suffrage, with high professional and moral qualities and at least fifteen years of professional work experience, having command of the Armenian language, may be elected as a judge of the Constitutional Court.
2. The same person may be elected as a judge of the Constitutional Court only once.
3. A judge of the Constitutional Court may not hold any position not stemming from his or her status in other state or local self-government bodies, any position in commercial organisations, engage in entrepreneurial activities or perform other paid work, except for scientific, educational and creative work.
4. Regulations, prescribed by the law for public servants with regard to entrepreneurial activities shall apply to judges of the Constitutional Court.
5. A judge of the Constitutional Court may not hold membership in or be a founder of any political party, hold a position in a political party, deliver speeches on behalf of the political party or otherwise engage in political activities. The judge of the Constitutional Court must exercise political restraint and neutrality in public speeches and any other circumstances.
6. The judge of the Constitutional Court may participate in the elections to the National Assembly and of local self-government bodies only as a voter. The judge of the Constitutional Court may not speak publicly for or against any candidate or otherwise participate in election campaign.

7. Professional discussions or opinions on draft regulatory legal acts, as well as discussions and statements on activities of the judiciary, including public ones, shall not be considered as a breach of the principle of apolitical stance.
8. The judge may hold a position in a non-commercial organisation, if:
 - (1) his or her activities in such position are performed gratuitously; and
 - (2) that position does not imply disposal of funds, entering into civil law transactions on behalf of the organisation, or representation of the organisation before state or local self-government bodies.
9. Payment for the judge's scientific, educational and creative work may not exceed the reasonable amount, i.e. the amount that a person who is not a judge but has similar qualifications required for the same activity could claim.
10. The judge may receive reimbursement for expenses for the activities carried out in accordance with the rules of part 9 of this Article, where such reimbursement cannot be reasonably perceived as aimed to influence the judge in connection with the performance of his or her official duties.
11. A judge may not act as an executor of a will or property trust manager, except when he or she acts so gratuitously in connection with a property of his or her close relative or that of a person under his or her guardianship or curatorship.
12. Within the meaning of this Code, a close relative shall mean the judge's spouse, the judge's or his or her spouse's parent, child, child's spouse, full or half (paternal or maternal) brother or sister, grandfather, grandmother, grandchild, great-grandchild, brother's or sister's spouse, as well as adopter or adoptee.
13. The command of the Armenian language shall be certified by a graduation document (academic certificate, school certificate, diploma) issued by educational institutions with regard to the fact of having received education in the Armenian language at educational institutions or having completed the studies of the

Armenian language included in educational programmes and having passed a final qualification. In case of lack of a graduation document certifying the command of the Armenian language, the command of the Armenian language shall be checked in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, which shall envisage reasonable and objective criteria for checking the command of the Armenian language, as well as procedures for supervision over the process.

Article 5. Assuming the office of a judge of the Constitutional Court

(title edited by HO-5-N of 29 March 2019)

1. Following the election, a newly-elected judge of the Constitutional Court shall take the following oath at the sitting of the National Assembly: “Assuming the office of a judge of the Constitutional Court, I hereby swear in front of the people of the Republic of Armenia to ensure the supremacy of the Constitution, to be independent and impartial, remain faithful to the distinguished title of a judge of the Constitutional Court.”.
2. A newly-elected judge of the Constitutional Court shall assume office immediately after taking the oath referred to in part 1 of this Article, and in case of being elected during the six months prior to the completion of powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court or expiry of the term of the office thereof, the newly-elected judge of the Constitutional Court shall assume his or her office on the day of termination of powers of the relevant judge of the Constitutional Court.

(Article 5 edited by HO-5-N of 29 March 2019)

Article 6. Security of a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. A judge of the Constitutional Court and his or her family members shall be under the special protection of the State. Where there is an unlawful action or a threat of unlawful action against the immunity of a judge of the Constitutional Court, his or her family members, the residential and working premises and other property thereof, the judge shall report to the competent state bodies and the Constitutional Court. The competent state bodies shall be obliged to immediately take relevant measures to ensure the security of the judge of the Constitutional Court, his or her family members, the residential and working premises occupied by him or her and other property, about which the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court shall be informed.

Article 7. Independence of a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. While administering justice, a judge shall be independent from state and local self-government bodies, officials, natural and legal persons, and shall not be accountable to anyone and, inter alia, shall not be obliged to give any explanation.
2. A judge of the Constitutional Court shall not have the right to seek instructions with respect to his or her activities.
3. Any influence on a judge of the Constitutional Court with respect to his or her activities shall be impermissible and shall be prosecuted by law.
4. A judge of the Constitutional Court shall notify the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court of each case of interference with the functions of the judge of the Constitutional Court or any other influence on him or her and the Constitutional Court shall submit a request to the competent state bodies for taking necessary measures.

5. During his or her term of office and after the imposed or automatic termination of his or her powers, a judge may not be interrogated as a witness with regard to a case within the scope of which he or she exercised his or her powers as a judge.

Article 8. Irremovability of a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. A judge of the Constitutional Court shall be irremovable.

Article 9. Immunity of a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. In accordance with part 2 of Article 164 of the Constitution, a judge the Constitutional Court may not be held liable for the opinion expressed or judicial act rendered during administration of justice, except where there are elements of crime or disciplinary violation.
2. In accordance with part 3 of Article 164 of the Constitution, criminal prosecution of a judge of the Constitutional Court with respect to the exercise of his or her powers may be initiated only upon the consent of the Constitutional Court.
3. A judge of the Constitutional Court may not be deprived of liberty, with respect to the exercise of his or her powers, without the consent of the Constitutional Court, except where he or she has been caught at the time of or immediately after committing a criminal offence.
4. In addition to the right prescribed by part 3 of Article 27 of the Constitution, from the moment of deprivation of liberty, a judge shall be entitled to immediately inform the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court or another judge thereon through a telephone call or other means of communication.

5. In the cases provided for by this part, depriving a judge of liberty may not last more than seventy-two hours. The Chairperson of the Constitutional Court and the Prosecutor General shall be immediately notified of the deprivation of liberty of a judge of the Constitutional Court. The decision on arresting of a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be immediately forwarded to the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court and the Prosecutor General. The bodies and officials having deprived a judge of liberty must ensure the unimpeded access of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court and the other judges to the place where the judge deprived of liberty is held and must ensure that they can visit the judge.
6. The institution of the criminal prosecution of a judge of the Constitutional Court and the prosecutorial control of the pre-trial criminal proceedings of the given case shall be conducted by the Prosecutor General.
7. Within the scope of criminal proceedings, actions with regard to the judge may be carried out by ensuring maximum confidentiality of the pre-trial criminal proceedings, respect for the reputation and independence of a judge and the judiciary, excluding any direct or indirect intervention into the activities of a judge.
8. For the purpose of conducting investigative actions in the building of the Constitutional Court, the building of the Court may be entered upon notifying the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court.
9. Investigative actions with the participation of a judge not under criminal prosecution may be conducted upon notifying the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court.
10. Investigative actions with the participation of a judge not under criminal prosecution shall be carried out at the time and place agreed with the judge in advance, by ensuring maximum confidentiality of the investigative action, respect

for the reputation and independence of the judge, excluding any direct or indirect intervention into the activities of the judge.

(Article 9 amended by HO-5-N of 29 March 2019)

Article 10. Material security, social and other guarantees of a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. According to part 10 of Article 164 of the Constitution, the remuneration of a judge shall be determined in compliance with his or her high status and responsibility. The relations pertaining to the remuneration, including calculations and amounts of basic and additional salaries of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and judges of the Constitutional Court, shall be regulated by law.
2. In the case the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court automatically terminate on the grounds provided by point 1 of part 1 of Article 12 of this Law, the person who was holding that position shall be granted pension in the manner and amount prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On social guarantees for persons having held state positions” irrespective of his or her age. The right of a judge of the Constitutional Court to pension may not be terminated imposingly in case of performance of other work, except for the cases when he or she has entered into public service.
3. In the case the automatic or imposed termination of powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court, having occupied a position, on the grounds provided for by point 2 of part 1 and point 4 of part 2 of Article 12 of this Law, as well as on the grounds of being declared, upon a civil judgment of the court having entered into legal force, as having no active legal capacity, he or she shall be granted pension in the manner and amount prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On social guarantees for persons having held state positions”.

4. Salary of a judge of the Constitutional Court and increments added thereon, the amount of pension may not be reduced, except for cases when an proportionate reduction is made for all high-ranking officials.
5. A judge shall have the right to health insurance and casualty insurance, under the conditions and in the amount set by the Government.
6. A diplomatic passport shall be issued to a judge of the Constitutional Court.
7. Judges of the Constitutional Court shall have the right to a regular annual paid leave for a duration of 30 working days.
8. Due to personal and family circumstances, the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court may grant a judge an unpaid leave for a duration of up to 20 working days per year in total, and for a longer period — upon the consent of the Constitutional Court. For the purpose of defending an academic dissertation, a judge of the Constitutional court shall have the right to an unpaid leave for up to 30 working days.
9. A judge of the Constitutional Court shall enjoy the social guarantees prescribed for the public servant.
10. Throughout the term of exercise of his or her powers, a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be released from mobilisation and training musters.

Article 11. Uniform of the judges of the Constitutional Court

1. During the court sessions, the judges of the Constitutional Court shall wear a special uniform which shall be described in the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.

Article 12. Grounds for automatic and imposed termination of powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. The powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court shall automatically terminate where:
 - (1) term of his or her powers has expired;
 - (2) he or she has attained the age of holding office;
 - (3) he or she has died;
 - (4) he or she has been deprived of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia or has acquired the citizenship of another state;
 - (5) he or she has submitted a letter of resignation as prescribed by the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia “Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly”;
 - (6) he or she has been declared, upon a civil judgment of the court having entered into legal force, as having no active legal capacity, missing or dead;
 - (7) a criminal judgment of conviction rendered against him or her has entered into legal force or a criminal prosecution against him or her has been terminated on a non-acquitting ground.

2. The powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be terminated as prescribed by Article 83 of this Law, where he or she:
 - (1) has violated the incompatibility requirements prescribed by the Constitution and this Law;
 - (2) has engaged in political activities during his or her term of office;
 - (3) has failed, due to temporary incapacity, to exercise his or her powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court for six months, except for the cases of being on pregnancy and maternity leave;

- (4) following the appointment, he or she has been affected by a physical impairment or an illness as a result of which he or she is unable to exercise his or her powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court;
 - (5) he or she has committed an essential disciplinary violation.
3. The following shall constitute an essential disciplinary violation:
 - (1) non-attendance at the sessions of the Constitutional Court by a judge of the Constitutional Court without a valid reason for three and more times within a year;
 - (2) again committing a disciplinary violation by a judge of the Constitutional Court having two reprimands or one severe reprimand.
 - (3) commission by a judge of the Constitutional Court of an act which undermines the reputation of the Constitutional Court or which is incompatible with the position of a judge.
4. When submitting resignation to the National Assembly in the case prescribed by point 5 of part 1 of this Article, a judge of the Constitutional Court shall immediately inform the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court thereof.
5. Where the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court have been automatically terminated on grounds prescribed by points 1 and 2 of part 1 of this Article, the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court shall, on the last day of the seventh month preceding the day of termination of his or her powers, and not later than one day after the automatic termination of the powers of a judge of Constitutional Court on grounds prescribed by points 3-7 of part 1 of this Article, as well as the termination of the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court on grounds prescribed by part 2 of this Article, notify the President of the Republic, Chairperson of the Court of Cassation and the Government, respectively.

(Article 12 edited by HO-5-N of 29 March 2019)

Article 13. Grounds and procedure for imposing disciplinary liability on a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. The ground for imposing disciplinary liability on a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be the violation of the rules of conduct for the judges of the Constitutional Court prescribed by this Law.
2. A judge of the Constitutional Court shall be subjected to disciplinary liability by the Constitutional Court, as prescribed by Article 82 of this Law.
3. For the purpose of subjecting a judge of the Constitutional Court to disciplinary liability, proceedings may be instituted on the ground of violation by a judge of the rules of conduct prescribed by this Law, within a period of one month following the revealing thereof, but not later than within six months upon the arising of that ground.
4. Imposing administrative, civil, or other liability provided for by law on a judge of the Constitutional Court does not exclude the possibility of imposing disciplinary liability on him or her and terminating his or her powers, and vice versa.

