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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

**DRAFT LAW
ON THE POLITICAL PARTIES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ON POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Draft worked out by the People's Party of Armenia
1st version, as of January 12, 2000

**LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ON POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

The Republic of Armenia recognises variety in political opinion and parties. Each citizen of the Republic of Armenia is entitled to establish parties with other citizens and be a member thereof. Political parties (hereinafter, parties) are formed freely, promote the establishment and expression of the people's political will. Parties are equal before the law. The activities and internal structure of the party must comply with the democratic principle. A developed multiparty system is the foundation providing the participation of citizens in the governance of the country and the basis for political stability in the society. Based on this, the state provides the protection of the parties' rights and legitimate interests and supports their activities.

The purpose of this law is to promote the enhancement and improvement of the democratisation of the political system of the society, of which parties are an integral part.

**CHAPTER I.
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1. The subject regulated by this law

This law regulates the social relations with regard to the realisation of the citizens' right to unite into parties, to establish parties, with their legal structure, activities, reorganisation and dissolution.

Article 2. Citizens' right to unite into parties.

The citizens of the Republic of Armenia realise their right to unite into parties freely, in accordance with their convictions, to establish parties on voluntary basis, to adopt and recognise their programmes and by-laws, to join parties, to participate in their activities, in accordance with programmatic purposes and by-laws, as well as freely leave the party.

Article 3. The notion of party.

1. A party is a voluntary, self-governed public association of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, based on personal membership, whose purpose is to participate in the political life of the society, to influence the formation of the citizens' political will, to participate in the elections to state and local self-government representative bodies, to represent the citizens' interests in these bodies, by means of participation in state authorities and local self-government.
2. The purposes and goals of the party are reflected in its founding and programmatic documents, which are published in mass media for common knowledge.

3. The association which is registered as a public union, artisan union, religious, charitable organisation, foundation, other non-commercial organisation or one created for the pursuit of amateur, creative, consumers' and other non-political interests of its participants (members), cannot be recognised as a party.
4. Also, there can not be recognised as a party a union whose by-laws:
 - Allow the membership of foreign citizens, stateless persons, foreign and international organisations.
 - Envisages the citizens' membership only by artisan, national, ethnic, race or religious principles;
 - Envisages the membership of people who in terms of this law can not be a party member;
 - Stipulates that the basic purpose of the organisation is profit from entrepreneurial activity and distribution of the profit between its founders (members).

Article 4. Legislation on parties.

The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, this law and other laws stipulate the procedure of establishment of parties, their activities, reorganisation, dissolution, self-dissolution, suspension of party's activities and prohibition, as well as their legal status.

Article 5. The number of party members, territorial structural subdivisions and territorial boundaries of activities.

1. A party must have no less than 1500 (*option I - 3000, option II - 5000*) members; in particular, in each provincial organisation, no less than 50 (*option I - 100, option II - 200*) members, permanently or mainly residing in the province. A party must have provincial branches in more than half of the provinces of the Republic of Armenia, including Yerevan (*option I - more than 2/3; option II - in all provinces*). In addition to provincial organisations, a party is entitled (in accordance with its by-laws) to establish other structural subdivisions, affiliates, representations, etc.
2. *Party organisations and other structural subdivisions are established and operate only by territorial principle.* The creation and operation of structural party subdivisions is prohibited in state and local self-governmental bodies, the RA army, law enforcement bodies, pre-school, school, specialised secondary and higher educational institutions, other state and non-state organisations.
3. A party is entitled to operate over the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, its steering bodies and structural subdivisions can be located only in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.
4. The establishment and operation of parties from foreign countries and their structural subdivisions in the territory of the Republic of Armenia is prohibited.

Article 6. The name of the party

1. The name of the party and, equally, its abbreviation, must be different from the names of already operating parties and other public associations, as well as the registration of the party must be different from the names of parties prohibited over the last five years, as provided in article 39, paragraph 2 of this law.
2. Parties are entitled to use the words "Armenia", "Republic of Armenia" and other words and combinations derived from these words in their names, without the authorisation from the special state body.

3. The names of state or local self-government bodies can not be used in the name of the party.
4. The personal name of the citizen and/or the names protected by the RA Civil Code, intellectual property rights and copyright can be used in the name of the party only based on the document certifying the right of use.
5. During election campaign, a party can use only the name and/or its abbreviation stipulated in its by-laws.

