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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

DRAFT LAW
ON CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTORAL CODE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

ARTICLE 1. Remove the words “Article 3” from Article 1, Paragraph 1 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia (February 5, 1999, HO-284, henceforth referred to as the Code).

ARTICLE 2. Add the words “and who reside in that particular community” at the end of the second sentence in Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the Code. In the same sentence, replace the words “who have a refugee status in the Republic of Armenia or have been included in a refugee family certificate issued in accordance with appropriate procedures” with the words “who do not possess citizenship of the Republic of Armenia”. In the second paragraph of Paragraph 1 of the same Article, replace the words “have a refugee status or have been included in a refugee family certificate issued in accordance with appropriate procedures” with the words “do not possess citizenship of the Republic of Armenia”.

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, replace the words “preparation and conduct of elections” with the words “national elections” [Translator’s note: the other amendment proposed in this sentence is simply an Armenian spelling correction, thus it is irrelevant in the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 3. Rephrase Article 6 of the Code as follows:

“Voting in elections shall take place by secret ballot. Secrecy of the vote is not only a right, but also a responsibility of the voter. Control over the free expression of voters’ will shall be prohibited and prosecuted by law.”

ARTICLE 4. Rephrase Article 7, Paragraph 3 of the Code, as follows:

“In the course of sessions of electoral commissions and during the voting process, chairmen of electoral commissions shall ensure, in accordance with procedures set out in this Code, that necessary and equal working conditions have been provided for proxies, observers and representatives of the mass media.”

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, add the words “and the agency in charge of maintaining the Voter Register” after the word “Electoral Commission”.

In the 3rd sentence of Paragraph 6 of the same Article, add the words “by precincts,” after the words “every three hours”, and rephrase the last sentence as follows:

“The Central Electoral Commission shall officially publish the final information about voter turnout in national elections at 01:00 on the day after the voting, based on protocols received from Territorial Electoral Commissions by means of telecommunications (fax).”

Rephrase Paragraph 8 of the same Article as follows:

“8. In cases referred to in Paragraph 6 of this Article, the Central Electoral Commission shall announce the information in live radio and television reports on Armenia’s Public Radio and Public Television, from the administrative building of the Central Electoral Commission.”

ARTICLE 5. Add the following new part to Article 9, Paragraph 2 of the Code:

“Falsification of voter lists by an official responsible for compiling the voter lists, in violation of the established procedures for compiling the voter lists, shall be prosecuted by law.”

In Paragraph 5 of the same Article, add the word “and” before the words “heads of detention facilities” and remove the words “, and commanders of the Republic of Armenia military units”.

Add the following new sentence to Paragraph 5 of the same Article:

“The list of voters registered in the Republic of Armenia military units shall be compiled by the Authorized Agency, on the basis of information provided by the commanders of the military units.”

Rephrase Paragraph 6 of the same Article as follows:

“6. Twice a year, in June and December, the Authorized Agency shall submit to the Central Electoral Commission an electronic version of the updated Republic of Armenia Voter Register (by communities and by marzes and, in the case of national elections, also by electoral precincts, at least 180 days before the end of the term of the President of the Republic of Armenia or the National Assembly) for putting it up on the Central Electoral Commission’s website. The Republic of Armenia Voter Register shall be a permanent and integral part of the Central Electoral Commission’s website that shall include the criteria for voter lists set out in Article 11, by marzes and by communities and, in cases set out by this Code, also by electoral precincts.

ARTICLE 6. Rephrase Article 10, Paragraph 3 of the Code as follows:

“3. A community voter list shall include all citizens who have the right to vote and who are registered in that particular community. Those citizens, who have the right to vote but are not registered in that community, shall be included in voter lists in the place of their last registration.”

In view of the above, Article 10, Paragraph 5 shall be revoked.

In Paragraph 6 of the same Article, add the words “who have submitted an application” after the words “the right to vote”.

Rephrase Paragraph 8 of the same Article as follows:

“8. During national elections, military servicemen on a regular tour of duty, military servicemen registered in the territory where the military units are located and their family members, who have the right to vote and are registered in the territory where the military units are located, as well as citizens who are engaged in military exercises shall be included in the voter list of the military unit where they are serving.”

In Paragraph 9 of the same Article, add the following sentence: “They shall also provide the Authorized Agency with information necessary for compiling the lists of voters registered in military units.”

Rephrase Paragraph 10 of the same Article as follows:

“10. Military servicemen and their family members, who are registered outside the territory of the military unit, shall be included in the voter list on general grounds.”

ARTICLE 7. Rephrase Article 11, Paragraph 2, Sub-Paragraph 4 of the Code as follows:

“4) registered address or, in case of no registration, the last registered address.”

Rephrase Paragraph 3 of the same Article as follows:

“In voter lists submitted to Precinct Electoral Commission, the numbering mentioned in Paragraph 2, Sub-Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be done by precincts; every page of the list shall also contain the precinct number and three additional columns – for the series and number of voter’s identification document, voter’s signature and signature of the commission member responsible for registering the voters.”

In the second sentence of Paragraph 5 of the same article, add the words “compiled, numbered” after the words “voter list shall be”. [Translator’s note: seems that the words “Each page of the” need to be removed, but it’s not mentioned in the Armenian text of this draft law. End note]

ARTICLE 8. Rephrase Article 12, Paragraph 2 of the Code as follows:

“2. The Authorized Agency or the head of its appropriate division shall provide the final voter lists (by precincts) and the addresses of buildings (houses) included in the precinct in two printed copies (one copy of the voter lists prepared in the form of a register, and another for posting in the precinct center) to the chairmen of the appropriate Precinct Electoral Commissions at least 3 days before the voting day. Discrepancy between the final voter lists described in this Paragraph and the voter lists posted on the Authorized Agency’s website shall be prosecuted by law.”

Add a new sub-paragraph 2¹ to this Article, as follows:

“2¹. The head of the Authorized agency or its appropriate division shall provide an electronic version of the voter lists to the chairmen of the appropriate Territorial Electoral Commissions within timeframes established in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.”

In Paragraph 3 of the same Article, replace the words “Voter lists compiled” with the words “Lists of voters registered”. Also, replace the words “heads of those military units” with the words “Authorized Agency”.

ARTICLE 9. Rephrase the first sentence of Article 13, Paragraph 1 of the Code as follows:

“The Republic of Armenia Voter List, with the exception of lists of voters registered in military units or lists compiled in detention facilities, shall be open to access.”

In the second sentence of Paragraph 1 of the same Article, remove the words “compiled in military units and detention facilities and”.

Add the following wording to Paragraph 2 of the same Article:

“; they shall include the criteria for voter lists set out in Article 11 of this Code, by marzes and by communities and, in cases set out by this Code, also by electoral precincts.”

Rephrase Paragraph 3 of the same Article as follows:

“Every citizen and political party, registered in accordance with procedures defined in the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, shall have the right to receive electronic or hard copies of lists of voters included in the National Voter Register, by marzes and by communities and, in the case of [Translator’s Note: national? End note] elections, also by electoral precincts; the lists shall meet the criteria for voter lists set out in Article 11 of this Code and be provided by the Authorized Agency or its appropriate division within three days of applying for them, for an appropriate fee.”

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, replace the words “a copy of their voter lists” with the words “the voter list”.

In Paragraph 7 of the same Article, replace the words “Voter lists compiled” with the words “Lists of voters registered”.