Article 14. Rules of conduct of a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. When engaging in any activity and in all circumstances, a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be obliged:
 - (1) to refrain from practising any conduct undermining the judiciary, as well as decreasing the public confidence in the independence and impartiality of the judiciary;
 - (2) not to use or not to authorise other persons to use his or her high reputation of the position of the judge for his or her benefit or for the benefit of another person;

- (3) to demonstrate political restraint and neutrality;
- (4) to refrain from publicly casting doubt on professional and personal qualities of the judge;
- (5) to refrain from publicly casting doubt on actions of the court and judicial acts, except for cases provided for by law or of a professional activity carried out within the scope of the scientific freedom;
- (6) to refrain from expressing an opinion on any ongoing case being examined or anticipated, except for cases where the judge acts as a party to or as a legal representative of a party to proceedings;
- (7) to refrain from making an announcement or practising any conduct which threatens or casts doubt on the independence and impartiality of the judge or court;
- (8) not to act as a representative or provide counselling, including without compensation, except for cases when he or she acts as a legal representative or provides legal counselling to his or her close relatives or persons under his or her guardianship or curatorship without any compensation;
- (9) to abstain from accepting from anyone a gift or other advantage related to property interests or from giving consent to accept it later, where it may reasonably be perceived as having the aim of influencing the judge, observe the restrictions on judges accepting gifts, provided for by this Law.

2. When acting ex officio, a judge shall be obliged:

- (1) to observe the requirements of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the Constitutional Court”;
- (2) to be impartial and refrain from displaying bias or discrimination through his or her words or conduct, and from creating such impression on a reasonable and impartial observer;

- (3) to perform his or her official duties in good faith, co-operate with the staff of the court and other judges;
- (4) to treat the participants of the proceedings, judges, the staff of the court, and all persons with whom he or she communicates ex officio with respect and politeness;
- (5) to avoid any conflict of interest, exclude that family, social or other relationships influence the exercise of his or her official powers in any way;
- (6) not to use, disclose or otherwise make accessible, for purposes other than the administration of justice, non-public information that he or she has become aware of in the course of exercising the official duties thereof, unless otherwise provided for by law;
- (7) to conduct court sessions in a uniform prescribed by law;
- (8) not to interfere with the operation of the system of recording court sessions.

Article 15. Restrictions on a judge of the Constitutional Court accepting gifts

1. A judge of the Constitutional Court must not accept a gift or agree to accept a gift in the future, where it may be reasonably perceived as related to the performance of his or her official duties. A judge must endeavour that his or her close relatives residing with him or her refrain from such actions.
2. Within the meaning of this Law, the concept of "gift" shall imply any advantage related to property interests that would not reasonably be granted to a person who is not a judge, and shall also include a waived claim, surrender of a claim without compensation or at an apparently disproportionate low price, property sold at an apparently disproportionate low price, services rendered or work

carried out at an apparently disproportionate low price, as well as preferential borrowings, gratuitous use of another's property, and other actions, as a result of which a person derives benefit or advantage.

3. The restrictions prescribed by this part shall not apply to the following:
 - (1) gifts received by a close relative residing with the judge, in relation to the entrepreneurial, professional or other activity thereof, including the gift which may be jointly used by other family members, including the judge, provided that such gift may not be reasonably perceived as given in relation to the performance of the official duties of the judge;
 - (2) scholarships, grants, or benefits, awarded in public competitions on the same conditions and criteria as those applied to other applicants, or as a result of another transparent process;
 - (3) loans received from financial institutions under ordinary or general conditions.
4. The following shall be considered as gifts permissible for a judge to accept:
 - (1) gifts usually given in public events;
 - (2) gifts given as part of everyday hospitalities, where they, by their nature, correspond to gifts usually given in everyday hospitalities;
 - (3) gifts received from a close relative;
 - (4) gifts received from a next of kin, where the nature and amount of the gift reasonably correspond to the nature of the relationships between them.
5. Where a judge has received a gift which is not considered as permissible under this Article, he or she shall be obliged to return it or pay an equivalent compensation within a period of one week following the receipt of the gift. Where the gift cannot be returned or compensated equivalently within the time limit prescribed, he or she shall be obliged to transfer it to the Republic of Armenia within a period of one week, through the procedure established by the Government.

Article 16. Impossibility of a judge of the Constitutional Court to participate in the examination of a case

1. Impossibility The participation of a judge of the Constitutional court in the examination of the case shall be impossible, where:
 - (1) he or she is biased towards a person acting as a party, his or her representative, other participants of the proceedings;
 - (2) he or she, acting in his or her personal capacity, has been a witness to circumstances being disputed during the examination of the case;
 - (3) he or she has participated in the examination of the case concerned in another court;
 - (4) a close relative of a judge has acted, is acting or will reasonably act (there are grounds to believe that he or she will act) as a participant in the case;
 - (5) he or she is aware or must be reasonably aware that he or she personally or his or her close relative pursues economic interests in connection with the merits of the dispute or with any of the parties;
 - (6) he or she holds a position in a non-commercial organisation and the interests of that organisation may be affected by the case.
2. Within the meaning of this Article, the concept “economic interest” shall not include the following:
 - (1) managing stocks of the open joint-stock company in question through an investment fund or a pension fund or another nominee, where the judge is not aware of it;
 - (2) having a deposit in the bank in question, having an insurance policy with the insurance company in question, or being a participant of the credit union or the savings union in question, where the outcome of the case does not pose a significant threat to the solvency of that organisation;

- (3) owning securities issued by the Republic of Armenia, a community or the Central Bank.
3. The issue of impossibility of a judge of the Constitutional Court to participate in the examination of the case by may be raised by each of the judges of the Constitutional Court.
4. The Constitutional Court shall decide on the issue of impossibility of a judge of the Constitutional Court to participate in the examination of the case within the framework of the procedural decision on accepting the case for examination.
5. The procedural decision of the Constitutional Court with regard to that issue shall be adopted by at least two thirds of votes of the total number of judges of the Constitutional Court.

Article 17. Procedure for filling the vacant position of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court

1. In case of automatic or imposed termination of the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court, the election of a new judge for the vacancy shall be held:
 - (1) in the cases of termination of powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court on the grounds prescribed by points 1 and 2 of part 1 of Article 12 of this Law — within a period of six months following the day the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court is informed about the termination of his or her powers;
 - (2) in the cases of automatic termination of powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court on the grounds prescribed by points 3-7 of part 1 of Article 12 of this Law, as well as imposed termination of powers of a judge of the Constitutional on the grounds prescribed by part 2 of Article 12 of this Article or where no new judge of the Constitutional Court is elected —

within a period of one month after the expiry of the time limit prescribed for making nominations for a vacant position of a judge of the Constitutional Court.

2. Nominations for a vacant position of a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be made subsequently by the President of the Republic of Armenia, the General Assembly of Judges and the Government, not later than within a period of one month following the day of being informed of the automatic or imposed termination of the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court as prescribed by part 5 of Article 12 of this Law.
3. A new judge of the Constitutional Court shall be elected as prescribed by part 1 of Article 166 of the Constitution and by Article 141 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia “Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly”.
4. Where a new judge of the Constitutional Court is not elected, the competent body shall, within a period of one month following the election, nominate a new candidate for a judge of the Constitutional Court.

(Article 17 edited, supplemented by HO-5-N of 29 March 2019)

CHAPTER 3

ORGANISATION OF THE OPERATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Article 18. Ensuring the normal operation of the Constitutional Court

1. The Chairperson of the Constitutional Court shall ensure the normal of operation of the Constitutional Court.

2. In the absence of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court, the Deputy Chairperson of the Constitutional Court shall temporarily exercise the powers of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court.
3. In the absence of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Constitutional Court, the eldest judge of the Constitutional Court shall temporarily exercise the powers of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court.

Article 19. Chairperson of the Constitutional Court

1. From among the judges of the Constitutional Court, the candidate nominated by the judges of the Constitutional Court or the self-nominated candidate who has received the votes of two thirds of all the judges of the Constitutional Court may be elected as the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court; whereas in the case when only one candidate has been nominated, the latter shall be elected by the majority vote of the total number of judges of the Constitutional Court.
2. Where none of the two or more candidates having been nominated has received the necessary number of votes upon the results of the election, a second round of election shall be held wherein the two candidates having received the greater numbers of votes in the first round shall participate. The candidate having received the majority vote of all the judges of the Constitutional Court shall be considered as the candidate having been elected upon the results of the second round of the election.
3. In the case of not receiving the necessary number of votes, the election shall be considered as not having taken place, and a new election shall be organised.
4. The election of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court shall be held within ten days following the opening of the vacant position for the Chairperson.

5. The Chairperson of the Constitutional Court shall be elected for a term of six years, without the right to be re-elected.
6. The Chairperson of the Constitutional Court shall:
 - (1) together with the rapporteur of the case, arrange the sessions of the Constitutional Court;
 - (2) distribute the necessary preparatory activities aimed at the organisation of discussions of the issues at the sessions of the Constitutional Court among the judges of the Constitutional Court;
 - (3) convene and chair the sessions of the Constitutional Court;
 - (4) make remarks with regard to the observance of the rules of examination of cases in the Constitutional Court, make demands of the participants in the proceedings, the invited persons, those present at the session, which shall be mandatory;
 - (5) represent the Constitutional Court in relations with other bodies and organisations;
 - (6) carry out the general management of the Staff of the Constitutional Court, approve the structure of the Staff and the staff list.

Article 20. Deputy Chairperson of the Constitutional Court

1. From among the judges of the Constitutional Court, the candidate nominated by the judges of the Constitutional Court or the self-nominated candidate who has received the majority vote of all the judges of the Constitutional Court may be elected as the Deputy Chairperson.
2. The election of the Deputy Chairperson of the Constitutional Court shall be held within ten days following the opening of the vacant position for the Deputy Chairperson.

3. The Deputy Chairperson of the Constitutional Court shall be elected for a term of six years, without the right to be re-elected.
4. Provisions of Article 19 of this Law shall apply to the election of the Deputy Chairperson of the Constitutional Court, unless otherwise provided for by this Article.

Article 21. Staff of the Constitutional Court

1. The Constitutional Court shall form its staff independently, as prescribed by law and the Rules of Procedure thereof.
2. The Staff of the Constitutional Court shall serve the advisory, organisational, information, technical and other needs of the Constitutional Court in order to ensure the exercise of the powers of the latter and organises reception of the citizens at the Constitutional Court.
3. The service in the Staff of the Constitutional Court constitutes judicial service, a special type of state service established in the Republic of Armenia, the special aspects whereof shall be prescribed by this Law and the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.
4. The Head of the Staff of the Constitutional Court shall be appointed to and dismissed from his or her position by the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court.
5. The statute of the Staff of the Constitutional Court shall be established upon the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court.

CHAPTER 4

APPLYING TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Article 22. The reason for examining a case in the Constitutional Court

1. The Constitutional Court shall examine a case only if a relevant application has been submitted.

Article 23. Right to apply to the Constitutional Court

1. The right to apply to the Constitutional Court as prescribed by the Constitution and this Law shall rest with the bodies and persons provided for by Article 169 of the Constitution.
2. In the case referred to in point 8 of part 1 of Article 169 of the Constitution, legal persons may also apply to the Constitutional Court in accordance with Article 74 of the Constitution.

Article 24. General requirements for submitting an application

1. Applications shall be submitted to the Constitutional Court in writing and signed by the competent person. Applications shall be submitted in paper or electronic form.
2. The following shall be indicated in an application:
 - (1) the name of the Constitutional Court;
 - (2) the name of the applicant (in case of a legal person — title), registered address (in case of a legal person — place of location) or residential address thereof if it is different from the registered address; where the

- applicant is acting through a representative, the name, registered address or the residential address of the applicant's representative if the latter address is different from the registered address;
- (3) the Article of the Constitution which provides for the right to apply to the Constitutional Court;
 - (4) the request addressed to the Constitutional Court and the arguments of the applicant with references to the relevant provisions of the Constitution;
 - (5) in the cases provided for by points 1 and 5 of Article 168 of the Constitution — name of the state or local self-government body or the official that has adopted the disputed act;
 - (6) the list of materials attached to the application.
3. The applications submitted by at least one fifth of the total number of Deputies on the cases referred to in Articles 68, 75 and 79 of this Law must comply with the general requirements for relevant applications, as well as they must contain necessary number of signatures.

Article 25. Materials to be attached to the application

1. The following shall be attached to the application submitted to the Constitutional Court:
 - (1) letter of authorisation or any other document certifying the powers of the representative;
 - (2) the Armenian translation of all documents in a foreign language certified as prescribed by law;
 - (3) in the cases provided for by this Law — evidence certifying substantiation of the application;

- (4) other materials related to the case, at the discretion of the applicant.
2. With regard to the cases referred to in Article 69 of this Law, the applicant shall be obliged to submit to the Constitutional Court also the following:
 - (1) a receipt of payment of the state duty in the amount prescribed by this Law or a motion on being exempt from paying the state duty;
 - (2) the final judicial act of the Court of General Jurisdiction or the Specialised Court, by which the provision of the law disputed by the applicant has been applied thereto;
 - (3) carbon copy of the personal identification document of the applicant;
 - (4) state registration number of a legal person or state record-registration number of an individual entrepreneur;
 - (5) carbon copies of a personal identification document of an advocate acting as a representative and of a document certifying the status of advocate;
 - (6) carbon copy of a personal identification document of a person having higher education in law acting as a representative and of a document certifying the higher education in law thereof.
3. After the application is accepted, the new materials of the applying party may be accepted only upon the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court.

