CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. The Subject of Regulation of This Law

This Law regulates relations connected with exercising the right to join into parties, to establish parties, their legal status, activity, reorganization, and liquidation.

“Article 2. The Right to Joint into Parties

The right to joint into parties shall be exercised freely, in accordance with the persuasions, through establishing parties on voluntary basis, on condition of adopting and recognizing their programs and charters, joining their membership, participating in their activity in conformity with program goals of parties and pursuant to the procedure defined by the charter, as well as freely leaving the party.”

Article 3: The Concept of a Party

1. The party is a public union formed on the basis of individual membership, the aim of the activity of which is to participate in the political life of the society and the state.

2. The tasks and objectives of the party are reflected in its Charter and program, which are published through the means of mass media.

3. A union shall not be recognized as a party, if its Charter:

1) allows membership of foreign citizens, citizens lacking citizenship, with the exception of cases envisaged by this Law, as well as membership of foreign and international organizations;
2) envisages membership of persons, solely by professional, national, racial or religious characteristics;

3) envisages membership of such persons, who should not be a member of a party in conformity of this Law.

**Article 4. The Legislation on Parties**

The procedure for formation of parties, their activity, reorganization, liquidation, and prohibition of activity, as well as their legal status is established by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, this Law, and other statutes.

**Article 5. The Number of Party Members, Territorial and Structural Subdivisions and the Territory of Activity**

1. At the moment of state registration the party shall have not less than 200 members. At the moment of state registration the party shall have territorial/regional divisions in at least one-third of the regions (Marzes) of the Republic of Armenia, including Yerevan. The party has the right to form structural subdivisions, in conformity with the procedure established by this Law and its Charter.

1.1 No later than six months after the state registration the party shall have no less than 2000 members, including no less than 100 members and territorial subdivisions in each Marz of the Republic of Armenia, as well in Yerevan city, on what a written statement shall be submitted to the state authorized body.

2. Party territorial and their structural subdivisions shall be formed and operated solely by the territorial characteristic. The formation and the activities of territorial and structural subdivisions of parties in state and local self-governing bodies, armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, law enforcement bodies, pre-school, school, educational institutions and other organizations is prohibited.

3. The management bodies of the party and its territorial and structural subdivisions may be located solely in the territory of the Republic of Armenia. In other states the party may have representation only.

**Article 6. The Name of the Party**

1. The name of the party shall contain the word “party.”

2. The name of the party and its abbreviation shall differ from names and the abbreviated names of already functioning parties and other public unions, as well as names and the abbreviated names of parties prohibited in conformity with the procedure established by Article 30 of this Law during the five years preceding the registration of the given party.

3. The full or the short name of the prominent person may be used in the name of the party solely in case of a written consent of such person, and in case when such person is diseased – upon the written consent of his/her heir. If the prominent person or his/her heir finds that the activity of the party damages the reputation of the prominent person, he/she may file a
claim with the court requesting to deprive the party of the right to use the name of the person in the name of the party.

4. It shall be unlawful to use the names of the state and local self-governing bodies in the name of the party.

**Article 7. The Emblem of the Party and Other Symbols**

1. Parties may have an emblem and other symbols, the accurate description of which shall be provided in the Charter of the Party. The emblem and other symbols of the party may not coincide with flags and coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia and other foreign states. Other persons and organizations shall not use the emblem and other symbols of the party.

2. Emblems and other symbols of functioning parties and other public unions, as well as organizations or parties prohibited in the territory of the Republic of Armenia may not be used as the emblem and other symbols of the party.

3. The emblem and other symbols of the party shall not violate intellectual property right of citizens and legal persons, including their right to names of goods and places of their origin. It is prohibited to use such emblem and/or symbols, which distort coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia and other states, offend spiritual, racial, national feelings of people, violate generally known norms of moral.

**Article 8. Principles of Organizing and Activity of Parties**

1. Parties are equal before the law regardless of the ideology, objectives, and tasks reflected in their program documents.

2. The activity of parties is based on voluntary, self-governing, legal equality, legality, and publicity principles. Parties are free to decide on their internal structure, aims, ways, methods, and forms of their activity, with the exception of cases envisaged by this Law.

3. Parties are subject to state registration in conformity with the procedure set forth by this Law. Territorial and structural subdivisions of parties are not subject of state registration.

4. Parties function publicly, their founding and program documents are published for general awareness.

5. The supreme body of the party is the Meeting (meeting, assembly, congress, conference, etc.), that shall have the right to issue decision on final solution of any matter related to the activity of the party.

**Article 9. Restrictions for Formation and Activity of Parties**

Formation and activity of such parties, whose aims or activity are directed at violent overthrow of Constitutional order of the Republic of Armenia and territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia, impairment of grounds of independence, formation of armed units, instigation of national, racial and religious hatred, incitement to violence and war, is prohibited.
**Article 10. The State and Parties**

1. Party members holding positions in the state and local self-governing bodies of the Republic of Armenia do not have right to use their official position in favor of party interests. When performing their official duties the mentioned persons are not constrained by party decisions.