In Paragraph 8 of the same Article, add the words “no later than three days before the voting day.”

ARTICLE 10. In Article 14, Paragraph 1 of the Code, add the words “and political party, registered in accordance with procedures defined in the legislation of the Republic of Armenia,” after the words “every person”.

In Paragraph 6 of the same Article, add the words “on correcting the mistakes found in voter lists and” after the word “Verdicts”.

Rephrase Paragraph 7 of the same Article as follows:

“7. Corrections and amendments to voter lists shall be made by Precinct Electoral Commissions on the voting day, based on verdicts on correcting the mistakes found in voter lists or adding applicants to the voter lists, reached in the five days preceding the voting day and on the voting day itself.

Additions to the voter lists shall be made by means of compiling supplementary lists, in accordance with procedures defined in Article 14¹ of this Code. Procedures for correcting the mistakes found in voter lists shall be defined by the Central Electoral Commission.”

ARTICLE 11. In Article 15, Paragraph 1, replace the words “vote counting” with the words “summarizing the voting results”.

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, add the following words after the words “45 days before the voting day”:

“or, in the case of national elections, no later than 180 days before the end of the term of the President of the Republic of Armenia or the National Assembly,”.

Rephrase Paragraph 3 of the same Article as follows:

“3. At least 45 days before the voting day, heads of military units located within up to 50 kilometers from the nearest settlement shall submit to the head of the Authorized Agency the number of voters registered in the military units and information necessary for compiling voter lists.”

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, add the words “at least 45 days before the voting day” after the words “Central Electoral Commission” in the first sentence. Add the words “within the same timeframe” at the end of the second sentence.

In Paragraph 6 of the same Article, replace the words “2,000 voters” with the words “1,600 voters”.

ARTICLE 12. Add the following new sentence to Article 16, Paragraph 2 of the Code:

“Community leaders shall be responsible for proper furnishing of the precinct centers located in their particular communities.”

ARTICLE 13. In Article 18, Paragraph 8 of the Code, add the words “(party alliances)” after the word “parties” in the first sentence. In the third sentence, add the words “(party alliance)” after both of the words “party”.

In Paragraph 8 of the same Article, replace the word “rule” with the words “reach a verdict” in the last sentence.

ARTICLE 14. In Article 20, Paragraph 2 of the Code, replace the words “within three days” with the words “the next day”.

ARTICLE 15. Rephrase Article 22, Paragraph 1 of the Code as follows:

“1. Reporters and editors from Public Radio and Public Television, as well as from other radio and TV companies, who are registered as candidates, shall be prohibited from covering the elections and hosting radio and TV programs.”

ARTICLE 16. In Article 24, Paragraphs 2 of the Code, remove the words “to the Central Electoral Commission.” Replace the words “If the Central Electoral commission does not receive state budget financing on time” with the words “If state budget financing is not received on time”.

ARTICLE 17. In Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the Code, replace the words “in the territory” with the words “in all the marzes”. Add a new Sub-Paragraph 8 to Paragraph 2 of the same Article, as follows:

“8) non-commercial state organizations”.

In Paragraph 11 of the same Article, replace the words “six days” with the words “15 days”, add the words “During national elections” in the beginning of the last paragraph, and add the word “candidates” after the word “presidential”.

ARTICLE 18. In Article 26 of the Code, replace the words “the Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission” with the words “the Central Electoral Commission” and rephrase the penultimate sentence as follows:

“The procedures for creating the Oversight and Audit Service and for its operation shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.”

ARTICLE 19. In Article 27, Paragraph 2 of the Code, add the words “or his/her authorized representative” after the word “candidate”.

ARTICLE 20. Rephrase Article 27¹, Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 2 as follows:

“2) to examine election documents, including appropriate court verdicts or appropriate statements issued by the Authorized Agency.”

In Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 3 of the same Article, add the words “voter’s identification documents, as well as” after the words “to examine freely” and replace the words “all relevant documents” with the words “all documents that are in the jurisdiction of that particular electoral commission”.

In Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 3 of the same Article, replace the words “the chairman and the secretary of the commission” with the words “the chairman (deputy chairman) and the secretary (at least two of them) of the commission.”

Rephrase Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 6 of the same Article as follows:

“to be physically present near commission members, who register voters, issue ballots, issue ballot envelopes, stamp the ballots, seal the ballot envelopes and watch over the ballot box, and observe their activities without disrupting their work.”

In Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 7 of the same Article, replace the words “the counting and summarization of ballots” with the words “the counting of ballots and summarization of voting results”.

In Paragraph 1 of the same Article, add a new Sub-Paragraph 6¹ after Paragraph 6, to read as follows: “6) [proxies] observe the work of electoral commission on the voting day and may offer observations and recommendations about the work to the chairman of the commission, while the latter shall take necessary measures in connection with the said observations and recommendations.”

ARTICLE 21. Revoke Article 29, Paragraph 4 of the Code, and replace the number “10” by the number “20” in Paragraph 6.

ARTICLE 22. In Article 30, Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 2 of the Code, add the words “that are in the jurisdiction of that particular electoral commission” after the word “documents.”

ARTICLE 23. Rephrase the 3rd, 4th, and 5th sentence in Article 33, Paragraph 9 of the Code as follows:

“In the case of national elections, referenda, new National Assembly elections under majoritarian system or by-elections, or local self-government elections in 5 or more communities of a given electoral district at the same time or in a community with more than 10,000 voters, the chairmen, deputy chairmen and secretaries of Territorial Electoral Commissions shall be remunerated in the amount of 50% of the Central Electoral Commission chairman’s, deputy chairman’s and secretary’s remuneration, respectively, for each month in the period of conducting the elections (60 days); in the same period, members of Territorial Electoral Commission shall be remunerated in the amount of 50% of the Territorial Electoral Commission’s deputy chairman’s monthly remuneration.

Judges of courts of general jurisdictions, appointed to Territorial Electoral Commissions, shall work free of charge.

During elections, chairmen of Precinct Electoral Commissions shall be remunerated in the amount of double the minimum wage defined by the Republic of Armenia legislation. The deputy chairmen, secretaries and members of Precinct Electoral Commissions, with the exception of members of Precinct Electoral Commissions formed in diplomatic or consular missions of the Republic of Armenia abroad, shall be remunerated in the amount of 15,000 drams each.

Members of Precinct Electoral Commissions are required to take part in the commission’s activities and carry out their responsibilities mandated by the law. Failure to carry out the responsibilities for no compelling reason shall be punishable by law.”

ARTICLE 24. In Article 34, Paragraph 1 of the Code, add the words “, except judges and members of Precinct Electoral Commissions formed in diplomatic or consular missions of the Republic of Armenia abroad” at the end of the sentence.

Add a new sentence to Paragraph 1 of the same Article, to read as follows:

“In electoral precincts formed in military units that are located at least 50 kilometers from the nearest settlement, and if the number of voters exceeds 500, then Precinct Electoral Commissions shall be formed in accordance with procedures set in this Code, from among persons who have passed professional training on how to conduct elections and received appropriate certificates of completion. Professional training on how to conduct elections shall be organized by bodies and officials who have the authority to form a Central Electoral

Commission, in accordance with procedures defined by the central Electoral Commission and together with the Central Electoral Commission. The right to nominate electoral commission membership candidates to professional training on how to conduct elections belongs to bodies and official who have the authority to form a Central Electoral Commission. Participation in the training program shall service as grounds for issuing the participating citizens with a certificate of completion.”