Article 26. Registration of the application

1. The application submitted to the Constitutional Court shall be subject to compulsory registration. The registered application shall be presented to the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court. The peculiarities with regard to registration, distribution and discussion of the letters not considered as applications having been submitted to the Constitutional Court shall be prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.

2. The procedure for accepting the applications submitted in accordance with point 8 of part 1 of Article 169 of the Constitution shall be prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.
3. Where the format of the application does not comply with the requirements of Articles 24 and 25 of this Law, the applicant shall, within a period of three days, or in cases provided for by point 5 of Article 168 of the Constitution, as well as in cases provided for by Articles 81, 84 and 86 of this Law, within 24 hours, be notified thereof by the Staff of the Constitutional Court by identifying the requirements of Articles 24 and 25 of this Law which must be met by the Applicant.
4. After being notified as prescribed by part 3 of this Article, the applicant may again submit the application to the Constitutional Court within three days after bringing it into conformity with the requirements of Articles 24 and 25 of this Law, and on the cases provided for by Articles 81, 84 and 86 of this Law within a period of one day. In the case of failure to ensure compliance of the application with the requirements of Articles 24 and 25 of this Law within the mentioned time limits, the application shall, within a period of one day, be returned to the applicant with a relevant note on the procedure for appealing.
5. The applicant may ensure the compliance of the application with the requirements of the Law by submitting the edited text of the application or, if technically possible, by correcting deficiencies of the application in the Division for Accepting Applications. Where the application contains such arithmetical, technical or formal mistakes and misprints, which can be corrected in the Division for Accepting Applications by the applicant or upon his or her consent, they not serve as a ground for returning the application.
6. The applicant may appeal against the return of the application before the Constitutional Court within three days, and on the cases provided for by

Articles 81, 84 and 86 — within a period of one day. The decision on that issue shall be adopted by a panel composed of three judges of the Constitutional Court not later than one day after the complaint has been filed.

7. The panels of judges shall be formed by way of lot, the procedure for the realisation whereof, as well as the peculiarities of the activities of the panels of judges shall be prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.

Article 27. Preliminary examination of the application

1. In case of absence of grounds provided for by parts 3 and 4 of Article 26 of this Law, preliminary examination of the application shall be conducted as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.

Article 28. Accepting the case for examination

1. The case shall be accepted for proceedings as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court where there are no grounds for rejecting the examination of the case provided for by Article 29 of this Law.
2. The procedure for accepting the case for examination on the basis of individual applications or for rejecting the examination of the application shall be prescribed by Article 69 of this Law.
3. By the procedural decision on accepting the case for examination, the Constitutional Court shall also dispose the issues of involving a respondent in the case, the time of commencing the trial of the case, appointing a case rapporteur, procedural issues of the trial of the case, as well as other issues pertaining to the preparation of the case for trial, and by the decision on accepting the case for examination upon an individual application — also the issues related to the exemption from state duty as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state duty”, based on the motion of the applicant.

4. Upon the individual applications submitted to the Constitutional Court, the issues referred to in part 3 of this Article shall be resolved within a period of ten days following the adoption of the decision of the panel of judges on accepting the case for examination upon the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court.
5. The decision on accepting the case for examination shall be forwarded to the parties within a period of three days.

Article 29. Rejecting the examination of the case

1. The Constitutional Court shall render a procedural decision on rejecting the examination of the case in full or in part:
 - (1) where the issues raised in the application fall out of the competence of the Constitutional Court;
 - (2) where the applicant is not entitled to apply to the Constitutional Court on that issue;
 - (3) where there is a decision of the Constitutional Court on an issue raised in any of the applications submitted with regard to the cases referred to in points 1-5 of Article 168 of the Constitution;
 - (4) where trial of a case is being conducted at the Constitutional Court based on another application on the subject matter of the application;
 - (5) where the validity of the disputed legal act or provision has been expired, and it has not been applied or shall not be subject to application;
 - (6) in other cases provided for by Article 69 of this Law.
2. With regard to the applications submitted under point 3 of part 1 of this Article, the Constitutional Court may, based on the circumstances of the case, render a reasoned procedural decision on accepting the case for examination.

3. The Constitutional Court shall, within three days and in cases provided for by Articles 81, 84 and 86 of this Law, immediately, forward the procedural decision on rejecting the examination of the case in full or in part to the parties.

4. *(part repealed by HO-157-N of 23 March 2018)*

(Article 29 amended by HO-157-N of 23 March 2018)

Article 30. Withdrawing the application

1. The applicant may withdraw the application submitted to the Constitutional Court until the commencement of the trial of the case, except for the cases when applying to the Constitutional Court is the obligation of the applicant.

2. The Constitutional Court may reject the withdrawal of the application on the basis whereof the case has been accepted for examination, where it finds that the examination of the case on the subject matter of the application derives from public interests, except for the cases provided for by this Law when withdrawal of the application leads to dismissal of the examination of the case.

Article 31. Suspension of a disputed legal act or provision upon the decision of the Constitutional Court

1. After accepting the case for examination, the Constitutional Court may, on the motion of the applicant or on its own initiative, until the completion of the trial of the case, suspend a legal act or a provision the constitutionality whereof is disputed, where the failure to adopt a decision on suspension may result in irrevocable or grave consequences for the applicant or the public.

2. The procedural decision on suspension of the disputed legal act or provision shall enter into force from the day following the publication of the decision on

the official website of the Constitutional Court. Such decision shall also be immediately published on the official website of public notifications of the Republic of Armenia at <http://www.azdarar.am>, and the relevant information shall be reported through the Public Television and Radio within 24 hours.

CHAPTER 5

PRINCIPLES OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Article 32. *Ex officio* investigation of the circumstances of a case

1. The Constitutional Court shall investigate the factual circumstances of a case *ex officio*.
2. The Constitutional Court shall not be restrained with evidence, explanations, motions, proposals, objections filed by the participants in the constitutional proceedings and, on his or her initiative, shall take adequate measures to obtain possible and available information on the actual facts necessary for the disposition of the certain case.

Article 33. Collegiality

1. The Constitutional Court shall examine the cases and deliver decisions and opinions with regard thereto collegially.

Article 34. Equality before the law

1. The Constitutional Court shall ensure that the parties have equal opportunities throughout the examination of the case by, *inter alia*, affording them the opportunity to effectively present their position on the case under examination.

Article 35. Publicity

1. The trial shall be public, except for the cases prescribed by part 4 of this Article.
2. Those present at a session may take written notes of the trial and audio-record it.
3. The trial may be filmed and broadcast, *inter alia*, through the internet, if the Constitutional Court has not taken a procedural decision on restricting the filming and broadcasting of the trial.
4. For the purpose of protection of the private life of the participants in the procedure, minors, and interests of justice, as well as for the purpose of protection of state security, public order or morality, the representatives of mass media and public representatives may be prohibited from participating in the sessions of the Constitutional Court or in some of them upon the procedural decision taken by the majority vote of all the judges of the Constitutional Court.
5. On the initiative of the Constitutional Court or on the motion of one of the parties to the proceedings, the question of holding a trial closed to the public shall also be discussed in a session closed to the public and the decision shall be delivered in the deliberation room.
6. A session closed to the public may be attended by the parties to the trial, their representatives, and if necessary, by witnesses, experts and translators.
7. Regardless of all circumstances, the final part of the decisions on the merits and of the opinions of the Constitutional Court shall be announced in a public session.

Article 36. Language of the examination of cases

1. The constitutional proceedings shall be conducted in Armenian.

2. The participants in the proceedings may speak in the court in their preferred language if they provide the Armenian translation. The Constitutional Court shall provide free of charge translation services to the participants in the proceedings having no command of Armenian at the expense of the state budget funds if they prove that they lack the means to afford paid translation services.
3. The procedure for and the amount of remuneration of the translators shall be established by the decision of the Government.

CHAPTER 6

GENERAL RULES FOR EXAMINATION OF CASES AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Article 37. Session of the Constitutional Court

1. The trial of cases at the Constitutional Court shall be conducted at the sessions of the Constitutional Court.
2. The session shall have quorum, where the quorum for rendering a decision with regard to the given case provided for by Article 62 of this Law is present.
3. The trial of each case at the Constitutional Court shall be conducted in a separate court session.

Article 38. Power to convene a court session

1. The session of the Constitutional Court shall be convened and presided by the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court.

Article 39. Preparing the case for trial

1. The Chairperson of the Constitutional Court and the rapporteur shall decide on the scope of persons to be invited to the session of the court.
2. Carbon copies of applications and of other documents obtained in the course of preparing the case for trial shall be forwarded to the judges of the Constitutional Court, the parties, and, where necessary, upon the decision of the Constitutional Court, to the invitees, at least ten days prior to the court session, and with regard to the cases provided for by Article 81, 84 and 86 of this Law — at least one day prior to the session.
3. The Staff of the Constitutional Court shall notify the participants in the proceedings and the invitees of the day and time of the session of the Constitutional Court as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.

Article 40. The procedure for trial of cases at the Constitutional Court

1. Trial of cases at the Constitutional Court shall be conducted both through oral and written procedure, in compliance with this Law.
2. Rules for trial of cases through written procedure shall be prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court, based on the general requirements of this Law.
3. Participants of the trial of the cases shall, within a period of three days from the moment of accepting the case for examination, be informed about conducting the trial of the case through written or oral procedure by letter, which must contain the following information:

- (1) the text of the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court on conducting the trial of the case through written or oral procedure;
- (2) the term during which the participants of the trial must submit their written explanations, if the trial is conducted through written procedure, and other materials of the case;
- (3) brief information on the rights and obligations of the participants during the trial of the case.

Article 41. Joinder of cases at the Constitutional Court

1. Before the commencement of the trial, upon the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court, only cases on the same issue may be joined and examined at the same session of the court.

Article 42. Requirements of the Constitutional Court

1. The Constitutional Court, and in connection with the preparation of the case for trial, also the judge of the Constitutional Court as rapporteur in the given case, with the knowledge of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court, shall be entitled to request documents, information and other materials from state and local self-government bodies, the officials thereof, expert examinations, except for the expert examinations with regard to the matters of law and from natural and legal persons — materials at their disposal.
2. The requirements (hereinafter referred to as “the requirement”) of the Constitutional Court and the rapporteur shall be fulfilled within the time limits prescribed by the Constitutional Court or the rapporteur.

3. Where the fulfilment of the requirements of the Constitutional Court or the reporting judge is impossible within the time limit referred to in part 2 of this Article, the addressee of the requirement shall be obliged to notify the Constitutional Court or the rapporteur in writing of the necessity to extend the time limits, no later than three days prior to the expiry of the time limits for the fulfilment of the requirement. The Constitutional Court and the reporting judge may extend the time limits for the fulfilment of the requirement or readdress the requirements to another body (person). Otherwise, the time limits already prescribed by the Constitutional Court or the rapporteur shall remain in force.
4. Failure to fulfil or improper fulfilment or violation of time limits of fulfilment, by state and local self-government bodies, natural and legal persons, of the requirements of the Constitutional Court for providing documents, information, and other materials shall entail administrative liability.

Article 43. Evidence at the Constitutional Court

1. Evidence in a case shall be any information obtained as prescribed by law, based on which the Constitutional Court clarifies the claims of the parties to the proceedings and the presence or absence of facts substantiating the objections.
2. Information referred to in part 1 of this Article shall be verified by the following:
 - (1) testimonies of witnesses;
 - (2) expert opinion;
 - (3) written documents, materials and items (written and material evidence), including official statements of information and other information received from state and local self-government bodies;
 - (4) testimonies given by parties to the proceedings as witnesses.

3. The parties shall not have the right to destroy or conceal any evidence or to hinder in any other manner the examination and assessment thereof, making the collection and submission of evidence impossible or difficult.

Article 44. Participants and invitees in the constitutional proceedings

1. Participants in the constitutional proceedings shall be as follows:
 - (1) parties to the proceedings:
 - a. applicant — the bodies and the persons having the right or having the obligation to apply to the Constitutional Court, pursuant to Article 25 of this Law,
 - b. respondent — the bodies and persons provided for by this Law;
 - (2) witness, expert and translator;
 - (3) in cases prescribed by this Law, third parties, as well as other persons enjoying the rights of a party to the proceedings as provided for by this Law.
2. Representatives of the President of the Republic, the National Assembly, the Government, the Supreme Judicial Council, the Court of Cassation, the Human Rights Defender, the Prosecutor General, who are willing to participate in a session of the Constitutional Court, may apply to the Constitutional Court and receive the materials relating to the case in advance. During the trial, they may provide clarifications on the questions of the Constitutional Court addressed thereto in the status of invitees.