2. The following persons cannot be party members:

   1) judges;
   2) prosecutors;
   3) employees of the National Security, the police and other law enforcement bodies of the Republic of Armenia;
   4) servicemen of armed forces of the Republic of Armenia and other military units.

**CHAPTER 2
ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTIES**

**Article 11. Forms of Establishing Parties**

1. The party is established freely, by the decision of the its Founding Conference.

2. The party is established at the Founding Conference, during which, decisions on the establishment of the party, adoption of its program, approval of the Charter, formation of management and supervision performing bodies are adopted, as well as head of the management body (or pro tempore head) is nominated (elected).

3. The legal capacity of the party as a legal person arises on the date of its state registration.

4. (article 11, part 4 is lapsed: 04.12.2002 LA-475-N)

**Article 12. Holding of the Founding Conference of the Party**

1. Within at least one month prior to holding of the Founding Conference, the organizers of the Founding Conference shall publish through mass media information about the venue and the hour of holding the Founding Conference of the party, as well as main provisions of the Charter and the program of the party.

2. The Founding Conference is competent if delegates from at least the two-third of the Regions of the Republic of Armenia are present (registered) at the conference.

3. Decisions on establishing the party, approval of Charter, adoption of program, formation of management and supervision performing bodies are adopted by the majority of votes of the total number of delegates of the Conference.

**Article 13. The Procedure of State Registration of Parties**
1. The state registration of the party is performed by the state authorized body.

2. The document evidencing the fact of the state registration is the relevant record made in the state register of legal entities and the certificate of state registration attesting the record.

3. For the state registration of the party the following are submitted to the authorized body:

1) excerpt from the minutes(protocol) of the founding conference, which shall include data on the establishment of the party, territorial coverage, approval of its Charter and program documents, person(s) authorized for state registration, formation of management and supervision performing bodies;

2) (2nd point of 3rd part of article 13th is lapsed: 04.12.2002 LA-475-N)

3) the bound and paginated Charter and Program of the party, signed by the authorized person(s);

4) the application to the registering body signed by members of permanently functioning management body of the party, which shall include passport data and notice on residence place of each of the signatory;

5) the address of the location of the permanently functioning management body of the party;

6) the copy of the periodical printed media, where information about the venue and the hour of holding of the Founding Conference has been published;

7) the document attesting the payment of the registration fee.

4. Documents envisaged by Clause 3 of this Article shall be submitted for state registration not later than within three months after the date of holding of the Founding Conference.

5. In case of submitting the documents envisaged by Clause 3 of this Article, within one-month period, the state authorized body issues to the party the state registration certificate with no term limitation (permanent), in which the date of issuance of the certificate is specified as the date of the state registration of the party, or reject the state registration of the party.

6. Registration of amendments to and restatements in the Charter and/or the Program of the party is not deemed re-registration of the party and shall not serve basis for recognizing the registration certificate invalid.

**Article 14. Basis for Rejection of State Registration of Party**

1. The state registration of the party may be rejected if the Charter of the Party or provisions of the Program contradict to the laws of the Republic of Armenia, or do not comply with the state registration requirements set forth in this Law.

2. The decision of the state registration body on rejection of the state registration of the party shall be in writing and substantiated. The decision shall contain the statement of such provisions of the statutes, which have been violated in the submitted documents.
3. Rejection of state registration of the party may be appealed by court order. Rejection of state registration is not an obstacle for repeated submission of documents, if basis for rejection have been eliminated. The registering body discusses the repeated application and makes a decision in regard to it in the procedure and within time period envisages for registration of parties by this Law.

4. If the registering body fails to register or reject the registration of the party within the established period, then the party shall be deemed registered.

CHAPTER 3
THE STRUCTURE OF THE PARTY Article 15. The Charter of the Party

Article 15. The Charter of the Party

1. The party, its structural and territorial subdivisions operate on the basis of and in conformity with the Charter of the Party.

2. The following shall be defined in the Charter:

1) the name, including also the abbreviated name, as well as the description of the emblem and symbols (if available);

2) tasks and objectives;

3) rights and responsibilities of the members, conditions and the procedure of joining and losing the membership;

4) the structure of and the procedures for creation and liquidation of territorial and structural subdivisions;

5) procedures for formation of territorial and structural management and supervisory bodies of subdivisions, powers and their service periods;

6) the powers and the procedure for formation of the permanently functioning management body inferior and reportable solely to the supreme body of the party;

7) the procedure on making amendments to and restatements in the Charter;

8) sources of acquisition of cash means and property, and property management rights of territorial and structural subdivisions of the party;

9) the liquidation procedure.