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, add the following words after the words “prosecutor’s offices”:

“court verdicts enforcement services, correctional facilities, social services, customs services, tax services”.

ARTICLE 25. In Article 35, Paragraph 3 of the Code, add the words “, within 10 days of submitting the nominations” at the end of the sentence. In the last sentence of Paragraph 6 of the same Article, replace the word “Chairman” by the words “oldest member”.

ARTICLE 26. In Article 36 of the Code:

a) Add the words “, within 10 days of submitting the nominations” at the end of Paragraph 1,

b) Rephrase the last sentence in Paragraph 4 as follows:

“The first session of a Territorial Electoral Commission shall be chaired by the Commission’s oldest member.”

ARTICLE 27. [Translator’s note: The proposed editorial amendment of Article 37, Paragraph 3 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 28. In Article 38 of the Code:

a) Add the following new Sub-Paragraph 9 to Paragraph 2, to read as follows: “9) if they have been recalled by the person or body that has the right to nominate them, no later than 20 days before the elections.

In the case if an electoral commission member’s authority has been terminated early, then the persons or bodies, who have the right to nominate an electoral commission member, may not nominate the same person to electoral commissions for three months.”

b) In Paragraph 3, add the words “by nomination” after the word “filled”, and add the words “and, in the case of Central and Territorial Electoral Commissions, by a decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia” at the end of that paragraph.

c) In Paragraph 3¹, Sub-Paragraph 3, replace the number “15” by the number “5”.

d) Add a new Sub-Paragraph 4 to Paragraph 3¹, to read as follows:

“4) Vacancies in the Central and Territorial Electoral Commissions shall be filled by nomination from the body who had nominated the original member, by a decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia, within ten days.”

ARTICLE 29. Revoke Article 39, Paragraph 3 of the Code.

ARTICLE 30. Add the following new sentences to Article 40¹, Paragraph 5 of the Code: “In the case of appealing against the voting results in accordance with procedures established by this

Code, the applicant who has filed the complaint shall have the right to examine lists signed by voters, together with other documents. The applicant shall have no right to publish or print them.”

ARTICLE 31. Remove the first words “Electoral Commission” from the title of Article 40² of the Code.

ARTICLE 32. In Article 42, Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 4 of the Code, remove the words “and local self-government bodies’ electoral districts” and add the words “identify the voting place (precinct center) and submit all that information to the Central Electoral Commission within two days” at the end of that sentence.

[Translator’s Note: the proposed amendment to Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 12 of the same Article does not affect the English text. End note].

In Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 19 of the same Article, add the word “member” after the word “Assembly”.

ARTICLE 33

First option:

In Article 47, Paragraph 2 of the Code:

a) In Sub-Paragraph 2, add the words “(ballot boxes), video recording equipment” after the words “ballot boxes”.

b) Add a new Sub-Paragraph 3 to Paragraph 2, to read as follows: “3) The voting and the summarization of voting results may be recorded on video in accordance with procedures established by the Central Electoral Commission in a) electoral precincts with 1000 and more voters in urban communities and b) electoral precincts with 2000 and more voters in rural communities.”

[Translator’s note: the Armenian sentence wasn’t 100% clear – “recorded in precincts” or “recorded by precincts”? End note].

Second option:

Add a new Sub-Paragraph 3 to Article 47, Paragraph 2 of the Code, to read as follows: “3) Proxies or observers may record on video or photograph the voting and the voting results summarization processes in accordance with procedures established by the Central Electoral Commission.”¹

ARTICLE 34. In Article 48, Paragraph 1 of the Code, remove the words “(rooms, henceforth – “voting booths”)”.

¹ Authors of the draft law have suggested to discuss the issue of video recording the voting and the summarization of voting results only if appropriate financial means are available (in case of the first option). In the case if such financial means are not available, authors of the draft have suggested to include a provision allowing proxies and observers to photograph and video record the voting and summarization of the voting results (second option).

Add a new Paragraph 5 to the Article, to read as follows:

“5. A limited access area, separated by a tape, shall be created at 3 meters from the voting booths or, in exceptional cases when it is not possible, at 2 meters from the voting booths. The area shall have one entrance and one exit. In that area, the presence of more voters than the number of booths shall be prohibited. Voting booths shall be placed at least 2 meters apart from each other, in a place not visible from behind.”

ARTICLE 35. Add the words “and the Ballot Envelope” to the title of Article 49¹ of the Code.

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article add the words “, a line for the series and number of the voter’s identification document, voter’s signature and the signature of the commission member responsible for providing the ballot” after the words “periodic number of the ballot.”

In Paragraph 6 of the same Article, add the words “under proportional system” after the words “National Assembly elections”.

In Paragraph 7 of the same Article, add the words “National Assembly elections under majoritarian system and” before the words “local self-government”.

Add a new Paragraph 11 to the same Article, to read as follows:

“11. Preparation of ballot envelopes shall be ensured by the Central Electoral Commission. If several elections are conducted concurrently, then separate envelopes shall be prepared for every voting event, so that their color is obviously different and that the color corresponds to the color of the appropriate ballot.

Ballot envelopes shall be provided to Precinct Electoral Commissions the day before the voting day, in the amount of the number of voters in the given precinct plus three percent of that number”.

ARTICLE 36. In Article 49² of the Code:

a) Add a new Paragraph 3¹ after Paragraph 3, to read as follows:

§3¹. Every Precinct Electoral Commission shall be provided with a stamp bearing a four-digit number for stamping the ballot envelopes.”

b) [Translator’s note: the amendment proposed to Paragraph 6 of the same Article does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 37. In Article 50, Paragraph 2 of the Code, add the words “,ballot envelopes” after the word “Ballots”.

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, add the words “and ballot envelopes” after the words “handing out ballots”, and replace the words “stamping the ballots” with the words “stamping the ballot envelopes”.

ARTICLE 38. Rephrase Article 53, Paragraph 1 of the Code as follows:

“1. On the day before the voting day, at its session, Precinct Electoral Commission shall decide by drawing a lot which three of its members shall sign the ballots; these three members shall sign all the ballots and all the pages of voter lists by 24:00 (signatures are placed on the back of every ballot and every page of the voter lists), and make an appropriate note in the register. If other members of the Precinct Electoral Commission wish, they may also sign the

ballots, ballot envelopes and voter lists, and make an appropriate note in the register to that effect.

The signed ballots, ballot envelopes, voter lists, the stamp and seal package shall be kept in a special fire-proof safe box. Procedures for storing the ballots, ballot envelopes, voter lists, the stamp and the seal shall be defined by the Central Electoral Commission.”

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, add the words “hand out ballot envelopes,” after the words “hand out ballots” and add the words “and stamp ballot envelopes” after the words “watch the ballot box”.

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, add the words “; Precinct Electoral Commission shall also decide on the procedures for replacing the commission members in their aforementioned functions by other commission members, every two hours.”

In Paragraph 3 of the same Article, add the words “, ballot envelopes” after the word “ballots” in the first sentence. In the same sentence, add the word “and seal” after the word “stamp” in both cases.

In Paragraph 3 of the same Article, add the words “give ballot envelopes (in batches of 100) to the commission member responsible for handing out ballot envelopes,” after the words “voter registration”, replace the words “and give” by the words “, give”, and add the words “and give addresses of residential buildings (houses) included in the electoral precinct and the seal to the commission member responsible for stamping the ballot envelopes” at the end of that sentence.