Article 45. Involving as a respondent

1. Where the applicant fails to mention the respondent in an application submitted to the Constitutional Court or mentioned an improper party, the Constitutional Court shall involve the respondent or the appropriate respondent and, in cases provided for by this Law, also the co-respondents as a party upon the procedural decision on accepting the case for examination.

Article 46. Representation at the Constitutional Court

1. Parties may act at the Constitutional Court personally or through their representatives.
2. The head of the body having applied to the Constitutional Court, the head of the body having adopted the disputed act, as well as the person having been appointed as prescribed by the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia “Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly”, may act as an *ex officio* representative of a party.
3. Persons authorised by a party may act as a representative thereof at the Constitutional Court — an official or the advocate or the person having higher education in law, the powers whereof are certified as prescribed by law.
4. With regard to the cases provided for by point 11 of Article 168 of the Constitution, the Deputy Prosecutor General shall act as a representative of the Prosecutor General at the Constitutional Court.
5. Each party may have not more than three representatives at the Constitutional Court.

Article 47. Rights of the parties

1. The parties shall have the right to:
 - (1) acquaint themselves with the materials of the case, take extracts therefrom;
 - (2) submit materials of significance for disposition of the case;
 - (3) present their stance in relation to the case;
 - (4) address questions to the other party, his or her representative, expert, witness;
 - (5) file motions, make recommendations, file objections.
2. During a trial through written procedure, the parties shall submit their explanations, motions, proposals and objections in writing within the time limits defined by the Constitutional Court, until the commencement of the trial of the case.
3. After the expiry of the time limits established by the Constitutional Court, the parties may submit explanations, motions, objections, proposals, evidence or other materials, where such materials, due to reasons beyond the control of the party, have become known to him or her during the trial, are essential for disposal of the case and will contribute to more effective trial of the case.

Article 48. Responsibilities of the parties

1. The parties shall be obliged to:
 - (1) appear at the invitation of the Constitutional Court;
 - (2) give explanations and answer questions;
 - (3) submit materials relating to the case upon the request of the Constitutional Court;

- (4) observe the rules of examination of cases at the Constitutional Court and other requirements of this Law;
- (5) exercise their procedural rights in good faith.

Article 49. Procedure for the court session

1. When judges of the Constitutional Court enter the courtroom those present in the courtroom shall rise to their feet. They shall then take their seats at the invitation of the presiding judge of the session. Derogations from this rule shall be allowed by the permission of the Court.
2. The presiding judge, assuring at the appointed time, that the session has quorum, shall open the session and announce the case subject to examination.
3. The presiding judge shall, through the secretariat of the session, find out whether the participants in the proceedings are present and verify the powers of the representatives of the parties; afterwards, he or she shall put the issue of commencing the case trial under consideration. If the Court finds it impossible to commence the case trial, it shall render a procedural decision on postponing it. After postponing the trial of the case, a new trial thereof shall resume from the point at which it was disrupted.
4. The presiding judge shall clarify the rights and responsibilities of those participating in the proceedings present at the court session.
5. The participants and the invitees of the proceedings shall address the Court as “High Court” and shall give explanations, motions, recommendations, objections, clarifications or answers standing up. Derogations from the rules provided for by this part shall be allowed by the permission of the Court.
6. The trial of the case shall start with the report of the rapporteur. The judges of the Constitutional Court may address questions to the rapporteur.

7. After the report, the Constitutional Court shall hear the opinions of the judges of the Court and the recommendations of the parties on the proceedings for studying the materials of the case and shall render a procedural decision thereon. The procedure established for studying the materials of the case may be altered upon the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court.
8. Persons present at the court session shall be obliged to keep silence during the trial, hear decisions and opinions of the Constitutional Court related to the case standing up. Derogations from this rule shall be allowed by the permission of the Court.
9. When the Constitutional Court leaves the courtroom, everyone present shall rise. Derogations from this rule shall be allowed by the permission of the Court.

Article 50. Sanctions imposed by the Constitutional Court

1. The presiding judge shall be entitled to warn the person having committed a violation in case the person maliciously evades appearing at the court or exercises his or her procedural rights in bad faith or fails to perform his or her procedural duties without good reason or performs them improperly, fails to perform orders of the presiding judge, hinders the natural course of the court session or commits contempt of court by means of taking other actions breaking the order of the court session, and the Constitutional Court shall be competent for removing the person breaking the order from the courtroom, if necessary.
2. The sanction shall be proportionate to the severity of the act and be aimed at ensuring the normal operation of the Court.
3. Removal from the courtroom may be imposed on the participants in the proceedings for no longer than 36 hours, whereas it may be imposed on other persons present at the court session, for a certain time period or until the conclusion of the trial.

4. Removal from the courtroom may not be imposed on the person testifying at the given moment. Where removal from the courtroom is imposed on the party of the proceeding, the court session shall be postponed for the period for which the sanction is to be in effect.
5. The Court shall have the right to allow — upon a substantiated motion of the participating in the proceedings, who has been removed from the courtroom, or his or her representative, prior to the end of the time period for the imposition of the sanction — to restore the participation of the removed person in the court session.
6. Where a procedural decision on removing from the courtroom is not promptly and voluntarily complied with, it shall be enforced in a compulsory manner.
7. The judicial fine shall be imposed in the amount of up to AMD 100 000. The amount of the judicial fine shall be determined at the discretion of the court; however, in addition to the gravity of the act, the personal characteristics of the perpetrator of the act must also be taken into account. Judicial fine shall be imposed upon a procedural decision rendered at the same court session. The decision on imposing a judicial fine shall be subject to compulsory enforcement as prescribed by law.
8. Judicial sanction "removal from the courtroom" shall not be imposed on a prosecutor or an advocate participating in the examination of the case as a representative of the party. After imposing a judicial sanction on a prosecutor or an advocate participating in the examination of the case as a representative of the party for committing violations provided for by part 1 of this Article, the Constitutional Court shall forward the procedural decision on the judicial sanction to the Prosecutor General or the Chairperson of the Chamber of Advocates, respectively. The procedural decision on imposing a judicial sanction shall not exclude the possibility to initiate disciplinary proceedings against a prosecutor or an advocate for the same act.

9. Instead of imposing the judicial sanction provided for by this Article, the Constitutional Court may apply to the Prosecutor General or the Chairperson of the Chamber of Advocates for subjecting a prosecutor or advocate to liability respectively. Applying to the Prosecutor General or the Chairperson of the Chamber of Advocates shall be carried out upon the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court rendered at the same court session. It shall serve as a mandatory ground for initiating disciplinary proceedings against the prosecutor or the advocate.
10. The procedural decision of the Court on imposing a judicial sanction shall enter into force upon promulgation thereof at the session.
11. Where the Court finds that the participant of the proceedings or another person present at the court session has displayed such conduct or has committed such act which entails criminal liability, it may, without warning, impose a judicial sanction on the person as prescribed by this Article, except for a fine, and shall file a motion with the prosecutor to initiate a criminal case. The Constitutional Court shall take a procedural decision thereon.

Article 51. Explanations of the parties

1. The presiding judge shall suggest the parties to give explanations on the circumstances of the case under examination and presenting evidence substantiating their stance.
2. The Constitutional Court shall hear the explanations of the parties in full.
3. The parties shall not have the right to use their speeches for making political statements.
4. After the explanations given by the party, the judges of the Constitutional Court, the other party and, upon the permission of the Court, also the expert may address questions to the party concerned.

5. The information presented in the explanations of the parties concerning the facts shall not have probative value. A party may disclose information of probative value relating to the facts only through the procedure provided for by Article 52 of this Law.
6. The parties, after having given the explanations, may provide the text of their explanations to the Constitutional Court.

Article 52. A party acting as a witness

1. If a party is aware of any fact to be clarified with respect to the given case, it may act as a witness on its own initiative.
2. If, notwithstanding the measures taken to obtain evidence, the acquired evidence is not sufficient for rendering a decision or accepting an opinion on the case, and a party may be aware of any fact to be clarified with respect to the given case, it shall be obliged to act as a witness upon the request of the Constitutional Court or upon the motion of the other party.
3. Parts 2-4 of Article 55 of this Law shall extend to the party having acted as a witness.

Article 53. Expert opinions

1. A person with special knowledge on the matters of the case under examination and not interested in the outcome of the case may, upon his or her consent, be involved in the constitutional proceedings as an expert.
2. If an expert has not appeared at a session of the Constitutional Court without a valid reason, he or she may be apprehended to the Constitutional Court upon the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court, as prescribed by law.

3. The expert shall be warned by the presiding judge of the court session about the liability prescribed by law for delivering an obviously false opinion.
4. The Constitutional Court shall decide on the scope of the issues requiring expert opinion.
5. The issues envisaged for an expert opinion shall be clearly worded. They shall be submitted in writing.

Article 54. Rights and responsibilities of the expert

1. The expert shall have the right to:
 - (1) acquaint himself or herself with the materials of the case upon permission of the Constitutional Court;
 - (2) address questions, upon permission of the Constitutional Court, to the parties and witnesses, as well as to another expert having delivered an opinion at the court session;
 - (3) file motions to provide him or her with additional materials.
2. After delivering the opinion, the expert shall be obliged to answer the questions of the judges of the Constitutional Court and the parties.
3. The opinion shall be submitted to the Constitutional Court with the signature of the expert.

Article 55. Testimonies of witnesses

1. The Constitutional Court shall, upon the motion of a party or on its own initiative, invite those who may be aware of any fact to be disclosed with respect to the given case to the court session as a witness and hear their testimonies. The

Constitutional Court may reject the motion of a party to invite a witness with a reasoned procedural decision.

2. If a witness has not appeared at a session of the Constitutional Court without a valid reason, he or she may be apprehended to the Constitutional Court upon the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court, as prescribed by law.
3. The witness shall be warned by the presiding judge of the court about the liability prescribed by law for giving an obviously false testimony or refusing to give testimony.
4. A witness shall be obliged to inform the Court of the facts — he or she is personally aware of — relating to the case under examination, to answer the questions of the judges, the parties and the expert.
5. The witnesses having appeared at the court session shall be asked to leave the courtroom before their interrogations start. The staff shall take measures to make sure that the interrogated witnesses do not communicate with those not interrogated.

Article 56. Suspension of case proceedings

1. The Constitutional Court may suspend the case proceedings if:
 - (1) it has called for an expert examination;
 - (2) it has given judicial assignments;
 - (3) it is necessary to require evidence from other bodies or persons;
 - (4) one of the parties of the proceedings has requested to suspend the proceedings on the case due to illness or other good reason;
 - (5) in other cases provided for by a reasoned procedural decision of the Constitutional Court.

2. The suspension of the case proceedings lead to suspension of procedural time limits prescribed by this Law, Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court and by the procedural decisions of the Constitutional Court.
3. The case proceedings shall be resumed upon elimination of the grounds for suspension thereof. Prior to elimination of the grounds for suspension, the case proceedings shall be resumed upon a reasoned procedural decision of the Constitutional Court.

Article 57. Resumption of case proceedings

1. The Constitutional Court shall render a procedural decision on resuming the case proceedings, if it considers necessary to discover circumstances significant for disposal of the case or to examine new materials.
2. After resumption of the case proceedings, the parties shall have the right to make final speeches in relation to the new circumstances and materials examined.
3. After final speeches made by the parties, the presiding judge shall announce about the end of examination of the case.

Article 58. Minutes of sessions of the Constitutional Court

1. The sessions of the Constitutional Court shall be recorded. The procedure for making minutes of the session of the Constitutional Court shall be prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.
2. The presiding judge of the session and the person responsible for drawing up minutes shall sign the minutes of the session.
3. The parties shall have the right to get acquainted themselves with the minutes of the session and submit their observations, which shall be attached thereto.

Article 59. Adopting decisions and accepting opinions on a case

1. The Constitutional Court shall adopt decisions or accept opinions in closed-door court deliberation at which only the judges of the Constitutional Court having participated in the trial shall be present.
2. During the deliberation, a judge shall be entitled to express his or her opinion on the matters under consideration, as well as to express his or her stance on how the case should be disposed.
3. The number of speeches during the deliberation and duration thereof shall not be limited.
4. The results of the deliberation shall be recorded automatically. If it is impossible to record them automatically, one of the judges of the Constitutional Court shall, upon assignment of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court, record the results of the deliberation, as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court. The issues that have been voted on and the results of the voting shall be specified in the minutes.
5. The minutes shall be signed by the judges of the Constitutional Court having participated in the deliberation.
6. The results of the roll-call voting shall not be subject to publication.
7. The deliberation shall continue until the Court adopts a decision or accepts an opinion, not including the time envisaged for breaks and rest.
8. Before the decision is made public during the session of the Constitutional Court, the judges shall be obliged to refrain from releasing any information on the decision.