Article 7. The party emblem and other symbols

1. Parties can have an emblem and other symbols whose accurate description must be contained in the party by-laws. The emblem and other symbols can not coincide with the coat-of-arms of the Republic of Armenia or foreign countries.
2. The emblem and other symbols can not breach intellectual property rights of citizens and legal entities, including their rights for the place names of goods and origin. The use of an emblem and/or symbols distorting the coat-of-arms of the Republic of Armenia or foreign countries, insulting people's spiritual, race and national feelings, violating generally accepted norms of morality is prohibited.
3. The emblems and symbols of acting parties and other public associations, as well as of organisations and parties prohibited in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, can not be used as party emblems and other symbols.

Article 8. Party organisation and operation principles

1. Parties are equal before the law, regardless of the ideology, goals and objectives stipulated in their programmatic documents.
2. The activity of parties is based on the principles of voluntariness, self-management, legal equality, legitimacy and publicity. A party is free to determine its internal structure, goals, ways of operation, methods and forms, except the restrictions envisaged in law.
3. Parties are subject to state registration, in accordance with the procedure envisaged in this law. The territorial structural subdivisions of the parties (organisations, branches, representations) are not subject to state registration.
4. Parties operate publicly, their foundation and programmatic documents are published for general information.

Article 9. Limitations on party establishment and operation

1. The establishment and operation of parties whose goals or activities are aimed at the violent change of the constitutional order of the Republic of Armenia and against the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia, to undermine national security, to create armed formations, and for instigation of social, race, ethnic, national or religious hostilities, are prohibited.

The incorporation of provisions on social justice in the foundation and programmatic documents of the parties can not be regarded as instigation of social hostility.

2. In case of imposing emergency situation in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, or part of it, the process of party creation can be suspended and their activities can be restricted to the extent and by the procedure envisaged in the RA law on "Emergency situations".

Article 10. The state and the parties.

1. The intervention of the state and local self-government bodies and their officials into the activities of parties, and, likewise, the intervention of the parties into the affairs of state and local self-government bodies and their officials, is prohibited, except in cases envisaged in this law.
2. The issues affecting the interests of parties are solved by the state and local self-government bodies with the relevant party management bodies and (or) with their consent.
3. The party members occupying posts in the state and local self-government bodies of the Republic of Armenia can not use their official position in the interests of the party.

These persons, when carrying out their official duties, are not bound by the decisions of the party.

4. The President of the Republic of Armenia suspends his membership in the party for the whole period of being in office.
5. The following can not be party members:
 - a) judges;
 - b) prosecutors;
 - c) officers of the RA ministries of national security, justice, internal affairs and state revenues;
 - d) servicemen of the RA armed forces;
6. The membership of other officials and their right to join a party can be suspended or restricted by law.

CHAPTER II. CREATION OF PARTIES

Article 11. Forms of party foundation.

1. Parties are formed freely without any permission.
2. The founding congress of the party makes decisions on the creation of the party, adopts its programme, approves its by-laws, forms its management and monitoring bodies, as well as takes decisions on the creation of organisations in the provinces of the Republic of Armenia.
3. The party is deemed founded from the moment of the adoption of the decisions listed in paragraph 2 of this article. The party originates as a legitimate legal entity from the moment of its state registration.
4. The founders of the party are citizens of the Republic of Armenia, the delegates of its founding congress, who are considered party members from the moment of the decision to establish the party.
5. In the case of the establishment of a party as a result of NGO reorganisation, as provided in paragraphs 1-4 of this article and article 17, relevant amendments are performed in the consolidated registration log for the registration of legal entities. The party is deemed founded from the moment of these amendments.

Article 12. Organising committee for the foundation of the party.

1. To prepare, to invite and conduct the founding party congress, no fewer than ten citizens of the Republic of Armenia entitled to be party members form an Organising committee for the foundation of the party (hereinafter, organising committee).

2. The organising committee submits the following to the RA ministry of justice (hereinafter, ministry of justice).
 - 1) A petition signed by no fewer than ten members of the organising committee with regard to their intention to establish and register a party, indicating the proposed future name of the party.
 - 2) Information about the signatories of the petition, the members of the organising committee (names, surnames, patronymics, date of birth, month, day, address, citizenship).
 - 3) The foundation agreement for the creation of the organising committee, which must indicate the purpose of the activities of the organising committee, goals, time-limit (no more than 1 year), address, decision making procedure, the commitment to transfer the property of the organising committee to the party after state registration of the party and the management of this property after the dissolution of the organising committee, after expiry of the time-limit, if the foundation of the party does not take place within this time-limit.
 - 4) The minutes of the foundation meeting of the organising committee.
3. The ministry of justice must, after the receipt of the documents mentioned in paragraph 2 of this article, no later than in three days, register the organising committee as a legal entity, by issuance of an appropriate certificate, and to inform the public at large through mass media about the commencement of the process of party creation.