In Paragraph 3 of the same Article, add a new sentence after the second sentence, to read as follows: “The color of ink used for stamping the ballots and ballot envelopes may be changed at the request of a member of the Precinct Electoral Commission or a proxy; this change must be recorded in an appropriate protocol. If there are different suggestions, the color of the ink shall be determined by the commission’s decision, by using an inkpad that was not used for inking.”

ARTICLE 39. In Article 55, Paragraph 2 of the Code, add a new sentence after the first sentence, to read as follows:

“That commission member shall put his/her signature in a specially designated column, next to the voter’s signature.”

ARTICLE 40. In Article 56, Paragraph 1 of the Code, add the words “and one ballot envelope (or envelopes, if several elections are taking place concurrently)” to the end of the sentence.

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, remove the words “who shall proceed to the voting booth (room) to vote”.

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, add the following new sentences after the first sentence:

“The latter shall record the information on the stub of the ballot as required in Article 49¹ of this Code and put his signature, then remove the stub of the ballot (or ballots, if several elections are taking place concurrently) and give the bottom part of the ballot to the voter, who shall proceed to the commission member responsible for stamping the ballot and giving out ballot envelopes. Having verified that the voter is registered in that particular electoral precinct, the commission member responsible for stamping the ballots shall stamp the ballot and return the ballot, together with a ballot envelope, to the voter. Then the voter shall proceed to the

voting booth to vote”.

In Paragraph 3 of the same Article, remove the word “(room)”.

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, remove both of the words “(room)”; replace the words “another person (but never a proxy) into the voting booth with them” with the words “two members of the Precinct Electoral Commission or two proxies into the voting booth with them”.

ARTICLE 41. In the title of Article 57 of the Code, replace the word “Ballots” with the words “Ballot Envelopes”.

Rephrase Paragraph 3 of the same Article as follows:

“3. After marking the ballot, the voter shall fold the ballot, place it in the ballot envelope and close the envelope while in the voting booth, then proceed to the ballot box. The commission member responsible for the ballot box shall verify that the voter is registered in that particular electoral precinct, stamps the envelope with $\text{ñáßÜ}^3\text{ÏÝÇùái}$, open the ballot box slot and allow the voter to drop the ballot envelope into the ballot box. After having dropped the ballot envelope into the ballot box, the voter shall leave the precinct center.

In the case of several elections taking place concurrently, the voter shall place each ballot into a separate envelope for the appropriate election.”

Revoke Paragraph 4 of the same Article.

ARTICLE 42. In Article 58, Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 5 of the Code, add the words “or is not signed”.

ARTICLE 43. Rephrase Article 59 of the Code as follows:

“Ballots of non-established specimen are the ones that differ from the established specimen or unsigned, as well as:

- a) ballots that are in ballot envelopes of non-established specimen;
- b) all the ballots in a single ballot envelope that contains more than one ballot;
- c) ballots in the ballot box that are not inside ballot envelopes.”

ARTICLE 44. Add a new Article 59¹ to the Code, to read as follows:

“Article 59¹. Ballot Envelopes of Non-Established Specimen

Ballot envelopes of non-established specimen are the one that differ from the established specimen or are not sealed or are sealed by a different seal, as well as:

- a) ballot envelopes that contain no ballots;
- μ) ballot envelopes that contain more than one ballot or an invalid ballot;
-) ballot envelopes that contain ballots of non-established specimen.”

ARTICLE 45. In Article 60 of the Code,

a) In Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 1, add the words “unused ballot envelopes, as well as” before the word “unused”.

b) Rephrase Paragraph 2 as follows:

“2. The results of Sub-Paragraphs 1-4 of Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be announced and recorded in the register.

The Commission Chairman shall open the ballot box, count the total number of ballot envelopes,

then records it in a protocol. Then he/she shall take one ballot envelope from the total mass of ballot envelopes and announce out loud whether the ballot envelope is of established specimen or not.

Then, he/she shall randomly select 250 ballot envelopes of established specimen and place them in an intermediate batch. Once the number of ballot envelopes in an intermediate batch reaches 250, a new intermediate batch shall be started. These steps shall be continued until the last ballot envelop of established specimen, with the last intermediate batch containing less than 250 ballot envelopes. Then, he/she shall take an envelope from an intermediate batch, in the order in which they were placed there, take out the ballot from inside that envelope, announce out loud whether the ballot is valid, invalid or of non-established specimen; if the ballot is valid, it shall be shown to the persons who have the right to be present at the precinct center and then it shall be announced for which candidate, party or party alliance it was cast. If requested, the ballot envelope and the ballot shall be passed to other commission members. In the event of disagreement with the Commission Chairman's opinion, a commission member shall raise an objection. Based on the results of a vote by commission members (if an objection is raised) or the original announcement of the Commission Chairman (if there was no objection), the Chairman shall place the ballot of the established specimen in the stack of ballots cast for or against the respective candidate, party or party alliance, depending on what was in the ballot; he/she shall place the envelope in a separate stack of valid envelopes, after which he/she shall take the next envelope from the intermediate batch.

If a ballot envelope contains no ballots. or more than one ballot in a single envelope, or ballot (ballots) of non-established specimen, the this ballot (ballots) shall be put back in the envelope and the envelope shall be placed in the stack of ballot envelopes of non-established specimen.

If the envelope is of non-established specimen, then the ballot contained in it shall not be taken out, and the envelope shall be placed in the stack of ballot envelopes of non-established specimen.

Ballot envelopes of non-established specimen, together with ballots contained therein, shall be separated from the envelopes of established specimen and cancelled immediately.

If one invalid ballot is found in a ballot envelope of established specimen, then this ballot shall be placed in the stack of invalid ballots, while the envelope shall be placed in the stack of envelopes of established specimen.

These steps shall be repeated for all the envelopes in an intermediate batch. After summarizing the voting results for each intermediate batch, the Precinct Electoral Commission shall prepare an intermediate protocol, in accordance with procedures set in Article 60¹ of this Code. The steps described in this Paragraph shall be repeated for other intermediate batches.

It is forbidden for commission members to make any notes or to have pens, pencils or other objects for marking while sorting envelopes and ballots.”

c) In Paragraph 3 of the same Article, add the words “ballot envelopes and” after the words “Having sorted all the”, and add the words “valid ballot envelopes, invalid ballot envelopes and” after the words “count one by one all the”

d) In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, add the words “Ballot envelopes and” in the

beginning of the sentence.

e) In Paragraph 5 of the same Article, add the words “ballot envelopes and” after the word “sorted”.

ARTICLE 46. Add a new Article 60¹ to the Code, to read as follows:

“ARTICLE 60¹. Precinct Electoral Commission’s Intermediate Protocol on Voting Results in Intermediate Batches

Based on calculations related to intermediate batches, as described in Article 60 of this Code, Precinct Electoral Commission shall prepare an intermediate protocol, which shall include the following:

- 1) the number of invalid ballots (d2);
- 2) number of ballots cast for each candidate, party and party alliance;
- 3) the total number of ballots cast for all candidates, parties and party alliances (this line is left blank if only one candidate is running);
- 4) the number of ballots cast against the candidate (this line is filled out when only one candidate is running);
- 5) the number of ballot envelopes of established specimen;
- 6) the number of ballot envelopes of non-established specimen;
- 7) the number of valid ballots (d1);
- 8) the amount of inaccuracies;
- 9) the number of ballot envelopes of non-established specimen and invalid ballot envelopes, plus the number of invalid ballots is added to line d2;
- 10) the number of ballots of non-established specimen.”