Article 60. Dismissing the case proceedings

1. The Constitutional Court shall dismiss the proceedings of the case:
 - (1) at any stage of examination of the case, where grounds for rejecting the examination of the case provided for by Article 29 of this Law have been disclosed;
 - (2) where the action of the challenged legal act or the provision thereof has been terminated prior to or in the course of the trial, and it has not been applied;
 - (3) in the cases provided for by Articles 75, 79, 80, 82-85 of this Law;
 - (4) in the cases provided for by point 5 of part 1 of Article 56 of this Law when the circumstances serving as grounds for suspension have not been eliminated within one year after a procedural decision has been rendered to suspend the case proceedings, and it is impossible to resume the case proceedings under such conditions.

CHAPTER 7

ACTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, THE PROCEDURE FOR RENDERING THEREOF AND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH ACTS

Article 61. Acts of the Constitutional Court

1. The Constitutional Court shall render decisions on the issues provided for by Article 168, except for the issue provided for by point 7, and opinions on the issue provided for by point 7 of Article 168 of the Constitution.

2. The Constitutional Court shall render procedural decisions on issues relating to preparation of cases for trial and the trial at the court, as well as other issues with regard to the organisation of activities thereof. The peculiarities of the procedure for rendering procedural decisions shall be defined by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.
3. The decisions and opinions on the merits of the Constitutional Court shall be final and shall enter into force upon publication thereof on the official website of the Constitutional Court. The decisions and opinions of the Constitutional Court shall be mandatorily published as prescribed by law for official promulgation of regulatory legal acts, as well as in the Journal of the Constitutional Court.
4. The decisions rendered on the merits by the Constitutional Court shall be binding for all state and self-government bodies, officials thereof, as well as natural and legal persons throughout the territory of the Republic of Armenia.
5. The procedural decisions of the Constitutional Court shall be binding for the participants of the proceedings and other addressees thereof.
6. Where the opinion of the Constitutional Court is negative, the issue shall be excluded from the discussion of the competent authority.
7. The acts of the Constitutional Court shall be sealed by a seal of the Constitutional Court with the image of the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia and its name.

Article 62. The procedure for rendering decisions and opinions

1. The decisions and opinions of the Constitutional Court shall be rendered through open ballot — by roll call of the judges.
2. The judge of the Constitutional Court shall be obliged to participate in the ballot and vote for or against rendering the relevant decision or opinion of the Constitutional Court.

3. The presiding judge shall be the last to vote.
4. The Constitutional Court shall render decisions on the merits by the majority of votes of the total number of judges, except for cases provided for by part 5 of this article. The decisions on the merits of the Constitutional Court shall be rendered in the name of the Republic of Armenia.
5. The decisions of the Constitutional Court on cases concerning termination of powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court and suspending or prohibiting the activities of a political party shall be rendered by at least two thirds of votes of the total number of judges.
6. The opinions of the Constitutional Court shall be rendered by at least two thirds of votes of the total number of judges.
7. The procedural decisions of the Constitutional Court shall be rendered by the majority of votes of the total number of judges, except for cases provided for by this law.
8. The Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court shall be adopted, amendments and supplements thereto shall be made by the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court rendered by at least two thirds of votes of the total number of judges of the Constitutional Court. The Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court shall be published as prescribed by law for official promulgation of regulatory legal acts.
9. Where the Constitutional Court fails to render a decision or an opinion on the merits due to a tie vote on the issue under the discussion, the application shall be deemed rejected, on which it shall be announced in the court room.
10. Within a ten-day period following the day of rendering a decision or an opinion provided for by parts 1-4 and 7 of Article 168 of the Constitution, a judge of the Constitutional Court may submit a special opinion both on the concluding and

reasoning parts of the decision or opinion, which shall be immediately published on the official website of the Constitutional Court, as prescribed by law for official promulgation of regulatory legal acts and in the Journal of the Constitutional Court.

Article 63. Requirements for the decisions and opinions

1. While determining the constitutionality of a legal act, the Constitutional Court shall assess both the act and the developed law enforcement practice.
2. The Constitutional Court shall render decisions and opinions only on the subject matter included in the application.
3. Circumstances that have not been examined during the trial of the case may not serve as a basis for the decision or opinion of the Constitutional Court.
4. The decisions and opinions of the Constitutional Court shall be made public at the court session and attached to the case.

Article 64. The text of the decision or opinion

1. Depending on the nature of the case, the decision or opinion of the Constitutional Court shall include the following information:
 - (1) the title of the decision or opinion, year, month, day and venue of rendering it;
 - (2) necessary data on the parties and other participants of the proceedings;
 - (3) the issue under examination, reasons and grounds;
 - (4) the article of the Constitution pursuant to which the court has the jurisdiction to examine the given case;

- (5) brief content of the application;
 - (6) factual and legal circumstances that the court has examined by the court;
 - (7) the articles of the Constitution and this Law, which have served as a basis for the Court while rendering a decision or an opinion;
 - (8) the legal stances substantiating the decision or opinion rendered by the Court, including those arguments which approve or deny what the parties claim;
 - (9) conclusion of the decision or opinion by mentioning, in cases provided for by this Law, about the invalidity of other provisions related to the legal act or to the provisions of that legal act that have been declared invalid;
 - (10) in the cases provided for by chapter 8 of this Law, a note that administrative and judicial acts are subject to revision as prescribed by law;
 - (11) in the case of rendering the decision prescribed by point 2 of part 9 of Article 68 of this Law, the brief constitutional and legal content of the challenged legal act or its provision in the concluding part of the decision;
 - (12) a note that the decision or opinion is final and that the decision enters into force from the moment of publication or on prescribing a later time limit for repealing a regulatory legal act or a part thereof not complying with the Constitution.
2. The decision and opinion of the Constitutional Court on the merits of a case shall be signed by the presiding judge.

Article 65. Delivery of a decision or an opinion

1. The decisions and opinions of the Constitutional Court shall, within three days from the day of rendering them, be delivered to the parties of the proceedings.

Article 66. Making amendments to the legal acts based on the decision of the Constitutional Court

1. The Government shall — not later than within a three-month period after publication of the decision of the Constitutional Court and based on the decision of the Constitutional Court — study and initiate, where necessary, drafting relevant legal acts and submitting them to the National Assembly.
2. Where the regulatory legal act has fully or partially been declared as contradicting the Constitution by the decision of the Constitutional Court and a later time limit has been set for repealing the regulatory legal act or part of it, the Government shall — prior to the expiry of that period — ensure the execution of the decision by submitting a draft or a draft package of a relevant law.

Article 67. Status summary of execution of decisions

1. The Constitutional Court shall — within a forty-five-day period after the end of each year — issue a communication on the official website of the Constitutional Court on the status of execution of its decisions.

CHAPTER 8

PECULIARITIES OF EXAMINATION AND DISPOSING OF CASES AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Article 68. Examination of cases on determining the compliance of legal acts with the Constitution based on applications of at least one fifth of the total number of Deputies, the President of the Republic, the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Human Rights Defender

1. The constitutionality of legal acts of both regulatory and individual nature specified in this Article may be disputed based on the cases provided for by point 1 of Article 168 of the Constitution, except for cases when the Human Rights Defender submits an application.
2. The Human Rights Defender may only dispute the compliance of regulatory legal acts listed in point 1 of Article 168 of the Constitution to provisions of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.
3. The constitutionality of legal acts of individual nature may be disputed within three-month period from the moment of rendering it.
4. The constitutionality of the laws on ratification of international treaties of the Republic of Armenia may be disputed only from the perspective of observance of requirements provided for by the Constitution for adopting the given law.
5. For the cases specified in this article, the state or local self-government body or the official having adopted the act being challenged shall be involved in the proceedings as a respondent.
6. Provided for by Article 204 of the Constitution, no respondent party shall be involved in the cases on disputing the constitutionality of laws submitted upon popular initiative and adopted through a referendum.

7. Cases referred to in part 1 of this Article shall be examined by the Constitutional Court through the written procedure, except for cases when the given case has acquired wide public notice by the assessment of the Constitutional Court or where the oral procedure thereof contributes to the disclosure of the circumstances of the case more effectively.
8. The Constitutional Court shall render a decision on cases referred to in part 1 of this Article not later than within six months after the arrival of the application. The time limit for examination of the case may be prolonged, but not more than for three months, upon the reasoned decision of the Constitutional Court.
9. The Constitutional Court may render one of the following decisions in the cases referred to in part 1 of this Article:
 - (1) on declaring the challenged act or the challenged provision thereof as complying with the Constitution;
 - (2) on declaring the challenged act or the challenged provision thereof as complying with the Constitution by interpretation of the Constitutional Court;
 - (3) on declaring the challenged act as fully or partially contradicting the Constitution and invalid;
 - (4) on declaring the challenged act as fully or partially contradicting the Constitution and prescribing a later time limit for repealing the regulatory legal act or a part thereof.
10. While determining the constitutionality of any regulatory legal act, the Constitutional Court shall also clarify the constitutionality of other provisions of the given act interrelated within a system with the challenged provision of that act. Once the Constitutional Court ascertains that other provisions of the given regulatory legal act interrelated with the challenged provisions contradict the

Constitution, the Constitutional Court may also declare those provisions as contradicting the Constitution and invalid.

11. In case a decision is rendered on declaring the challenged act as fully or partially contradicting the Constitution and invalid, it shall lose its legal force upon entry into force of the decision of the Constitutional Court, except for cases prescribed by parts 13 and 15 of this Article. Administrative or judicial acts, executed based on those acts, prior to rendering of the decision of the Constitutional Court, shall not be subject to revision, and execution of not executed administrative and judicial acts shall be immediately terminated after promulgation of the decision of the Constitutional Court upon a decision of the competent administrative body or the Court.
12. The relevant provisions of other regulatory legal acts which have ensured the execution of the regulatory legal act that has been declared invalid shall lose their legal force at the same time when the challenged act loses its legal force.
13. The Constitutional Court shall be entitled to extend the decision referred to in point 3 of part 9 of this Article also to legal relations preceding the entry into force of that decision, where failure to render such decision may entail grave consequences for the public or the state.
14. Administrative and judicial acts that have been executed within three years preceding the entry into force of the decision of the Constitutional Court, based on the regulatory legal act that has been declared as contradicting the Constitution and invalid upon the decision referred to in part 13 of this Article, as well as based on other legal acts having ensured the execution of that act shall be subject to revision by the body having rendered the administrative or judicial act as prescribed by law.
15. In case a decision is rendered on declaring the challenged provision of law prescribing criminal or administrative liability as contradicting the Constitution or

invalid, that provision shall lose its legal force upon the entry into force of such decision and judicial and — based on the application of the party — also administrative acts, rendered during the period of time preceding the entry into force of the decision of the Constitutional Court with respect to application of that provision, shall be subject to revision as prescribed by law.

16. The Constitutional Court may review the decisions referred to in points 1 and 2 of part 9 of this Article, based on an application submitted as prescribed by this Law, where:
 - (1) the provision of the Constitution applied with respect to the given case has been changed or
 - (2) new perception of the provision of the Constitution applied with respect to the given case has emerged owing to which other decision of the Constitutional Court may be rendered with regard to the same issue, and where the given issue has a fundamental constitutional and legal significance.
17. The procedural decision of the Constitutional Court with regard to accepting the case for examination based on grounds referred to in part 16 of this Article shall be rendered by at least two third of votes of the total number of judges of the Constitutional Court.
18. The examination of the cases referred to in part 16 of this Article may not be rejected based on point 3 of part 1 of Article 29 of this Law, where there are grounds provided for by parts 16 of this Article for the revision of the decision of the Constitutional Court.
19. Where the Constitutional Court finds that declaring the challenged regulatory legal act or any provision thereof as contradicting the Constitution and invalid upon the promulgation of the decision of the Constitutional Court may inevitably entail grave consequences for the state or public, that will violate the legal

security to be ensured at that moment by the elimination of the given regulatory legal act, the Constitutional Court may, by declaring that act as contradicting the Constitution, postpone in its decision the time when that act shall lose its legal force.

20. Postponement of repealing of the regulatory legal act must be adequate to a period of time during which it is possible and necessary to undertake measures aimed at preventing the consequences referred to in part 19 of this Article.