Article 13. Functions of the organising committee

The organising committee must conduct the founding congress of the party within the time-limit established in its foundation agreement, however, not later than within 1 year after the registration of the organising committee. For this purpose, the organising committee:

- 1) opens a settlement account in one of the banks of the Republic of Armenia, informing the ministry of justice about that;
- 2) conducts organisational activities, including meetings of the supporters of the party in the provinces of the Republic of Armenia, in order to elect the delegates to the founding party congress.

Article 14. Conducting the founding party congress

1. The information about the venue and time of conducting the founding party congress, as well as the main provisions of the party's by-laws and programme, the organising committee publishes in mass media no later than 1 month before the founding party congress.
2. The founding congress is legitimate, if delegates elected from the proportionate number of the supporters of the party, in more than half of the provinces (*option-1, more than 2/3; option-2 all provinces*) of the Republic of Armenia participate in the congress.
3. The founding congress is legitimate, if more than half of the elected delegates participate in it.
4. The decisions on the party foundation, on the adoption of the by-laws and programme, on the establishment of territorial organisations in more than half of the RA provinces (*option-2, 2/3*), on establishment of management and monitoring bodies are considered adopted, if more than two thirds vote in favour (*in option-3, the issue of territorial organisations is omitted*).

Article 15. Dissolution of the organising committee

1. After state registration of the party, the organising committee is dissolved as established in the procedure of its founding agreement. All property and financial resources of the organising committee are handed over to the founded party.
2. The organising committee dissolves itself, if it fails to conduct the founding congress within the deadline indicated in article 13 of this law. Otherwise, it is subject to dissolution by court procedure, initiated by the ministry of justice.
3. Based on the provisions of paragraph 2 of this article, in case of dissolution or self-dissolution of the organising committee, all property and financial resources of the organising committee is directed to the purposes envisaged in its foundation agreement, and if this is impossible, to the state budget.

Article 16. Procedure of state registration of parties.

1. Parties are registered in accordance with the procedure envisaged in this law and acquire the status of a legal entity at the moment of state registration. In case of contradiction between this law and the "RA Law on state registration of legal entities", the provisions of this law prevail.
2. The state registration of the party is performed by the ministry of justice.
3. The document attesting to the fact of state registration is the relevant entry performed in the state log for the registration of legal entities and the certificate of state registration attesting to this fact.
4. The following documents are submitted to the registering body for the state registration of a party:
 - 1) The minutes of the founding congress approved by authorised persons, which must contain information on the foundation of the party, the adoption of its by-laws and programmatic documents, the formation of its management and monitoring bodies, on the creation of territorial branches.
 - 2) Two bound, enumerated, stapled copies of the party by-laws and programme, approved by authorised persons.
 - 3) A petition to the registering body signed by the members of the permanently operating body of the party, indicating their passport data and residence addresses.
 - 4) Passport data of at least 1500 (*option-1, 3000; option-2, 5000*) party members, including place of residence.
 - 5) A document certifying the justification of the legal address of the party.
 - 6) Two copies of periodic press and (or) other periodic publication with announcements about the venue and time of the foundation congress of the party, as well as the main provisions of its programme and by-laws.
 - 7) Document certifying the payment of the registration duty.
4. The registration body has no right to demand from the party other documents than listed in paragraph 3 of this article.
5. The documents envisaged in paragraph 3 of this article are submitted for state registration not later than 3 months after the founding party congress.
6. In case of submission of the documents envisaged in paragraph 3 of this article, the ministry of justice, within 1 month, issues a limitless state registration certificate to the party, where the date of the certificate issuance is indicated as the date of party state registration.
7. The ministry of justice has no right to perform re-registration of the party by its own initiative. Party re-registration is performed only in the case of its reorganisation. Amendments made in the by-laws of the party are not regarded as

re-registration of the party and are no grounds to consider the party registration certificate invalid.

8. Programmatic documents of the party are submitted to the ministry of justice only for information. Any error, mistake or inconsistency in the programmatic documents of the party can not be grounds for the refusal to registration of the party, except the cases of violation of the requirement of articles 5, 6, 7 and 9 of this law. It is prohibited to the registering body to require any other amendments to the programmatic documents from the party, beyond the requirements of articles 5, 6, 7 and 9 of this law.