2. The intermediate protocol shall be signed by all commission members present at the session, and then stamped by the Commission Chairman.

3. If any commission member has a special opinion about the data in the intermediate protocol, then he/she shall submit his/her opinion in writing, which shall be attached to the intermediate protocol, and he/she shall make a note next to his/her signature to that effect.

4. If a commission member refuses to sign the intermediate protocol, then a note to that effect shall be made in the intermediate protocol.”

ARTICLE 47. In Article 61 of the Code:

a) Rephrase Paragraph 1 as follows:

“1. Based on calculations made in accordance with procedures set out in Article 60 of the Code and reflected in intermediate protocols prepared in accordance with procedures set out in Article 60¹ of the Code, the Precinct Electoral Commission shall prepare a protocol on precinct voting results, which shall include the following:

- 1) the total number of voters as per voter lists;
- 2) the number of ballots allocated to the Precinct Electoral Commission (A) and the ballot stub numbers;
- 3) the total number of ballots cancelled in the Precinct Electoral Commission (C);
- 4) the number of voters who registered and received ballots, according to signatures (B);
- 5) the sum of the numbers of invalid ballots, taken from all intermediate protocols (d2);
- 6) the number of used ballot stubs (E);
- 7) the sum of the number of ballots cast for each candidate, party or party alliance, taken from all intermediate protocols.

8) the sum of the total numbers of ballots cast for all candidates, parties or party alliances, taken from all intermediate protocols (this line is left blank if only one candidate is running);

9) the sum of the number of ballots cast against the candidate, taken from all intermediate protocols (this line is filled out when only one candidate is running);

10) the sum of the numbers of valid ballot envelopes, taken from all intermediate protocols;

11) the sum of the numbers of ballot envelopes of non-established specimen, taken from all intermediate protocols;

12) the number of valid ballots (d1);

13) the sum (of the amount) of inaccuracies, taken from all intermediate protocols.”

b) In Paragraph 7, replace the words “documents used as a basis” with the words “intermediate protocols and other documents used as a basis”.

c) In Paragraph 8, add the words “commission members” after the word “alliances”. Add the following new sentence to this Paragraph:

“Any discrepancy between the protocols on precinct voting results and excerpts from the protocols, provided in accordance with procedures defined in this Paragraph, shall be considered as grounds for opening a criminal case.”

d) In Paragraph 9, replace the words “one copy of the protocol on voting results” with the words “one copy of intermediate protocols and two copies of the summary protocol”.

e) In Paragraph 10, add the words “intermediate protocols,” after the words “The formats of”.

ARTICLE 48. Add a new Sub-Paragraph 3¹ to Article 62, Paragraph 1 of the Code, to read as follows:

“3¹) compare the number of ballot envelopes of established specimen with the sum of the numbers of valid and invalid ballots in the ballot box (D). The difference (its absolute value) shall be noted as the fourth inaccuracy.”

In Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 4 of the same Article, replace the words “and 3” with the words “3 and 4”.

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, remove the words “sub-paragraph 3 of”.

ARTICLE 49. In Article 63 of the Code:

a) Replace the words “with their signatures” with the words “with the signatures of all the members of the Precinct Electoral Commission who had signed the protocol and with the Territorial Electoral Commission’s stamp. The electoral precincts, which are located 70 km and more from the seat of the Territorial Electoral Commission, may endorse the protocols with corrections with the signatures of the Precinct Electoral Commission’s Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Secretary.” Add the following new sentence to the same Paragraph: “One copy of the Precinct Electoral Commission’s endorsed protocol with corrections shall be posted in the precinct center in a place that is visible for voters.”

b) Add the following new sentence to Paragraph 2: “In Territorial Electoral Commission, the voting results shall be tabulated by precincts, stamped and endorsed by members of the Territorial Electoral Commission, and then submitted to the Central Electoral Commission. Any discrepancy between the Central Electoral Commission’s summary protocol on voting results and the tabulated voting results shall be considered as grounds for opening a criminal case.”

c) Rephrase Paragraph 3 as follows:

“3. A copy of tabulated precinct voting results, endorsed by the signatures of the commission chairman (deputy chairman) and the secretary and by the commission’s stamp, shall be posted in a visible place, without delay, immediately after the voting results have been summarized. Upon their requests, proxies, commission members or observers shall receive a copy of the tabulated precinct voting results, endorsed by the signatures of the Commission Chairman (Deputy Chairman) and the Secretary and the Commission’s stamp. The Territorial Electoral Commission shall promptly (but within no more than 18 hours of the end of the voting) prepare appropriate protocols on receiving all the stamps and seals from Precinct Electoral Commissions and submit them [the stamps and the seals] to the Central Electoral Commission.”

ARTICLE 50. Add a new Sub-Paragraph 9¹ to Article 63¹, Paragraph 3 of the Code, to read as follows:

“9¹) the number of valid ballot envelopes;”

In Paragraph 10 of the same Article, add the words “commission members” after the word “proxies”.

Add the following new sentence to the same paragraph:

“Any discrepancy between the protocol on voting results in the electoral district and the copy of the protocol provided in accordance with the procedures set out in this Paragraph shall be considered as grounds for opening a criminal case.”

ARTICLE 51. In Article 63², Paragraph 1 of the Code, replace the words “28 hours” with the words “24 hours” and add a new Sub-Paragraph 9¹ to Paragraph 4:

“9¹) the number of valid ballot envelopes;”

In Paragraph 9 of the same Article, add the words “from the administrative building of the Central Electoral Commission” at the end of the last sentence.

ARTICLE 52. In Article 66 of the Code, add the words “party alliances” after the word “Parties”.

ARTICLE 53. Add the following new sentence to Article 67, Paragraph 1 of the Code:

“Every political party or party alliance has the right to nominate one presidential candidate.”

ARTICLE 54. [Translator’s note: the first amendment proposed to Article 71 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

In Article 71, Paragraph 1, replace the first word “Persons” with the word “Citizens”; also, replace the words “If the candidate receives 5 percent of the votes in the election” with the words “If in an election a candidate receives 5 or more than 5 percent of the number of valid ballots cast for”.

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, replace the words “If a presidential candidate receives less than 5 percent of the votes in the election” with the words “If a candidate receives less than 5 percent of the number of valid ballots cast for”.

ARTICLE 55. Rephrase the title of Article 72 of the Code to read as follows:

“Registration of Citizens Nominated to be Presidential Candidates as Presidential Candidates”.

Rephrase Paragraph 1 of the same Article as follows:

“1. Every citizen nominated to be presidential candidate may be registered as presidential candidate by nomination of one party or party alliance or one initiative group.”

In the first sentence of Paragraph 2 of the same Article, replace the words “registering a presidential candidate” with the words “registering a citizen nominated to be presidential candidate as presidential candidate”.

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, replace the words “presidential candidate” with the words “citizen nominated to be presidential candidate”.

[Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to Paragraph 5 of the same Article does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 56. Rephrase the title of Article 73 of the Code as follows:

“Refusal to Register a Citizen Nominated to be Presidential Candidate”.