Article 69. Examination of cases with regard to determining constitutionality of regulatory legal acts applied against natural and legal persons through final judicial act under specific cases based on applications thereof

1. Application (hereinafter referred to as “individual application”) with regard to the cases referred to in this Article may be submitted by a natural or a legal person on a specific case, where the final act of the court is available, all domestic judicial remedies have been exhausted and the constitutionality of the relevant provision of a regulatory legal act applied against him or her with that act is being challenged, which has led to the violation of his or her fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in Chapter 2 of the Constitution, taking into account also the interpretation of the respective provision in law enforcement practice.
2. The individual application must contain references to the provisions of the regulatory legal act the constitutionality of which is being challenged and justifications that the contradiction of the regulatory legal act has led to the violation of his or her fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in Chapter 2 of the Constitution, by taking into account also the interpretation of the respective provision in law enforcement practice.

3. The applications with regard to the cases referred to in this Article may be submitted to the Constitutional Court by a natural or a legal person not later than six months after all judicial remedies have been exhausted — the entry into force of the final legal act.
4. The decision on accepting the case upon individual applications for examination or on rejecting the examination of the case shall be rendered by a panel composed of three judges of the Constitutional Court, in the name of the Constitutional Court, except for cases prescribed by part 16 of Article 68 of this Law.
5. In addition to the cases upon individual applications provided for by Article 29 of this Law, the examination of individual applications may be rejected also in cases when the individual application is obviously ungrounded or where the applicant has not exhausted all remedies for judicial protection or the six-month time limit for submitting application to the Constitutional Court, provided for by part 3 of this Article, has expired.
6. The decision rendered as provided for by part 5 of this Article on rejecting the examination of cases upon individual applications must be reasoned. It shall be adopted by a unanimous vote, otherwise the Constitutional Court shall re-examine and decide on the issue with regard to accepting the case for examination in a full composition, and the decision on such issue shall be rendered not later than three months after the day of arrival of the individual application.
7. The body, having rendered the relevant regulatory legal act, shall be involved as a respondent in the proceedings on the cases referred to in this Article, except for the case provided for by part 6 of Article 68 of this Law.
8. The Constitutional Court shall render a decision with regard to the cases referred to in this Article not later than within three months after the arrival of

the application. The time limit for examination of the case may be prolonged, but not more than for three months, upon the reasoned procedural decision of the Constitutional Court.

9. The procedure for acceptance and preliminary examination of individual applications shall be prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court.
10. Where a provision of a regulatory legal act applied against the applicant with regard to the cases referred to in this Article is declared as contradicting the Constitution and invalid, as well as where the Constitutional Court has declared it as complying with the Constitution and has simultaneously found that the provision had been applied against him or her by another interpretation, the final judicial act rendered against the applicant shall be subject to revision upon the grounds of a newly emerged circumstance as prescribed by the Law.
11. Part 10 of this Article shall also extend to persons who have retained the right to apply to the Constitutional Court with the same issue as of the arrival of the application to the Constitutional Court, however, have not applied to the Constitutional Court.
12. While deciding on the issue of the right to apply to the Constitutional Court as being retained, points 3 and 4 of part 1 of Article 29 of this Law shall not apply with regard to persons referred to by part 11 of this Article.
13. The rules provided for by parts 7-20 of Article 68 of this Law shall apply when examining all other circumstances related to the cases referred to in this Article and rendering decisions thereon.

Article 70. Examination of cases with regard to determining compliance of regulatory legal acts with the Constitution based on applications of local self-government bodies

1. The local self-government bodies may apply to the Constitutional Court with regard to the cases referred to in this Article related to the issue of compliance with the Constitution of the regulatory legal acts, listed in point 1 of Article 168 of the Constitution, which violate constitutional rights thereof.
2. The applications of the local self-government bodies with regard to the cases referred to in this Article must comply with the general requirements for application provided for by this Law, as well as requirements provided for by part 2 of Article 69 of this Law.
3. The applications with regard to the cases referred to in this Article may be submitted to the Constitutional Court not later than a year after the entry into force of the relevant regulatory legal act.
4. The state body, having rendered the challenged regulatory act, shall be involved as a respondent with regard to the cases referred to in this Article, except for the case provided for by part 6 of Article 68 of this Law.
5. The Constitutional Court shall render a decision with regard to the cases referred to in this Article within the time limits provided for by Article 68 of this Law.
6. The rules provided for by parts 7-20 of Article 68 of this Law shall apply when examining all other circumstances related to the cases referred to in this Article and rendering decisions thereon.

Article 71. Examination of cases with regard to determining compliance of regulatory legal acts with the Constitution based on applications of courts and Prosecutor General

1. Courts shall apply to the Constitutional Court in respect of the constitutionality of the regulatory legal act applicable in a specific case in the proceedings of the court, where they have reasonable doubts on the constitutionality thereof and find that the adjudication of the case is possible only through the application of that regulatory legal act.
2. The Prosecutor General may apply to the Constitutional Court in respect of the constitutionality of provisions of regulatory legal acts related to specific proceedings administered by the Prosecutor's Office.
3. Courts may apply to the Constitutional Court from the moment of initiation of proceedings with regard to the relevant case until the moment of rendering a decision on the merits with regard to that case, and the Prosecutor General — after accepting the case for proceedings before sending it to the competent court as prescribed by law.
4. In case of suspending proceedings, the courts and the Prosecutor General may submit the applications provided for by this Article within a period of three days after rendering a decision on suspension of the proceedings. Application to the Constitutional Court shall be recorded upon the decision of the relevant court or Prosecutor General.
5. The court shall substantiate its stance in the applications referred to in part 1 of this Article with regard to the challenged provision of the regulatory legal act regarding its contradiction to the Constitution, as well as the circumstance that the disposing of the case may be carried out only through application of the challenged provision.

6. In the applications referred to in part 2 of this Article the Prosecutor General shall substantiate his or her stance with regard to the challenged provision of the regulatory act regarding its contradiction with the Constitution, as well as the circumstance that proper performance of any power provided for by parts 2 or 3 of Article 176 of the Constitution is possible only through application of the challenged provision.
7. The state body or local self-government body, having rendered the challenged regulatory legal act, shall be involved as a respondent with regard to the cases referred to in this Article, except for the case provided for by part 6 of Article 68 of this Law.
8. The trial on the cases referred to in this Article shall be carried out through written procedure. The parties shall submit written statements expressing their stances to the Constitutional Court before commencement of the trial of the case.
9. The Constitutional Court shall render a decision with regard to the cases referred to in this Article not later than three months after the arrival of the application. The time limit for examination of the case may be prolonged, but not more than for three months, upon the reasoned procedural decision of the Constitutional Court.
10. The rules provided for by parts 9-20 of Article 68 of this Law shall apply when examining all other circumstances related to the cases referred to in this Article and rendering decisions thereon.

Article 72. Examination of the cases on determining the compliance with the Constitution of draft amendments to the Constitution, as well as draft legal acts to be put to a referendum

1. Prior to the adoption of a draft amendment to the Constitution, as well as the draft legal acts to be put to a referendum, the National Assembly shall apply to the Constitutional Court in respect of issues on membership in supranational organisations or on territorial changes.
2. The authorised representative of a popular initiative shall apply to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of a draft law being put to a referendum through a popular initiative.
3. The Constitutional Court shall render a decision with regard to the cases referred to in this Article not later than three months after the arrival of the application. The time limit for examination of the case may be prolonged, but not more than for three months, upon the reasoned procedural decision of the Constitutional Court.
4. With regard to the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall render one of the following decisions on:
 - (1) declaring the draft as complying with the Constitution;
 - (2) declaring the draft as fully or partially contradicting the Constitution.
5. The cases referred to in this Article shall be examined by the Constitutional Court through written procedure, except for the cases where the given case, according to the Constitutional Court, has gained public resonance, or where the oral trial thereof will contribute to a more effective establishment of the circumstances of the case.
6. The procedural decision of the Constitutional Court with regard to accepting the case for further re-examination of the law adopted through the procedure

established by this Article, as prescribed by Article 68 of this Law shall be rendered by at least two third of votes of the total number of judges of the Constitutional Court.

Article 73. Examination of the cases on determining the compliance with the Constitution of laws adopted by the National Assembly

1. The President of the Republic shall apply to the Constitutional Court in case of not signing the law adopted by the National Assembly with regard to determining the compliance of the law with the Constitution.
2. The President of the Republic shall apply to the Constitutional Court not later than 21 days after adoption of the law by the National Assembly.
3. The National Assembly shall be involved in the proceedings as a respondent with regard to the cases referred to in this Article.
4. With regard to the cases referred to in part 1 of this Article, the Constitutional Court shall render one of the following decisions on:
 - (1) declaring the law adopted by the National Assembly as complying with the Constitution;
 - (2) declaring the law adopted by the National Assembly as fully or partially contradicting the Constitution.
5. Where a decision is rendered on declaring the law adopted by the National Assembly or the challenged provision of the law as contradicting the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the law shall be withdrawn from circulation.
6. The rules of parts 3 and 5 of Article 72 of this Law shall apply when examining all the circumstances related to the cases referred to in this Article and rendering decisions thereon.

7. The procedural decision of the Constitutional Court with regard to accepting the case for further re-examination of the law adopted in line with the procedure established by this Article, as prescribed by Article 68 of this Law shall be rendered by at least two third of votes of the total number of judges of the Constitutional Court.

Article 74. Determination of the compliance with the Constitution of commitments defined in an international treaty

1. Prior to the ratification of an international treaty by the National Assembly, the Government shall apply to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue on compliance of the commitments defined therein with the Constitution.
2. With regard to the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court may, based on its workload, render a procedural decision on examining the mentioned cases in consecutive court sessions by postponing the adoption of the decision on the merits of the case after the completion of examination of each case, until the completion of examination of all the mentioned cases.
3. The decision of the Constitutional Court on the merits of each of the cases referred to in part 2 of this Article shall be rendered as a result of the same closed deliberations, and all the decisions shall be promulgated consecutively during the court session, according to the sequence of the examined cases.
4. The trial of the cases referred to in this Article shall be carried out through written procedure. Upon a reasoned procedural decision of the Constitutional Court, the trial of the case may be carried out through oral procedure.
5. With regard to the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall render a decision within three months following the arrival of the application.

6. With regard to the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall render one of the following decisions on:
 - (1) declaring the commitments defined in an international treaty as complying with the Constitution;
 - (2) declaring the commitments defined in an international treaty as fully or partially contradicting the Constitution.
7. Where the international treaty essentially affects the sovereign rights of the Republic of Armenia, the concluding part of the decision of the Constitutional Court shall contain a relevant note thereon.

Article 75. Examination of the cases on disputes arising between constitutional bodies with respect to their constitutional powers

1. With regard to the cases referred to in this Article, at least one fifth of the total number of Deputies, the President of the Republic of Armenia, the Government, the Supreme Judicial Council and the local self-government bodies shall apply to the Constitutional Court in relation to disputes arising with respect to the constitutional powers of the National Assembly and the bodies of the National Assembly.
2. With regard to the cases referred to in this Article, application to the Constitutional Court may be submitted within three-month period after the day the performance of the challenged action, inaction becomes known or the legal act is adopted.
3. President of the Republic, the National Assembly and the Government shall act as a respondent with regard to the cases referred to in this Article.
4. The application filed with regard to the cases referred to in this Article shall contain justifications that the action, inaction of the applicant or the legal act

violates the powers reserved to the applicant or the body represented thereby by the Constitution or it creates immediate threat of violation thereof.

5. The trial of the cases referred to in this Article shall be carried out through written procedure. Upon a reasoned procedural decision of the Constitutional Court, the trial of the case may be carried out through oral procedure.
6. The burden of proof with regard to the cases referred to in this Article shall be borne by the applicant.
7. The Constitutional Court shall render a decision with regard to the cases referred to in this Article not later than three months after the arrival of the application. The time limit for examination of the case may be prolonged, but not more than for three months, upon the reasoned procedural decision of the Constitutional Court.
8. By interpreting the relevant provision of the Constitution, with regard to the disputes arising between constitutional bodies with respect to their constitutional powers, the Constitutional Court shall render one of the following decisions on:
 - (1) declaring the performed action or shown inaction upon exercising the challenged power or the adopted legal act as complying with the Constitution;
 - (2) declaring the performed action or shown inaction upon exercising the challenged power as contradicting the Constitution, and the adopted legal act, fully or partially contradicting the Constitution and invalid;
 - (3) declaring the body having the competence of performing the challenged power not as a party to the proceedings and dismissing the proceedings in the case.
9. In the case referred to in point 2 of part 8 of this Article, the Constitutional Court shall assess also the constitutionality of the regulatory legal act or a

provision thereof, serving as a basis for the action, inaction or a legal act contradicting the Constitution and reaching the conviction that it contradicts the Constitution, it is entitled to declared this regulatory legal act or the relevant provision thereof as contradicting the Constitution and invalid.