Article 17. Creation of a party by means of the reorganisation of an NGO

1. An NGO is entitled to reorganise into a party, if the NGO was officially registered at least 1 year before its decision to reorganise.
2. The highest steering body, i.e., the congress (meeting, conference) of the NGO takes the decision to reorganise into a party, in accordance with the by-laws of the NGO. The congress determines the procedure and time-limits of the reorganisation into a party, as well as the management or other authorised body of the NGO, which is responsible to conduct the reorganisation.
3. For the state registration of a party reorganised from an NGO, the management body of the NGO submits the following documents to the ministry of justice:
 - 1) The minutes of the congress which adopted the decision of the NGO to reorganise into a party, which must contain information about the NGO's reorganisation into a party, the adoption of by-laws and programmatic documents, formation of steering and monitoring bodies, and reorganisation of territorial branches.
 - 2) Two bound, enumerated and stapled copies of the party's by-laws and programme, signed by authorised persons.
 - 3) The NGO's property transfer act, compiled in accordance with article 65 of the RA Civil Code.
 - 4) A petition signed by the authorised members of the permanently functioning body of the NGO in charge of the reorganisation, indicating their passport data and addresses.
 - 5) Passport data of at least 1500 (option-1, 3000; option-2, 5000) party members, including place of residence.
 - 6) Document certifying the payment of the registration duty.
4. The registering body has no right to require any other document from the party except those listed in paragraph 3.
5. The party formed by means of reorganisation of an NGO is considered founded, and the NGO dissolved, from the moment of making relevant changes in the state registration log of legal entities.
6. If the documents listed in points 1-6, paragraph 3, comply with the law, the ministry of justice, within 1 month after the receipt of the documents, performs a relevant entry in the registration log of legal entities, and issues the state registration certificate to the party.

Article 18. Grounds to turn down the state registration of a party.

1. The state registration of a party can be turned down, if:
 - 1) The party by-laws provisions contradict the RA Constitution and this law.
 - 2) The party's by-laws do not comply with the requirements of article 18 of this law.
 - 3) The requirements of articles 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 of this law have not been satisfied.
 - 4) Not all documents required in article 15 or 16 of this law have been submitted.

- 5) The registering body found out that there are essentially inaccurate data in the foundation documents, which raise justified doubts as to the conformity with the requirements of articles 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 of this law.
- 6) The deadlines established by this law for submission of party registration documents have been breached.
2. The registering body's notification about the rejection of state registration of the party must be in the written form and grounded. This notification must indicate the concrete provisions of the RA Constitution and (or) this law which were breached in the submitted documents.
3. The rejection of state registration of the party can be appealed in court. The rejection of state registration is no obstacle to a repeated submission of documents for registration, if the grounds for rejection have been eliminated. The registration body considers the petition again and makes a decision in accordance with the procedure and deadlines established in this law for party registration.

CHAPTER III. INTERNAL PARTY STRUCTURE

Article 19. Party by-laws.

1. The party and its territorial organisations function based on the party by-laws and in accordance therewith.
2. The by-laws of the party must contain the following information about the party:
 - 1) Name, including also the abbreviation, as well as the description of the emblem (if any).
 - 2) Goals and objectives.
 - 3) The rights and duties of the members, conditions of acquisition and loss of party membership, and procedure.
 - 4) Procedure of registration of members.
 - 5) Structure, formation of territorial organisations, registration and dissolution.
 - 6) Procedure of formation of territorial steering and monitoring bodies, authorities, their deadlines, venue of steering bodies.
 - 7) Procedure of mutual relations of steering and territorial organisations, possible influence of the steering bodies on the territorial ones.
 - 8) Procedure of amending the by-laws of the party.
 - 9) Procedure of resolving internal party disputes.
 - 10) Sources of financial resources and property, the rights of the party subdivisions to manage the property.
 - 11) Procedure of reorganisation and (or) dissolution.
 - 12) Procedure of proposing candidates for elected posts in state and local self-government bodies, revocation procedure of candidates by party lists and one-mandate districts and grounds.

The party's by-laws can contain also other provisions concerning its activities.

3. Amendments in party by-laws are subject to registration in the ministry of justice, within deadlines established in this law for party registration, with payment of a registration duty.

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Article 20. Party programme.

1. A party must have a programme which indicates the main principles of its activities, goals, objectives, as well as the ways of achieving these goals, methods and problem solving means and ways.
2. The party programme as well as the amendments made in it are submitted to the registering body for information, and are published in mass media.

Article 21. The founders and members of the party.