In the first sentence of Paragraph 1 of the same Article, replace the words “register a presidential candidate” with the words “register a citizen nominated to be presidential candidate as presidential candidate”.

In Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 3 of the same Article, add the words “and/or nomination” after the word “registration”.

In the second sentence and the second part of Paragraph 1 of the same Article, replace the words “presidential candidate” with the words “citizen nominated to be presidential candidate”.

In the last sentence of Paragraph 2 of the same Article, remove the words “a candidate’s”.

ARTICLE 57. [Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to Article 74 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 58. In the title of Article 75 of the Code and in Paragraph 1 and 2 of the same Article, add the words “citizen nominated to be” after the words “of a”. [Translator’s note: the other amendment proposed to Paragraph 2 of the same Article does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 59. [Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to Article 76 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 60. [Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to the title of Chapter 15 and the titles and the bodies of Articles 77 and 78 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 61. Revoke the second sentences in Article 78, Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Code.

ARTICLE 62. [Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to the titles of Chapter 16 and Articles 79 and 81 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 63. In Article 79, Paragraph 1, add the words “or a citizen nominated to be

presidential candidate” after the words “presidential candidate.”

In the third sentence of Paragraph 1 of the same Article, replace the first word “The” with the words “A citizen nominated to be”.

In Paragraph 6 of the same Article, replace the words “ more than 5 percent of the votes” with the words “5 or more than 5 percent of the number of valid ballots cast for”.

In Paragraph 7 of the same Article, replace the words “less than 5 percent of the votes” with the words “ less than 5 percent of the number of valid ballots cast for”.

[Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to Paragraph 9 of the same Article does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 64. [Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to the title of Article 81 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

In Paragraph 5 of the same Article, add the words “(party alliance)” after the word “party”.

Rephrase Paragraph 7 of the same Article as follows:

“The Government of the Republic of Armenia shall reimburse 50 percent of pre-election campaign expenditures for those candidates, who received 25 or more percent of the total number of valid ballots cast for any one of the candidates in the presidential election.”

ARTICLE 65. In Article 82, Paragraph 1 of the Code, add the words “(party alliance)” after the word “party”.

In Paragraph 3 of the same Article, add the words “up to” before the words “3 percent”.

ARTICLE 66. In Article 83, Paragraph 1 of the Code, remove the words “Based on summary protocols on election results in electoral districts,”.

ARTICLE 67. [Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to Article 84, Paragraph 1 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

Rephrase Paragraph 2 of the same Article as follows:

“If only one candidate was running, then he/she shall be considered elected if more than half of the people who participated in the election voted for him/her”.

ARTICLE 68. Rephrase Article 85, Paragraphs 1 and 2, to read as follows:

“1. If more than two candidates were running in an election and none of them received the required number of votes, then the second round of presidential elections shall take place on the 14th day after the voting. The second round of presidential elections is held between the two candidates who had received the most votes.

2. The candidate who receives more votes in the second round shall be elected President of the Republic.”

Revoke Paragraph 3 of the same Article.

ARTICLE 69. Rephrase Article 86, Sub-Paragraph 1 of the Code as follows:

§1) the amount of inaccuracies is greater or equal to the difference between the number of votes received by the two candidates with the highest number of votes or, in the case if only one candidate was running, the difference between the number of votes for and against that candidate.”

ARTICLE 70. In Article 89, Paragraph 1 of the Code, add the words “(party alliances)” after the word “Parties”.

Revoke Paragraph 2 of the same Article.

ARTICLE 71. Rephrase Article 90 of the Code to read as follows:

“1. If a President of the Republic is not elected in cases described in Articles 86 and 87 of this Code, then new presidential election shall be announced. The voting in the new presidential election shall take place on the 40th day after the new election is announced.

2. In the event of insurmountable obstacles for one of the presidential candidates, the presidential election shall be postponed for two weeks. If the obstacles deemed insurmountable are not removed, new election shall be announced; the voting in the new election shall take place on the 40th day after the aforementioned two-week period.

3. In the event of one of the candidate’s death before the voting day, new election shall be announced; the voting in the new election shall take place on the 40th day after the new election is announced.

4. New presidential elections shall take place with new nomination of candidates.”

ARTICLE 72. Rephrase Article 91 of the Code to read as follows:

“1. In the case of the President’s resignation, death, incapacity to perform his or her duties or impeachment in accordance with procedures set out in Article 57 of the Constitution, extraordinary presidential election shall be announced; the voting shall take place on the 40th day of the President’s post becoming vacant.

2. There shall be no presidential elections during military and emergency situations and the incumbent President shall continue to carry out his/her duties. In that case, presidential elections shall take place on the 40th day after the end of the military or emergency situation, in accordance with procedures for extraordinary elections, as described in this Code.”

ARTICLE 73. In Article 93, Paragraph 1 of the Code, add the words “(party alliances)” after the word “Parties”.

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, replace the words “Community leaders” with the words “the Head of the Authorized Agency or it’s appropriate division”

ARTICLE 74. In Article 97, Paragraph 2 of the Code, remove the words “under majoritarian system”.

Revoke Paragraph 3 of the same Article.

Add a new Paragraph 4 to the same Article, to read as follows:

“4. State and local government employees and officials, who are not covered by the restrictions described in this Article, may register as MP candidates if they temporarily resign from their posts.”

ARTICLE 75. In Article 100 of the Code, add the words “(party alliance’s)” after the word

“party’s” in the 3rd sentence of Paragraph 2, in Sub-Paragraphs 6 of Paragraph 3 and in the beginning of Paragraph 3; add the words “(party alliance)” after the word party in Paragraph 8.

In Paragraph 3, Sub-Paragraph 2 of the same Article, add the words “(in the case of party alliance, the joint decision of the permanently functioning bodies of the parites-members of the alliance)” after the word “body”. [Translator’s Note: the other amendment proposed to the same Sub-Paragraph does not affect the English text. End note].

Revoke Paragraph 4 of the same Article.

In Paragraph 5 of the same Article, replace the word “three” by the word “two”; replace the words “to be registered by the Central Electoral Commission” with the words “to be accredited at the Central Electoral Commission for the entire duration of the election”.

In Paragraph 8 of the same Article, add the words “(party alliances)” after the words “deposit of parties”.

ARTICLE 76. In Article 101, Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraphs 2 and 3 and in Paragraphs 2 and 3, add the words “(party alliance)” after the word “party”.

Add the following new sentence after Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 4 of the same Article:

“The documents described in Sub-Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Paragraph shall be provided to the citizen, nominated as MP candidate, by the Authorized State Agency, in accordance with procedures defined by the Central Electoral Commission, within three days of applying for them”.

ARTICLE 77. In the title and the body of Article 102, add the words “(party alliance)” after the word “party”. [Translator’s Note: the other amendment proposed in the same sentence does not affect the English text. End note].

In Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 2, Paragraph 2, Sub-Paragraph 2 and Part 4, Sub-Paragraph 2, add the words “and/or nomination” after the word “registration”.

In Paragraph 9 of the same Article, add the words “electoral commission’s” before the word “decision”. [Translator’s Note: the other amendment proposed to Paragraph 9 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 78. In the title and the body of Article 103 of the Code, add the words “(party alliance)” after the word “party”. [Translator’s Note: the other amendment proposed in this sentence does not affect the English text. End note].

In Paragraph 1, Sub-Paragraph 4 and Paragraph 2 of the same Article, add the words “(party alliance)” after the word “party”.