Article 76. Settlement of disputes related to decisions adopted upon the results of a referendum

1. The cases referred to in this Article shall be brought before the Constitutional Court by a faction of the National Assembly on the fifth day after official promulgation of the results of referendum, by 18:00.
2. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article, the Central Electoral Commission shall be involved as a respondent party.
3. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall be entitled to assign the state or local self-government bodies, including the courts and the bodies of the prosecutor's office, also, where necessary, the employees of its Staff to obtain evidence (information on the facts) necessary for rendering its decision. The presented evidence shall be subject to examination by the Constitutional Court, in the general procedure prescribed by this Law. The Constitutional Court shall also be entitled to form a Task Force involving experts of the relevant field.
4. The trial of the cases referred to in this Article shall be conducted in an oral procedure.
5. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article the Constitutional Court shall render a decision within a 50-day period upon the arrival of the application.
6. The time limit for examination of the case may — upon the procedural decision of the Constitutional Court — be extended, but no more than thirty days.

7. With regard to cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall render one of the following decisions on:
 - (1) upholding the decision on summarising the results of the referendum;
 - (2) declaring the decision on summarising the results of the referendum as invalid and considering the draft under referendum as adopted or not or declaring the results of the referendum as invalid.

Article 77. Settlement of disputes related to decisions adopted upon the results of elections of the National Assembly

1. The cases referred to in this Article may be brought before the Constitutional Court by the political parties or alliances of political parties participating in the elections.
2. The cases referred to in this Article shall be brought before the Constitutional Court on the fifth day after official promulgation of the results of referendum, by 18:00.
3. The Central Electoral Commission shall be involved in the proceedings as a respondent party.
4. Where necessary, upon the motion of the party or on its own initiative, the Constitutional Court may involve, as a co-respondent, the state or local self-government bodies — except for courts — whose decisions or actions might have affected the results of elections, or who were obliged (shall be obliged) to ensure and protect the right of suffrage, as prescribed by law.
5. The political parties or alliances of political parties, whose interests are or may be affected during the examination of the case or by the decision to be adopted as a result, may — on the basis of their application — be involved in the procedure as third persons upon the procedural decision of the Constitutional

Court, whereas in cases when the decision of the Constitutional Court will also necessarily extend to the third persons, the Constitutional Court shall itself be obliged to involve these persons in the procedure.

6. Third persons may be involved in the procedure at any stage of the examination of the case.
7. Third persons shall enjoy all the rights of a party and shall bear all the responsibilities of the party, except for the rights and responsibilities which, by their essence, are not applicable to third persons.
8. With regard to obtaining evidence (information on the facts) necessary for rendering a decision by the Constitutional Court, the rules provided for by part 3 of Article 76 of this Law shall apply.
9. The trial of cases referred to in this Article shall be conducted in an oral procedure.
10. Information submitted by the applicant party on the facts shall be deemed reliable, where the respondent party refuses to express his or her position thereon, and where it is not refuted by other evidence obtained by the Constitutional Court, having an essential significance for rendering a decision in the given case.
11. Where the respondent party accepts the circumstances, whereby the applicant party substantiates the claims and objections thereof, the applicant party shall be exempt from the duty to further submit evidence on the these circumstances.
12. Examination of the cases referred to in this Article may be suspended only in cases when the suspension does not obstruct the completion of examination of the given case within the time limits provided for by the Constitution and part 15 of this Article.

13. With regard to the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall render one of the following decisions on:
 - (1) upholding the decision adopted upon the results of elections of the National Assembly;
 - (2) declaring the decision adopted upon the results of elections of the National Assembly as invalid, and
 - a. declaring the results of elections as invalid;
 - b. declaring the results of elections as invalid and prescribing the procedure for distributing mandates;
 - c. appointing the second phase of elections.
14. Where as a result of examination of the case the Constitutional Court, exhausting all the means provided for by this Law for obtaining evidence, did not, however, have an opportunity to determine the actual results of the elections, but it has become obvious from the evidence assessed as reliable by the Constitutional Court that the election fraud has had an organised, massive, repeated or regular nature, and the comparison thereof attests to such a systemic interconnection between them, against the backdrop of which the principles of suffrage enshrined in Article 7 of the Constitution are violated, the Constitutional Court shall — when rendering a decision — be entitled to declare the results of elections as invalid based on that ground.
15. With regard to the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall render the decision no later than within 15 days after the arrival of the application.

Article 78. Settlement of disputes related to decisions adopted upon the results of elections of the President of the Republic

1. Candidates for the President of the Republic and the factions of the National Assembly may — no later than within a period of ten days after rendering decisions adopted upon the result of the election of the President of the Republic — apply to the Constitutional Court in respect of the cases referred to in this Article.
2. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article, the respondent party involved in the procedure shall be the National Assembly.
3. The examination of the cases referred to in this Article shall be conducted through an oral procedure.
4. While rendering a decision on the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall determine the compliance of the nomination and election of a candidate for the President of the Republic with the procedure provided for by the Constitution and by the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia “ The Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly”.
5. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall render one of the following decisions:
 - (1) upholding the decision adopted upon the result of the election of the President of the Republic;
 - (2) declaring the decision adopted upon the result of the election of the President of the Republic as invalid, and
 - a. declaring the relevant candidate as elected;
 - b. calling a second round of elections;
 - c. calling a third round of elections.
 - d. calling new elections.

6. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall render a decision within a period of ten days after the arrival of the application.
7. While rendering a decision on the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional court shall also be entitled to assess the constitutionality of the provisions of regulatory legal acts subject to application in the case under examination and, in the case of arriving to the conclusion that they contradict the Constitution, the Constitutional Court shall declare the mentioned provisions as contradicting the Constitution and invalid.

Article 79. Examination of cases on termination of the Powers of a Deputy.

1. The cases referred to in this Article shall be brought before the Constitutional Court by the Council of the National Assembly.
2. At least one fifth of the total numbers of Deputies may apply, as prescribed by point 7 of Article 157 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia “The Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly” to the Constitutional Court in relation to the cases referred to in this Article.
3. The application with regard to cases referred to in this Article must comply with the general requirements for applications provided for by this Law. The application must state the ground for termination of powers of a Deputy provided for by Article 95 and part 2 of Article 98 of the Constitution, as well as evidence conforming it must be attached to the application.
4. The Deputy, the case in respect of termination of powers whereof is being examined, shall be involved in the proceedings as a respondent in the cases referred to in this Article and shall enjoy the rights of a party to the proceedings prescribed by this Law and bear the responsibilities provided therefor. The failure by a duly notified Deputy to appear before the court without an excusable reason shall not be an obstacle for the trial of the case.

5. The trial of the cases referred to in this Article shall be carried out through oral procedure.
6. The burden of proof in the cases referred to in this Article shall be borne by the applicant.
7. For the purposes of the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall verify the existence of grounds for termination of the powers of a Deputy provided for by Article 95 and part 2 of Article 98.
8. Where the applicant withdraws the application within the time limits prescribed by this Law, and the Deputy does not object to it within a period of three days, the proceedings of the case shall be terminated.
9. The decision of the Constitutional Court in respect of cases referred to in this Article shall be rendered no later than thirty days after the arrival of the application.
10. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article the Constitutional Court may render one of the following decisions on:
 - (1) termination of the powers of a Deputy;
 - (2) rejecting the application;

Article 80. Examination of cases in respect of delivering opinion on the existence of grounds for removing the President of the Republic from office

1. The National Assembly shall apply to the Constitutional Court in respect of the cases referred to in this Article upon the decision adopted by the majority of votes of the total number of Deputies no later than within a three month period after the National Assembly has learnt of the grounds for removing the President from the office.

2. The National Assembly must indicate in its decision the legal act, action or omission of the President of the Republic, which contain elements of treason against the State or other grave or particularly grave crimes provided for by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia or elements of gross violation of the Constitution.
3. The application in respect of the cases referred to in this Article must comply with general requirements for applications provided for by this Law, as well as evidence confirming the grounds for removing the President of the Republic from office must be attached to the decision of the National Assembly.
4. The President of the Republic shall be involved as a respondent in the proceedings in the cases referred to in this Article, and shall enjoy the rights of a party to the proceedings, prescribed by this Law, and bear responsibilities provided therefor.
5. The failure of the President of the Republic to appear before the court shall not be an obstacle for the trial of the case.
6. The trial of the case referred to in this Article shall be carried out through oral procedure.
7. The burden of proof in the cases referred to in this Article shall be borne by the applicant.
8. The opinion of the Constitutional Court in respect of the cases referred to in this Article shall be delivered no later than three months after the arrival of the application.
9. When preparing the case for the trial, the Constitutional Court may form a Task Force for the purpose of clarifying separate circumstances based on the assignments given thereby, as well as may give assignments to the competent bodies for clarifying certain circumstances relating to the given case.

10. During the examination of the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court or the Task Force shall be entitled to:
 - (1) request materials, criminal, civil, administrative cases, criminal judgments, judgments, decisions, statements of information and other materials at the disposal of judicial, prosecutorial, investigation bodies, other state bodies, as well as local self government bodies;
 - (2) order expert examination and receive opinions;
 - (3) invite and hear the persons whose explanations may have significance for the opinion to be delivered in a case.
11. After the court session opens, the representative of the National Assembly shall introduce the position of the applicant, after which the President of the Republic or the representative thereof shall present his or her position on the introduced facts. After that, examination of evidence shall be carried out. The applicant party who may insist on or withdraw his or her application and the President of the Republic or the representative thereof, who is granted an opportunity to state his or her defence, shall make final statements at the end of the session. The President of the Republic or the representative thereof shall have the right to make a final speech. After the final speech, the Constitutional Court may, through the procedure provided for by this Law, render a procedural decision to resume the proceedings of the case, and where such a decision is not rendered the person presiding at the session shall announce the completion of the examination of the case.
12. Where the applicant withdraws the application within the time limit prescribed by this Law, and the President of the Republic does not object to it within a period of three days, the proceedings of the case shall be terminated.
13. Withdrawal of the application shall be carried out through the procedure prescribed by the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia “The Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly”.

14. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court may deliver one of the following opinions:
 - (1) on the absence of grounds for removing the President of the Republic from office;
 - (2) on the existence of grounds for removing the President of the Republic from office.
15. When delivering an opinion, the Constitutional Court shall also be entitled to assess the constitutionality of the provisions of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia stipulating the elements of crime referred to in part 2 of this Article. Once convinced that those provisions contradict the Constitution, the Constitutional Court shall render a decision on recognition the mentioned provision as contradicting the Constitution and invalid and shall deliver an opinion provided for by point 1 of part 14 of this Article.
16. In the opinion provided for by point 2 of part 14 of this Article, the Constitutional Court must indicate:
 - (1) the legal acts, actions or omission of the President of the Republic, which contain elements of treason or other grave or particularly grave crimes provided for by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the qualification of that crime or the legal acts, actions or omission which contain elements of gross violation of the Constitution;
 - (2) the evidence confirming the guilt of the President of the Republic for the actions referred to in point 1 of this part and the reasoned position of the court on the assessment thereof.
17. The opinion shall be forwarded to the National Assembly and announced on public television no later than the day following the delivery of the opinion.

Article 81. Examination of cases on impossibility of exercise of powers of the President of the Republic

1. The Government shall apply to the Constitutional Court in respect of the cases on impossibility of exercise of the powers of the President of the Republic no later than five days after it has learnt the information on the impossibility of exercise of the powers of the President of the Republic.
2. The applications in respect of cases referred to in this Article must comply with the general requirements for an application provided for by this Law, as well as evidence confirming the grounds for impossibility of exercise the powers of the President of the Republic must be attached to the decision of the Government.
3. The trial of the cases referred to in this Article shall be carried out through oral procedure.
4. The burden of proof in respect of the cases referred to in this Article shall be borne by the applicant.
5. In respect of cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall provide the President of the Republic with the opportunity to express his or her position on the given case, where it is possible.
6. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall be entitled to:
 - (1) request opinions, statements of information and other materials from state and local self-government bodies, as well as medical institutions;
 - (2) invite and hear the persons whose explanations may have significance for the opinion to be delivered in a case.
7. The decision of the Constitutional Court in respect of the cases referred to in this Article must be rendered no later than five days after the arrival of the application.

8. The Constitutional Court may render one of the following decisions in cases referred to in this Article:
 - (1) on the impossibility of exercise the powers of the President of the Republic;
 - (2) on the absence of grounds for the impossibility of exercise of the powers of the President of the Republic.
9. The decision shall be forwarded to the National Assembly, to the Government and announced on public television no later than the day following the adoption of the decision.