The Charter of the party may also contain other provisions concerning its activity.

3. The state registration of the amendments to and restatements shall be performed in compliance with the procedure established for state registration of the party by this Law.
**Article 16. The Program of the Party**

1. The party shall have a program, which specifies the basic principles, objectives, and tasks of its activity, as well as ways and forms of achieving such objectives and methods and means of fulfilling the tasks.

2. The state registration of the amendments to and restatements in the program of the party shall be performed in compliance with the procedure established for state registration of the party by this Law.

**Article 17. Members of the Party**

1. Membership to the party is voluntary and individual.

2. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia Members having attained the age of eighteen may become party members. Other persons vested with the voting right in the Republic of Armenia may join the membership of the party without the right of being elected in the management and supervision performing bodies.

3. Each person may simultaneously become the member of one party only.

   Each member of the party shall be registered solely with one subdivision of the party

4. Membership to the party is performed in the procedure established by this Law and the Charter of the party.

5. Members of the party participate in its activity in the procedure prescribed by this Law and the Charter of the Party.

6. Members of the party have the right to elect and be elected in permanent functioning management and supervision performing bodies of the party and its territorial and structural subdivisions, to receive information about the activity of the party and its management bodies, to exercise the control over their activity, as well as to appeal, in the procedure defined by the Charter, decisions of the mentioned bodies, with the exception of cases envisaged by this Law.

7. Members of the party, in conformity with the requirements of the Charter, have rights and responsibilities. In case of failure to perform their statutory responsibilities members may be subjected to disciplinary liability in the procedure envisaged by the Charter, right up to the dismissal from the party.

8. In the official document the note on party affiliation may be included solely in cases stipulated by the law.

9. Joining or not joining the membership of the party shall not serve basis for limitation of the rights and freedoms of the person and/or granting him/her of any privilege or advantage by the state.
**Article 18. Management Bodies of the Party**

1. The supreme management body of the party is the Conference of the party, which is called at least once in two years by permanent functioning management body of the party. The Conference of the party shall elect bodies defined by the Charter of the party, which shall be reportable to the Conference.

2. In accordance with the Charter of the party, the permanent functioning management body of the party exercises in the name of the party powers reserved to it as a legal entity.

**Article 19. Procedure on Adoption of Decisions at the Conference of the Party**

1. The Conference of the party is competent, if at least the two-third of the total number of delegates to the Conference is present (registered) at the Conference.

2. Decisions on adoption of the Charter and the Program of the party, making amendments and restatements thereto, reorganization, self-liquidation, as well as nomination of a candidate to the President of the Republic are adopted by the majority of votes of the total number of delegates of the Conference.

3. Decisions of the Conference of the Party, other than cases envisaged by this Law, are adopted by majority votes of delegates present (registered) at the Conference.

4th part of the article 19 is lapsed 04.12.2002 LA-475-N

**CHAPTER 4
RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES**

**Article 20. The Rights of the Party**

1. In conformity with the procedure established by the legislation, the party has the right:

1) to create, as well as to liquidate, territorial and structural subdivisions, in accordance with its statutory objectives and tasks;

2) to organize and hold meetings and public events;

3) to freely disseminate information about its activity, to propagate its objectives and tasks;

4) to participate in the elections of state and local self-governing bodies, as well as in preparation and conduct of referendums;

5) to perform initiatives on various issues of public life, to submit recommendations to state and local self-governing bodies on any matter related to political, economic, social and cultural life of the public;
6) to establish mass media means and publishing houses;

7) to form alliances (unions) without establishing a legal entity with other parties;

8) to establish and maintain international connections and contacts with foreign parties and unions, to join international unions and associations;

9) to carry out other activity in compliance with its Charter.

**Article 21. Exclusive Rights of Parties**

The party is the sole public union, which is entitled to nominate candidates in the elections of the deputies to the National Assembly, elections of the President of the Republic and heads and council members of local self-governing bodies.

During the elections to the National Assembly the nomination of the party candidates shall be performed by the decision issued at the session of the permanently functioning management body of the party. The leaders of the territorial and structural subdivisions of the party shall participate in that session, in conformity with the procedure established by the Charter of the party.

**Article 22. Obligations of the Party**

The party is obliged:

a) to meet the Constitution and the statutes of the Republic of Armenia, as well as its Charter, Program and decisions;

b) to publish, in printed media, a report on the use of property by specifying the sources of formation of such property.

**Article 23. The Property of the Party**

1. The property of the party is generated from

1) One time payments for membership to the party (entrance fee), regularly payments of established membership fees if established by the Charter of the Party

2) Donations stated by the Article 25 of this Law

3) Budgetary financing established by the Article 27 of this Law

4) other sources not prohibited by the Law.