ARTICLE 79. In Article 106, Paragraph 1 of the Code, replace the words “and the application (decision)” with the words “or the decision”

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, add the words “as an MP candidate” after the word “registered”.

ARTICLE 80. In Article 108, Paragraph 3 of the Code, replace the words “more than 5 of the votes cast” with the words “5 or more than 5 percent of the number of valid ballots cast for”.

In Paragraph 4, Sub-Paragraph 3 and Paragraph 7, Sub-Paragraph 2, add the words “and/or nomination” after the word “registration”.

[Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to Paragraph 10 of the same Article of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 79 [Translator’s note: I think it should be 81, not 79. End note]. [Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to the title of Article 109 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 82. In Article 112, Paragraph 3 of the Code, add the words “(party alliances)” after the word “parties”.

ARTICLE 83. In Article 113, Paragraph 2 of the Code, add the words “(party alliances)” after the word “parties”.

ARTICLE 84. In the first sentence of Article 115, Paragraph 2 of the Code, replace the words “that have received at least 5 and 7 percent of the sum of the total number of valid votes and the number of inaccuracies” with the words “if a single party received ballots in the amount of at least 5 percent of the sum of the number of valid ballots and the amount of inaccuracies, a party alliance made up of two parties receives 7 percent of the ballots cast for anyone, or a party alliance made up of three and more parties receives 10 percent of the ballots cast for anyone.” Rephrase the second sentence in the same Paragraph as follows: “If electoral lists of one party, an alliance of two parties or an alliance of three and more parties receive ballots in the amount of at least 5, 7 and 10 percent of the sum of the total number of valid ballots and the amount of inaccuracies, respectively, then, the two parties (party alliances) that have received the next highest number of ballots shall participate in the distribution of mandates.”

In Paragraphs 3, 5 and 9 of the same Article, add the words “(party alliance)” after the word “party”; replace the words “number of votes cast for” with the words “number of ballots cast for each one of them”; in Paragraphs 3 and 4, replace the words “votes cast” with the words “ballots cast”.

ARTICLE 85. In Article 116, Paragraph 2 of the Code, replace the words “who receives the most “for” votes” with the words “for whom more voters have voted”.

Rephrase Paragraph 3 of the same Article as follows:

“3. If only one candidate was running, he/she shall be considered elected if more than half of the voters who participated in the election voted for him/her.”

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, replace the words ““for” votes” with the words “ballots cast for them”.

Rephrase Paragraph 5 of the same Article as follows:

“An MP’s election shall be declared invalid, if:

1) the amount of inaccuracies is greater than or equal to the difference between the

number of ballots cast for the two candidates who received the highest number of ballots cast for them or, if only one candidate was running, the difference between the number of ballots cast for and against that candidate;

2) such violations of this Code have occurred during the preparation and conduct of elections, which may have influenced the outcome of the election.”

Rephrase Paragraph 6, Sub-Paragraph 1 of the same Article as follows:

“1) insufficient number of voters voted for the only candidate running in the election.”

In Paragraph 6, Sub-Paragraph 2 of the same Article, replace the words “elected candidate” with the words “candidate who receives the highest number of ballots cast for him/her”.

Add a new Sub-Paragraph 3 to Paragraph 6 of the same Article, to read as follows:

“3) no candidate has been nominated or registered within the timeframe and in accordance with the procedures set out in this Code”.

Add a new Paragraph 10¹ to the same Article, to read as follows:

“10¹. If an election is considered invalid or failed, the amount of a candidate’s electoral deposit shall be returned.”

ARTICLE 86. Rephrase Article 117, Paragraph 1 of the Code as follows:

“1. Regular National Assembly elections shall be held not earlier than 40 and no later than 30 days before the end of its term.”

In Paragraph 3 of the same Article, add the words “(party alliances)” after the word “parties”.

In Paragraph 5 of the same Article, add the words “(party alliance)” after the word “Party”.

ARTICLE 87. In Article 118, Paragraph 3 of the Code, replace the word “fourth” with the word “last”.

ARTICLE 88. In Article 119, Paragraph 3, add the words “(party alliances)” after the word “parties”.

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, add the words “(party alliance)” after the word “Party”.

ARTICLE 89. In Article 123, Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Code, replace the words “more than 5 percent of votes cast for all candidates” with the words “5 or more than 5 percent of the number of valid ballots cast for” and remove the words “or to the pre-election fund, if the deposit was paid from the pre-election fund”.

In Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the same Article, replace the words “votes” with the words “number of valid ballots” and remove the words “in the electoral district” in Paragraph 3.

Rephrase Paragraph 8 of the same Article as follows:

“A citizen may be nominated as a community leader or council member candidate in only one community”.

ARTICLE 90. [Translator’s Note: the amendments proposed to the title of Article 125 and to Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the same Article do not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 91. [Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to the titles of Chapters 27 and 28 of this Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 92. [Translator’s Note: the amendments proposed to the title and the body of Article 126 of the Code do not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 93. In Article 128, Paragraph 1 of the Code, revoke the last sentence. [Translator’s Note: the other amendment proposed to Article 128 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 94. [Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to Article 130, Paragraph 1 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, replace the words “Ballots for community leader elections” with the words “In case of community leader elections, the ballots”

In Paragraph 3 of the same Article, replace the words “Ballots for community council elections” with the words “In case of community council member elections, the ballots”.

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, add the words “up to” before the words “3 percent”.

ARTICLE 95. In Article 132, Paragraph 1 of the Code, replace the words “The summary protocols for community leader and community council election results” with the words “In the case of community leader and community council elections, the summary protocols on election results”.

ARTICLE 96. [Translator’s Note: the amendment proposed to the title and the body of Article 133 of the Code do not affect the English text. End note].

In Paragraph 2 of the same Article, replace the words “the highest number of “for” votes” with the words “for whom more voters have voted”, and rephrase the second and third sentences in the same Paragraph as follows:

“If only one candidate is running, he/she shall be considered elected if more than half of the voters who participated in the election voted for him/her.

If two or more candidates receive an equal highest number of ballots cast for them, then the winner shall be decided by drawing a lot, in accordance with procedures defined by the Central Electoral Commission.”

Rephrase the first sentence of Paragraph 3 of the same Article as follows:

“Community leader elections shall be considered invalid, if:

1) the amount of inaccuracies is greater than or equal to the difference between the number of ballots cast for the two candidates who received the highest number of ballots cast for them or, if only one candidate was running, the difference between the number of ballots cast for and against that candidate;

2) such violations of this Code have occurred during the preparation and conduct of

elections, which may have influenced the outcome of the election”.

Add a new Sub-Paragraph 1¹ before Sub-Paragraph 1 of Paragraph 4 of the same Article, to read as follows:

“1¹) no candidate has been nominated or registered within the timeframe and in accordance with the procedures set out in this Code”.

Rephrase Paragraph 4, Sub-Paragraph 1 of the same Article as follows:

“1) insufficient number of voters voted for the only candidate running in the election”.

In Paragraph 4, Sub-Paragraph 2, replace the words “the elected candidate” with the words “the candidate who receives the highest number of ballots cast for him/her.”

ARTICLE 97. In the title and the body of Article 134 of the Code, replace the words “council elections” with the words “council member elections”.

Revoke Paragraph 3 of the same Article.

In Paragraph 4 of the same Article, replace the words “the highest number of “for” votes” with the words “the highest number of ballots voter for them.”