Article 82. Examination of cases related to subjecting the judge of the Constitutional Court to disciplinary liability

1. At least three judges of the Constitutional Court may submit an application in respect of the cases referred to in this Article.
2. The application must specify the grounds provided by this Law on which disciplinary liability may be imposed on the judge of the Constitutional Court.
3. The application in respect of cases referred to in this Article must comply with the general requirements for applications provided for by this Law, as well as evidence confirming the existence of grounds for imposing disciplinary liability on the judge of the Constitutional Court must be attached to the application.
4. The judge of the Constitutional Court, the case of imposing disciplinary liability whereon is being examined, shall be involved in the proceedings exclusively as a respondent and shall enjoy the rights of a party to the proceedings provided by this Law., and bear the responsibilities provided thereof.
5. The failure by a duly notified judge of the Constitutional Court to appear before the court without an excusable reason shall not be an obstacle for the trial of the case.

6. The trial of the cases referred to in this Article shall be carried out through oral procedure.
7. The burden of proof in the cases referred to in this Article shall be borne by the applicant.
8. Where the applicant withdraws the application within the time limits prescribed by this Law, and the judge of the Constitutional Court does not object to it within a period of three days, the proceedings of the case shall be terminated. The withdrawal of the application shall be established upon the unanimous consent of the applicant judges.
9. In the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall, no later than 50 days after the arrival of the application, render one of the following decisions:
 - (1) on rejecting the application;
 - (2) on imposing disciplinary liability on a judge of the Constitutional Court and applying one of the types of disciplinary penalties thereon provided for by part 10 of this Article.
10. In respect of the cases referred to in this case the Constitutional Court may impose on a judge one of the following types of disciplinary penalties:
 - (1) warning;
 - (2) reprimand;
 - (3) severe reprimand.
11. The disciplinary penalty imposed on a judge shall be proportionate to the committed violation. While imposing a disciplinary penalty, the Constitutional Court shall take into account the nature and consequences of the violation, the personal characteristics of the judge, existing penalties, as well as other circumstances significant for the case.

12. Where no new disciplinary penalty has been imposed on a judge of the Constitutional Court within two years after the day of receiving a severe reprimand, within one year after the day of receiving a reprimand, within six months after the day of receiving a warning, it shall be considered that no disciplinary penalty has been imposed on him or her.
13. When rendering a decision in respect of the cases referred to in this Article the Constitutional Court shall also assess the constitutionality of the Law stipulating grounds for imposing disciplinary liability on the judge of the Constitutional Court and, in the case of arriving to the conclusion that they contradict the Constitution, the Constitutional Court shall render the decision referred to in point 1 of part 9 of this Article.

Article 83. Examination of cases on terminating the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. The right to apply to the Constitutional Court for terminating the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court may rest with the National Assembly upon a decision — in which the grounds prescribed in part 9 of Article 164 of the Constitution and in part 2 of Article 12 of this Law shall be specified — adopted by a vote of at least three fifths of all the Deputies.
2. The applications in the cases referred to in this Article must comply with the general requirements for applications provided for by this Law, as well as evidence confirming the grounds for termination the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court must be attached to the decision of the National Assembly.
3. The powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court shall — from the moment of accepting the application in the cases referred to in this Article for examination — be suspended prior to the completion of the trial.

4. A judge shall, during the period of suspension of his or her powers, continue to receive his or her remuneration.
5. The judge of the Constitutional Court, the case on termination of powers whereof is being examined, shall be involved in the proceedings exclusively as a respondent and shall enjoy the rights of a party to the proceedings prescribed by this Law and bear the responsibilities thereof.
6. The failure by a duly notified judge of the Constitutional Court to appear without an excusable reason shall not be an obstacle for the trial of the case.
7. The trial of the cases referred to in this Article shall be carried out through oral procedure.
8. The burden of proof in the cases referred to in this Article shall be borne by the applicant.
9. Where the applicant withdraws the application within the time limits prescribed by this Law, and a judge of the Constitutional Court does not object to it within a period of three days, the proceedings of the case shall be terminated. Withdrawal of the application shall be carried out as prescribed by the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia "The Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly".
10. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall exercise the competences provided for by part 6 of Article 81 of this Law.
11. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall, no later than 30 days after arrival of the application, render one of the following decisions:
 - (1) on terminating the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court;
 - (2) on rejecting the application;
12. Upon a reasoned procedural decision of the Constitutional Court, the period referred to in part 11 of this Article may be extended for up to fifty days.

Article 84. Examination of cases on giving consent for initiating criminal prosecution against a judge of the Constitutional Court or depriving him or her of liberty with respect to the exercise of his or her powers

1. The right to apply to the Constitutional Court for giving consent for initiating criminal prosecution against a judge of the Constitutional Court or for depriving him or her of liberty with respect to the exercise of his or her powers may rest with the Prosecutor General.
2. The application in the cases referred to in this Article must comply with the general requirements for applications provided for by this Law, as well as evidences confirming the grounds for initiating criminal prosecution against a judge of the Constitutional Court or depriving him or her of liberty must be attached to the application.
3. The powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court shall — from the moment of accepting the application in the cases referred to in this Article for examination — be suspended prior to the completion of the trial. In case of suspending a criminal case instituted against a judge, the judge continues to exercise his or her powers until a decision to resume the criminal case is rendered.
4. A judge shall, during the period of suspension of his or her powers, continue to receive his or her remuneration.
5. The judge of the Constitutional Court, against whom the case on initiating criminal prosecution or on depriving him or her of liberty is being examined, shall be involved in the proceedings as a respondent and shall enjoy the rights of a party to the proceedings prescribed by this Law and bear the responsibilities thereof.
6. The failure by a duly notified judge of the Constitutional Court to appear without an excusable reason shall not be an obstacle for the trial of the case.

7. The trial of the cases referred to in this Article shall be carried out through oral procedure.
8. The burden of proof in the cases referred to in this Article shall be borne by the applicant.
9. Where the applicant party withdraws the application within the time limits prescribed by this Law, and a judge of the Constitutional Court does not object to it within a period of three days, the proceedings of the case shall be terminated.
10. In the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall exercise its powers provided for by part 10 of Article 80 of this Law.
11. In the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall, no later than within 48 hours from the day of arrival of the application, render one of the following decisions, whereas in case of rendering the decision referred to in point 1 of this part, also the decision referred to in point 2 of this part:
 - (1) on giving consent for initiating criminal prosecution against a judge of the Constitutional Court;
 - (2) on giving consent for depriving a judge of the Constitutional Court of liberty;
 - (3) on rejecting the application;
12. While rendering a decision in the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional court shall also be entitled to assess the constitutionality of the laws, stipulating the grounds for initiating criminal prosecution against a judge of the Constitutional Court or for depriving him or her of liberty, and in the case of arriving to the conclusion that they contradict the Constitution, the Constitutional Court shall render the decision referred to in point 3 of part 11 of this Article.

Article 85. Examination of cases on suspending or prohibiting the activities of a political party

1. The right to apply to the Constitutional Court in the cases referred to in this Article may rest with the National Assembly, upon a decision adopted by the majority vote of all the Deputies, and the Government.
2. The application in the cases referred to in this Article must comply with the general requirements for applications provided for by this Law, as well as evidences confirming the grounds for suspending or prohibiting the activities of a political party must be attached to the decision of the National Assembly.
3. The political party, the case on suspending or prohibiting the activities whereof is being examined, shall be involved in the constitutional proceedings as a respondent and shall enjoy the rights of a political party to the proceedings prescribed by this Law and bear the responsibilities thereof.
4. The failure by a duly notified representative of a political party to appear before the court without an excusable reason shall not be an obstacle for the trial of the case.
5. Where the applicant withdraws the application within the time limits prescribed by this Law, and the given political party does not object to it within a period of three days, the proceedings of the case shall be terminated.
6. The trial of the cases referred to in this Article shall be carried out through oral procedure.
7. The burden of proof in the cases referred to in this Article shall be borne by the applicant.
8. In respect of cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall exercise the competences provided for by part 10 of Article 80 of this Law.

9. The decision of the Constitutional Court in respect of cases referred to in this Article shall be rendered within a three-month period after the arrival of the application.
10. The Constitutional Court may render a decision on suspending the activities of a political party where it makes findings of grounds in its activities prescribed by the Constitution and the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia “On political parties”, whereas a decision on prohibiting the activities of a political party where it makes findings of grounds as prescribed by part 4 of Article 46 of the Constitution.
11. In respect of cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall render any of the following decisions:
 - (1) on rejecting the application;
 - (2) on suspending the activities of a political party, along with which an obligation to eliminate the violations having served as a ground for the suspension may be imposed on the political party;
 - (3) prohibiting the activities of the political party.
12. While rendering a decision in the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court shall also be entitled to assess the constitutionality of the provisions of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia “On political parties” subject to application in the case under examination and, in the case of arriving to the conclusion that they contradict the Constitution, the Constitutional Court shall declare the mentioned provisions as contradicting the Constitution and invalid and render the decision referred to in point 1 of part 11 of this Article on that ground.

**Article 86. Examination of cases on issues provided for by part 2
of Article 139 and Article 150 of the Constitution**

1. The right to apply to the Constitutional Court in respect of cases referred to in this Article shall rest with the President of the Republic within three days following the failure to sustain the objections by the competent body or failure to appoint a member nominated by the Government, where it finds that the recommendation or motion submitted thereto contradict the Constitution.
2. The body submitted relevant recommendation or filed the motion to the President of the Republic shall, in respect of the cases referred to in this Article, be involved as a respondent in the proceedings.
3. The trial of cases referred to in this Article shall be carried out through written procedure.
4. The burden of proof in the cases referred to in this Article shall be borne by the applicant.
5. The Constitutional Court shall, within a period of ten days after the arrival of the application, examine cases on the issues provided for by part 2 of Article 139 of the Constitution, whereas cases on the issues provided for by Article 150 of the Constitution shall be examined within a period of five days after the arrival of the application.
6. In respect of the cases referred to in this Article, the Constitutional Court may render one of the following decisions:
 - (1) on recognising the recommendation or motion submitted to the President of the Republic by a competent body as complying with the Constitution;
 - (2) on recognising the recommendation or motion submitted to the President of the Republic by a competent body as contradicting the Constitution.

CHAPTER 9

JUDICIAL SERVICE WITHIN THE STAFF OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Article 87. Judicial service and judicial servants

1. Professional activity within the Staff of the Constitutional Court, except for the work activity pertaining to technical service functions, shall be judicial service and officials holding relevant positions within the Staff, shall be judicial servants.
2. Laws regulating judicial service relations shall apply to judicial service at the Constitutional Court, insofar as they do not contradict this Law.

CHAPTER 10

FINAL PART AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 88. Final part and transitional provisions

1. Based on Article 210 of the Constitution, this Law shall enter into force on the day of assuming powers by the newly-elected President of the Republic of Armenia.
2. The Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court shall be adopted within three months following entry into force of this Law.
3. As of the date of entry into force of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On social guarantees for persons having held state offices”, the amount of pension — assigned to a person having held the position of the chairperson or a member of the Constitutional Court on the grounds as prescribed by point 1 of

part 1, point 4 of part 2 of Article 12 of this Law, on the ground of having attained the maximum age of holding the office provided for by the Constitution, as well as the amount of pension being assigned in case of automatic termination or termination of powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court on the ground of being recognised, upon a civil judgement of the court having entered into legal force, as having no legal capacity — shall be calculated in the amount equal to 75 per cent of the multiplication of the coefficient of decimal zero point nine and the total amount of the official pay rate and the bonus received while holding the position of a judge of the Constitutional Court, in compliance with the requirements of part 4 of this Article. Where the amount of pension calculated through the indicated method is lower than the amount of pension calculated as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On social guarantees for persons having held state offices”, pension shall be awarded in the amount calculated as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On social guarantees for persons having held state offices”.

4. As provided for by Article 213 of the Constitution, a pension shall be assigned in the manner and in the amount prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On social guarantees for persons having held state offices”, in case of automatic termination — through filling a letter of resignation — of powers of a person having been appointed to the position of a member of the Constitutional Court prior to the entry into force of Chapter 7 of the Constitution and having held the position of a judge of the Constitutional Court for at least twelve years after entry into force of this Law, irrespective of the fact of his or her attaining the retirement age provided for by Law, where the requirements provided for by part 2 of Article 10 of this Law have been observed, and on the grounds provided for by point 4 of part 2 of Article 12, as well as in case of automatic termination or termination of powers on the ground of being recognised, upon a civil judgement of the court, having entered into legal force, as having no legal capacity.

5. The Chairperson and members of the Constitutional Court appointed prior to entry into force of Chapter 7 of the Constitution amended as of 2015 shall, after the expiry of their 12-year term of office, continue to hold office till the expiry of term of their powers prescribed by the Constitution amended as of 2005.
6. Electronic applications may, provided for by Article 24 of this Law, be submitted to the Constitutional Court in case technical capacities are available in the Constitutional Court.
7. The Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-58-N of 1 June 2006 “On the Constitutional Court” shall be repealed upon entry into force of this Law.

**President
of the Republic of Armenia**

S. Sargsyan

27 January 2018

Yerevan

HO-42-N