1. Party membership is voluntary and individual.
2. Party members can be only citizens of the Republic of Armenia, over 18 years of age. A party can not have collective members.
3. A citizen of the Republic of Armenia can be a member of only one party at a time.
4. Foreign citizens and stateless persons can not be party members.
5. Party membership is performed by the procedure prescribed in the party by-laws, based on personal petitions of the citizens.
6. Party members participate in its activities under the procedure established in the by-laws.
7. Party members are entitled to elect and be elected to the steering and monitoring bodies of this party and its territorial organisations, to get information about the party and the activities of the steering bodies, monitor their activities, to appeal their decisions and activities, as envisaged in by-laws.
8. Party members, in accordance with party by-laws, have rights and duties. In the event of failure to perform their duties under the by-laws, party members can be subjected to disciplinary sanctions, and even dismissed, in accordance with the by-laws.
9. Party membership can not be restricted by professional, race, national or religious considerations.
10. The indication of the party membership in official documents is not mandatory.
11. The citizens' membership in parties or lack thereof is no ground for the restriction of their rights and freedoms and (or) for granting them any privileges or advantages by the state.

Article 22. Steering bodies of the party.

1. The supreme steering body of the party is the party congress (general meeting, conference). The permanently functioning steering body of the party is an accountable, collegial and elected body.
2. The highest steering body of the territorial organisation is the general meeting (congress) of the party members registered in the given territorial organisation. The permanently functioning steering body of the territorial organisation is a collegial elected body accountable to the meeting (conference) of the territorial organisation.

The steering and monitoring bodies of the party are elected by secret ballot. The duration of their authorities can not be more than three years.

3. In accordance with the party by-laws, the permanently functioning steering body, on behalf of the party, carries out its authorities of a legal entity.

Article 23. Procedure of adoption of the party by-laws, programme, and other crucial decisions

1. The adoption of the party by-laws and programme, making amendments in them, proposal of candidates (list of candidates) for the elected state posts is done by

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- congress delegates representing no less than two thirds of party members, by secret ballot.
2. Decisions concerning the proposal of candidates, amendments to by-laws and programmes, dissolution or reorganisation of the party, are made by two thirds of the congress (conference) participants.
 3. Election of steering and monitoring bodies and decisions on the candidates to elected state bodies are made by secret ballot.

CHAPTER IV. PARTY'S RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Article 24. Party's rights

1. A party, in accordance with the procedure envisaged by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, has the right:
 - 1) To create territorial organisations, as well as branches and representations, and to dissolve them, for the implementation of its statutory goals and objectives.
 - 2) To organise and conduct meetings, demonstrations, rallies, marches and other public events.
 - 3) To freely disseminate oral, written and other forms of information about its activities, to propagate its goals and objectives.
 - 4) To participate in the elections of state and local self-government representative bodies, as well as in the preparation and conducting of referenda, in accordance with the procedure envisioned in the RA legislation.
 - 5) To propose initiatives concerning various aspects of public life, to make proposals to state and local self-government bodies on any aspect of public, social, civic, economic and cultural life, and participate in the implementation of decision making, as established by law.
 - 6) To establish one's own mass media and publishing houses.
 - 7) To use the mass media of the state and local self-government.
 - 8) To form alliances (unions, associations) with other parties without establishing a legal entity.
 - 9) To establish and maintain international relations with foreign parties and associations, to join international unions and associations.
 - 10) In accordance with its by-laws, to implement political, economic, financial, social, cultural and other activities, which do not contradict the RA legislation.

Article 25. Exceptional rights of the parties.

The party is the only public association entitled to propose candidates for the RA National Assembly, for the RA President, and for leaders and council members of local self-government bodies

Article 26. The party's duties.

1. A party must:
 - 1) Observe the requirements of the RA Constitution, the RA legislation, international agreements ratified by the RA National Assembly, generally accepted principles and norms of international law, as well as its by-laws and other foundation documents.
 - 2) Annually, publish reports on the use of its property, indicating the sources of origin, and allow public access to the reports.

- 3) At the request of the registering body, submit decisions made by its leaders and officials, and annual and quarterly reports, to the extent of data submitted to tax bodies, allow the registering body's representatives to participate in the events conducted by the party, if the request is justified.
- 4) In case of proposal of candidates for the election to the parliament or state and local self-government bodies, to notify the election commissions in advance about the conducting of these events, in order to provide the participation of their representatives.
2. A party must participate in the parliamentary elections of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 27. Party's property

1. As property, the party can possess land, buildings, facilities, structures, apartments, mass media, financial resources, and other property necessary for the implementation of its statutory purposes.
2. The party is the owner of the property received, created and (or) procured at its own expense. A party member has no property right for the property owned by the party or part of it, and is not responsible for the party's property liabilities. A party is not responsible for the property liabilities of its members.
3. The territorial structural subdivisions of the party manage and use the property allocated to them by the owner within the limits and procedure envisioned in the party by-laws.
4. The party's property is not subject to distribution amongst its members.