Rephrase the second sentence of Paragraph 4 of the same Article to read as follows:

“If the number of “for” ballots is equal, the winner shall be determined by drawing a lot, in accordance with procedures established by the Central Electoral Commission”.

Rephrase Paragraph 5 of the same Article to read as follows:

“Community council member elections shall be considered invalid, if:

1) the amount of inaccuracies makes it impossible to determine the winners, whose number is at least half the number of community council members, as specified in Article 120, Paragraph 2, i.e. the difference between the number of ballots cast for the elected candidate and the non-elected candidate is smaller than or equal to the difference between the amount of inaccuracies and the ratio of the number of community council member candidates;

2) such violations of this Code have occurred during the preparation and conduct of elections, which may have influenced the outcome of the election.

Re-voting between the same candidates shall take place within 14 days after Territorial Electoral Commission passes a decision to consider community council member elections invalid or a court verdict on that subject enters into effect.

Re-voting between the same candidates may take place only once.”

In Paragraph 6 of the same Article, add the following words after the first word “if”: “the number of candidates nominated or registered within the time period and in accordance with procedures specified in this Code is less than at least half the number of community council members specified in Article 120, Paragraph 2 of this Code, or”.

Revoke the second sentence in Paragraph 6 of the same Article.

Revoke Paragraph 7 of the same Article.

ARTICLE 98. In Article 137 of the Code, add the following new sentence: “New elections are announced by the Marzpet (Mayor of Yerevan)”. [Translator’s Note: the other amendment proposed to Article 137 of the Code does not affect the English text. End note].

ARTICLE 99. [Translator's note: the English version of the Code already contains the correction in Article 138, Paragraph 1, proposed by this Article. End note].

ARTICLE 100. This law shall enter into effect from the 10th day following its official publication.

Draft

**DRAFT LAW
ON CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA LAW
ON POLITICAL PARTIES**

ARTICLE 1. In Article 27, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Republic of Armenia Law on Political Parties (July 3, 2002, HO-410-N, henceforth referred to as the Law), replace the number “0.03” with the number “0.12”.

ARTICLE 2. In Article 31, Part 2, replace the word “one” with the word “two”.

ARTICLE 3. Add a new Part 2¹ after Part 2 in Article 31, to read as follows:

“2¹. A party shall be subject to dissolution, if it participated in a National Assembly elections as part of a party alliance and that alliance received less than 4 percent of the sum of the total number of votes cast for electoral lists of all parties (party alliances), which participated in the election, and the amount of inaccuracies.”

ARTICLE 4. This law shall enter into effect from the 10th day of its official publication.

Draft

**DRAFT LAW
ON CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL CODE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

ARTICLE 1. In Article 149 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia (April 18, 2003, HO-528-N, henceforth referred to as the Code):

a) Rephrase the sanction in Part 1 as follows: “is punished with a fine in the amount of 300 to 500 minimal salaries, or a detention for up to three months”;

b) Add a new Paragraph 6 to Part 2, to read as follows: “6) are accompanied by detaining a person”, and rephrase the sanction as follows: “are punished with imprisonment for two to five years.”

ARTICLE 2. Rephrase Article 150 of the Code as follows:

“ARTICLE 150. Forgery of Election or Voting Results
Obviously incorrect counting of votes during a referendum or an election, or approving election results, including protocols, their copies, other election documents and excerpts from them with obvious mistakes, stealing the ballot box, entering obviously incorrect data into a computer, changing the entered data, as well as any forgery of election or voting results in any way or failure, to that end, to submit election documents to the higher electoral bodies within the established period of time is punished with imprisonment for three to five years.”

ARTICLE 3. In Article 151 of the Code, rephrase the sanction as follows: “is punished with a fine in the amount of 400 to 700 minimal salaries, or with imprisonment for one to five years.”

ARTICLE 4. Rephrase Article 152 of the Code to read as follows:

“ARTICLE 152. Breach of Procedures for Compiling the Voter Lists, Providing Them to Citizens and Political Parties or Publishing Them

Breach, on the part of the official responsible for compilation of voter lists, of procedures for providing voter lists to citizens or political parties, failure to provide the lists to them or failure to publish the lists in accordance with the established procedures is punished by a fine in the amount of 500 to 1000 minimal salaries.

Forgery through the breach of procedures for compilation of voter lists on the part of the official responsible for compilation of voter lists is punished by imprisonment for 1 to 3 years, with or without a ban to hold certain posts or engage in certain activities for a period of up to five years.”

ARTICLE 5. In Article 153 of the Code, rephrase the sanction as follows:

“is punished with a fine in the amount of 300 to 500 minimal salaries, or imprisonment for 6 months to 2 years.”

ARTICLE 6. In the sanction in Article 154 of the Code, replace the word “200” with the word “300”, remove the words “or arrest for 1-2 months” and replace the word “up” with the words “6 months”.

ARTICLE 7. Add a new Article 154¹ to the Code, to read as follows:

“Article 154¹. Making of Forged Ballots or Ballot Envelopes, or Submitting or Using Obviously Forged Ballots or Ballot Envelopes.

Making of forged ballots or ballot envelopes, or submitting or using, in any way, obviously forged ballots or ballot envelopes for personal motives or based on group interests is punished with imprisonment for 3 to 7 years, with or without confiscation of property.

The same act committed

1. on large scale,
 2. by preliminary agreement among a group of persons,
- is punished with imprisonment for 6 to 10 years, with or without confiscation of property.”

ARTICLE 8. Add a new Article 154² to the Code, to read as follows:

“ARTICLE 154². Obstructing the Free Expression of Voter’s Will
Receiving bribes, personally or through a mediator, from candidates in exchange for voting for or against any of the candidates, participating or refusing to participate in elections, is punished by a fine in the amount of 200 to 500 minimal salaries, or imprisonment for 1 to 3 years.

Forcing a voter to vote for or against any of the candidates, to participate or to refuse to participate in elections, which was done by threatening to cause damage to the property, offering a bribe (personally or through a mediator), violence or threatening to use violence is punished with a fine in the amount of 500 to 1000 minimal salaries, or imprisonment for 2 to 5 years.”

ARTICLE 9. “Article 154³. Failure to Return an Electoral Commission’s Stamp and Breach of Procedures for Handling the Stamp

Failure to return an Electoral Commission’s stamp by the official, who is responsible for it, as well as breach of the established procedures for handling the stamp is punished with imprisonment for 6 months to 1 year.”

ARTICLE 10. Add a new Article 154⁴ to the Code, to read as follows:

“Entering a precinct center (voting booth) with a weapon, demonstratively, without official need, by the person who has the right to possess weapons, on the voting day, is punished with imprisonment for 6 months to 1 year.”

ARTICLE 11. Add a new Article 154⁵ to the Code, to read as follows:

“ARTICLE 154⁵. Creating Obstacles for Proxies, Electoral Commission Members, Observers or Representatives of the Mass Media to Examine Electoral Documents, and Failure to Provide Copies of Electoral Commission’s Protocols

Creating obstacles for proxies, electoral commission members, observers or representatives of the mass media to examine electoral documents in the established cases and in accordance with established and failure to provide copies of and excerpts from electoral commission’s protocols is punished with a fine in the amount of 300 to 500 minimal salaries, or imprisonment for 6 months to 2 years.”

ARTICLE 12. This law enters into effect on the 10th day after its official publication.