Article 28. Party's financial resources

A Party's financial resources are formed out of:

- 1) Membership dues and admission fees, if these are envisaged by the party by-laws.
- 2) Donations.
- 3) Budgetary financing envisaged in this law.
- 4) Proceeds from lectures, exhibitions and other similar activities conducted in conformity with the party's by-laws.
- 5) Profits received from publishing, financial and economic activities conducted in conformity with the party's by-laws.
- 6) Revenue from civil legal transactions and other incomes not prohibited by the RA legislation.

Article 29. Donations to parties.

1. Parties are entitled to receive donations in the form of property or financial resources from physical persons, from public associations and foundations, other legal entities, NGOs, on condition that these donations have relevant documentation of their sources.
2. Donations of financial resources to parties are allowed only in the form of non-cash remittances.
3. The following donations are impermissible:
 - 1) from charitable and religious organisations, as well as from organisations founded by them;
 - 2) from state and local self-government bodies, except funding done by these bodies in compliance with article 31 of this law.
 - 3) from the institutions and organisations of state and local self-government bodies, from organisations founded by state and local self-government bodies;

- 4) from legal entities registered 6 months before the donation;
- 5) from foreign governments, foreign citizens and legal entities, from legal entities with foreign participation, if the share of the foreign participant in the authorised (share) capital of the legal entity is more than 30%.
- 6) From the RA citizens under 18 years of age.
- 7) From international organisations and international public movements;
- 8) Anonymous persons.
4. In case of the receipt of donations listed in sub-points 1-7 of point 3 of this article, the party must return it to the donor within two weeks after the receipt.
5. In case of the receipt of a donation listed in sub-point 8 of point 3 of this article, the party must transfer it to the state budget within two weeks after the receipt.
5. Donors who are physical persons must indicate their name, surname, patronymic, address, and legal entities, all data required for non-cash transactions between legal entities (requisites).
6. A citizen of the RA pays the donation in a bank, providing a passport or other similar document.
7. The amount of the donation received by the party from one legal entity with a calendar year can not exceed 100,000 minimal salaries established by law (*option-1, 200,000 minimal salaries; option-2, 300,000 minimal salaries*); and from one physical person, not more than 10,000 minimal salaries (*option-1, 20,000; option-2, 30,000*).
8. If the object of donation is of non-monetary nature (property, services, work, etc.), the party must specify its monetary equivalent at the market price on the day of donation and provide relevant data in the financial report.

Article 30. Party's economic activity.

1. In conformity with the RA legislation, parties are entitled to make independent decisions with regard to the salaries paid to their staff, and the use of financial and material resources. The labour and social insurance legislation of the Republic of Armenia is extended to the hired personnel of the party.
2. To enjoy its rights stipulated in article 24 of this law, and to create financial and material conditions for the achievement of its statutory goals and objectives, the party is entitled:
 - 1) to perform publishing activities to propagate its programmatic goals and achievements;
 - 2) to sell, collateralise, and lease the movable and immovable property of the party.
 - 3) To sell souvenirs with the party symbols.

A party can not perform entrepreneurial activities in any other form.
3. The proceeds from the entrepreneurial activity can not be distributed amongst party members and must be used only for the achievement of the party's statutory goals. The use of the party funds for charitable purposes is allowed, even though this may not be stipulated in its by-laws.
4. The party's economic activities and its income must be reflected in the financial report.

CHAPTER V.
STATE SUPPORT OF PARTIES AND STATE FINANCING OF PARTIES

Article 31. Forms of state support of parties.

1. The following support is provided to parties and their territorial subdivisions possessing a state registration certificate by the RA state and local self-government bodies:
 - 1) Parties get equal opportunities to use the mass media of the state and local self-government bodies, as well as mass media founded with the participation of the latter.
 - 2) Facilities and means of communication owned by state and (or) local self-government bodies are provided to parties on equally preferential conditions.
 - 3) In accordance with election legislation, parties and their territorial subdivisions are provided with equal opportunities to conduct their campaigns.
 - 4) Party activities are financed in accordance with the procedure provided in article 32 of this law.
2. In case of suspension of the party's activities, and in case of the breach of the provisions of articles 26, 33 and 34, state support of the party is temporarily withheld.
3. State support of a party is terminated and the prepayments are returned to the persons who paid them on the day when a court decision on the prohibition of party activities comes into force, in case of dissolution of a party; and in case of self-dissolution, on the day of the relevant decision made by the party congress; and in case of reorganisation, on the day of the entry in the legal entities' state registration log.

Article 32. State budget funds provided to parties

1. State financing of parties is done at the expense of the RA state budget.

RA state budget funds are allocated by a special purpose budget item and are managed by the RA central electoral commission.

The total amount of funds allocated to parties from the RA state budget can not be less than 0.001 minimal salaries (as of March 1 of the previous year) multiplied by the number of voters in the lists of voters at the latest parliamentary and presidential elections.
2. The RA authorised state governance body transfers the funds allocated in the RA state budget for parties to a special account opened in a bank by the RA central electoral commission. The procedure of opening and using this account is determined by the central electoral commission in coordination with the RA central bank.
3. A party is entitled to receive RA budget funds if:
 - No less than 2% (*options: 3%; 5%*) of voters participating in the parliamentary elections in the given electoral district voted for this party or alliance of parties of which this party is a member.
 - No less than 2% (*options: 3%; 5%*) of voters participating in the presidential elections voted for this party or alliance of parties whose candidate ran for president.
4. The funds allocated to the parties meeting the requirements of paragraph 3 amount to:

- *Annually, based on the results of parliamentary elections, 0.001% of the minimal salary (as of March 1 of the previous year) multiplied by the number of voters who voted in favour of the party.*
 - *Lump-sum, based on the results of presidential elections, 0.001% of the minimal salary (as of March 1 of the previous year) multiplied by the number of voters who voted in favour of the candidate of the party.*
5. These funds are distributed equally amongst the parties participating in the electoral alliance, if not otherwise provided by the electoral alliance.
 6. The funds from the RA state budget are allocated to parties, in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5, for the following periods:
 - As a result of parliamentary elections, annually, over the whole period of the deputy's authorities, beginning on the year following the elections.
 - As a result of presidential elections, in a lump-sum over the year when elections were held.

The procedure and concrete dates of financial remittances are determined by the RA central electoral commission, in coordination with the Central Bank and the ministry of finance and economy.
 7. No state budget funds are allocated to parties in case of additional and repeated elections.

Article 33. Party's financial reports

1. Parties submit financial and accounting reports established for legal entities by RA legislation and deadlines.
2. Each year, the party must, not later than on January 25th of the following reporting year, submit to the authorised state body a consolidated financial report on the funds received and entered by the party in the reporting year.
3. The consolidated report on the funds received and entered by the party in the reporting year must contain data about the sources and amounts of funds entered to the party's account, the spending of these funds, as well as about the owned property, indicating its value. The authorised state body determines the procedure of reporting and accounting (including the forms of reporting). The accounting of funds spent on the preparation and holding of an election campaign is done individually.
4. Not later than on January 25th of the following reporting year, the party publicises its consolidated financial report in mass media.

Article 34. Monitoring the party's financial and other activities.

1. The party's consolidated financial report is subject to audit by the authorised state body.
2. In case of breaches of this law or other laws found when auditing the consolidated financial report, tax bodies notify the registering body and determine the legal liability of the ones responsible for the breach.
3. Allocation of budget funds to a party is suspended by instruction of the authorised state body, if the party breached the provisions of this article and in case of breaches of this law or other laws found during the audit of the consolidated financial reports.

Within one month after the end of the audit, the authorised state governance body publishes the results of the audit of the consolidated financial reports.

4. Tax bodies monitor the income sources of the party with regard to received funds and paid taxes, in accordance with the RA tax legislation.

CHAPTER VI.
PARTICIPATION OF PARTIES IN ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS

Article 35. Participation of parties in the elections to representative state and local self-government bodies

1. From the moment of state registration, the party is entitled to participate in the elections to representative state and local self-government bodies.
2. The procedure of participation the parties in electoral campaigns and referenda is determined by the electoral code of the Republic of Armenia.
3. Parties participate in the elections to representative state and local self-government bodies and referenda independently, by means of forming electoral alliances with other parties or by signing pre-election agreements with other parties.
4. In accordance with the electoral code, parties are entitled:
 - 1) To propose candidates, independently or through electoral alliances;
 - 2) To conduct pre-election propaganda, demanding equal legal conditions, including the equality in the use of mass media owned by state and local self-government bodies, and mass media in which state and local self-government bodies participate.
 - 3) To monitor the process of voting, summarisation of election results and their approval.
 - 4) To participate in the work of electoral commissions.
5. In case of proposing candidates to representative state and local self-government bodies, the party must adopt and publish its election programme.

Article 36. Consequences of the party's failure to participate in the parliamentary elections or receiving fewer votes than the lowest threshold.

1. A party's participation, individual or within an alliance, in parliamentary elections is recognised in case of the proposal of a list of candidates for elections
2. Parties which failed to submit a list of candidates for the parliamentary elections, individually or within an alliance, are dissolved, in accordance with article 4 of this law.
3. Parties which submitted a list of candidates for the parliamentary elections, individually or within an alliance, and participated in the elections and less than 2% of all ballots were given in favour of their proportionate list, are dissolved, in accordance with article 4 of this law.

CHAPTER VII.
SUSPENSION AND PROHIBITION OF PARTY'S ACTIVITIES. DISSOLVING,
SELF-DISSOLVING AND REORGANISATION OF A PARTY

Article 37. Suspension of party's activities

1. Party's activities can be suspended in the event of violation of the RA Constitution and legislation by the party, by decision of the RA Constitutional Court (hereinafter, Constitutional Court), based on this article and by procedure of the RA law "On the Constitutional Court".

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2. In the event of violation of article 9 of this law, and for activities contradicting its by-laws, the ministry of justice forwards a motion to the steering body of the party with regard to the revealed breaches and provides a reasonable deadline for their elimination. If these breaches are not eliminated within the established deadline, the activities of the party can be suspended for up to six months by decision of the Constitutional Court, based on the petition of the RA President.
 3. In case of imposing emergency situation in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, the procedure of suspension of party activities is established by a relevant law.

Article 38. The consequences of suspension of party activities

1. In case of suspension of party activities, the decision of the Constitutional Court suspends the right of the party as a founder of mass media; the party is not allowed to use mass media of the state and local self-government bodies, as well as mass media in which these bodies participate, to organise rallies, demonstrations and other mass events, to participate in the elections and meetings of the representative state and local self-government bodies, to use the bank deposits of the party, except settlements performed for economic activity and work agreements and for payment of fines and compensation of damages as a result of its activities.
2. The elimination of the reasons for the suspension of the party activities is the ground for the Constitutional Court decision to resume its activities.

Article 39. Prohibition of party's activities

1. Party's activities can be banned by decision of the Constitutional Court.
2. Party's activities can be banned:
 - 1) In case of party activities contradicting the requirements of article 9 of this law.
 - 2) In case of repeated or severe breaches of the RA legislation and other legal acts, as well as for repeated activities contradicting its statutory purposes.
 - 3) In case of failure to eliminate the grounds which led to the suspension of party activities as envisaged in article 37 of this law, within the deadline established by the Constitutional Court.
3. Based on the conclusion made by the ministry of justice, the RA President applies to the Constitutional Court, with the grounds envisaged in this article, to ban the activities of the party.

Article 40. Dissolution of a party

Based on the petition of the RA President, the Constitutional Court decides to ban (dissolve) the party, provided:

- 1) The party did not participate in the parliamentary elections or failed to collect the number of votes envisaged in article 36 of this law.
- 2) The total number of party members is less than the minimum membership established in article 5 of this law.

Article 41. Self-dissolution of a party

A party can voluntarily self-dissolve by decision of the supreme steering body of the party, the congress.

Article 42. Reorganisation of a party.

1. A party reorganises by decision of its congress, by means of merger, unification, separation and division.
2. State registration of the party (parties) formed as a result of merger, unification, separation and division is done by the procedure and within the deadlines of article 16 of this law.
3. State registration of a public association formed as a result of party reorganisation is done by the procedure established for the registration of this association.
4. After reorganisation of the party, its property is transferred to its legal successor, as established in the Civil Code.

Article 43. Consequences of prohibition, dissolution, self-dissolution and reorganisation of a party

1. In case of prohibition, dissolution, self-dissolution and reorganisation of a party, the credentials of the parliamentarians elected by the corresponding party list become invalid.
2. After the satisfaction of debtors, the remaining party property is forwarded to:
 - The state budget, in case of self-dissolution, dissolution and by court decision on prohibition.
 - In case of reorganisation, to the legal succession of the party.
 As a result of prohibition, dissolution, self-dissolution or reorganisation of a party, the registration certificate of the party becomes invalid and the party is removed from the state registration log of legal entities.

CHAPTER VIII.
CLOSING AND TRANSITION PROVISIONS

Article 44.

1. This law comes into effect three months later after official publication.
2. After this law comes into effect, the RA law "On Public-Political organisations" (February 26, 1991) becomes invalid.
3. On the day when this law comes into effect, parties can be created exclusively in accordance with this law.
4. Before this law comes into effect, founded parties (political and public organisations) must bring their founding documents in conformity with the requirements of this law within 1 year after this law comes into effect, and to get reregistered.
5. The parties which did not reregister within the deadline mentioned in paragraph 4 of this article of this law are subject to dissolution, and their founding documents are considered invalid.