2. The member of the party shall not have a proprietary right to the party property or its part. The donation of the party property shall be prohibited.
3) The party shall not bear responsible for liabilities of its members and the party member shall not bear responsibility for the liabilities of the party.

Article 24 is lapsed 09.02.12 LA-10-N

**Article 25. Donations made to Parties**

1. Parties have the right to receive donations in the form of property and cash means from physical persons, and legal entities, except for cases stated in part 3 of this Article.

2. The total amount (monetary value) of the donations to the party, as well as works and services provided to the party (hereinafter refers as donation) shall not exceed the 1million-fold of the minimum salary, established by law, in one year period, including:

   1) ten thousand-fold of the minimum salary, established by law, donated by one commercial organization

   2) one thousand-fold of the minimum salary, established by law, donated by one non-commercial organization

   3) ten thousand-fold of the minimum salary, established by law, donated by one natural person.

3. It is prohibited donations from

   1) charitable and religious organizations, as well as organizations with latter’s participation;

   2) budgetary and (or) extra-budgetary means of state and local self-governing bodies, except for financing provided pursuant to Article 27 of this Law;

   3) state and local self-government non-commercial organizations and commercial organizations with participation of state and local self-government bodies;

   4) legal entities registered six months prior to the date of making donation;

   5) foreign states, foreign citizens and legal entities, as well as legal entities with foreign participation, if the share of the foreign participant in the statutory (share, paid in) capital of the given legal entity is more than 30 per cent;

   6) international organizations and international public movements;

   7) stateless persons

   8) anonymous persons

4. In case of receiving donations exceeding the sum established by part 2 of this Article, the party shall return the exceeding part of it or the whole and in cases of donations prohibited by the points 1, 4, 7 part 3 of this Article, the whole donation, to the donor, and in case if it is...
impossible, transfer it to the state budget, within two weeks from the date receiving the donation.

5. In case of receiving donations prohibited by points 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 part 3 of this Article, the party shall transfer it to the state budget within two weeks from the date of receiving of the donation.

6. Physical persons making the donation are required to specify their first name and surname, patrimonial name, residence place; and the legal entities shall specify all data (requisites) required by the rules of non-cash settlements between legal entities.

7. The donations exceeding 100-fold of the minimum salary established by law shall be done non-cash.

8. The corresponding authorized person (persons) shall be held liable, in case of failing to transfer the donations under parts 4 and 5 of this Article to the accordingly state budget or donor within the time limit established by the Law.

CHAPTER 5
STATE ASSISTANCE TO PARTIES

Article 26. Forms of State Assistance to Parties

State and local self-governing bodies, pursuant to the procedure established by the law, provide the following assistance to parties:

1) ensure equal opportunity for parties to use means of mass media established with their participation;

2) provide, on equal conditions, to parties buildings, communication means that belong to them, and reserve the preemptive right to use such means to parties which have participated in allocation of mandates envisaged for elections to National Assembly by proportional system;

3) ensure equal opportunities for parties and their territorial and structural subdivisions to conduct election campaign;

4) finance the activity of parties in conformity with the procedure established by Article 27 of this Law;

5) ensure equal conditions for parties to carry out activity measures.

Article 27. State Financing of Parties

1. The state financing of parties is funded from the means of the state budget of the Republic of Armenia. For financing of parties the means from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia are provided by a segregate budget item.
The total volume of party financing means envisaged by the state budget of the Republic of Armenia shall not be less than the product of 0,03-fold of the minimum salary established by the law and the total number of citizens included in voting lists during the last elections to the National Assembly.

2. State budget means are allocated to such party (party alliances), whose voting list during the last elections to the National Assembly has received at least 3 per cent of the sum of the total number of votes in favor of voting lists of all parties that have participated in the elections and the amount of inaccuracies.

3. Resources (means) allocated to parties (party alliances) from state budget shall be distributed among parties (party alliances) in proportion to votes received by them in the recent election to the National Assembly by proportional system.

4. The mentioned means are equally distributed among the parties participating in the electoral alliance, if otherwise is not envisaged by the decision of the electoral alliance of parties.

5. From the date of adopting a decision on reorganization, liquidation of the party, entering of the decision of the Constitutional Court on prohibition of the party into legal force, or from the date of liquidation of the party, the allocation of state budget means is stopped.

**Article 28. Financial Reports of Parties to State Bodies**

1. The parties submit their financial and accounting reports to the state bodies in conformity with the procedure and within time periods defined for legal entities by the legislation.

2. Every year not later than the 25th of March of the year following the reporting year, the party shall publish in the media a financial report on the means received and spent by the Party (hereinafter refer as report) during the reporting year and where required by law the audit expertise thereto, as well as shall upload it on the official web-site of the public announcements of the Republic of Armenia in the established manner.

3. The report on the means received and spent by the party during the reporting year shall contain data on sources and volumes of means entered into the account of the party, spending of such means, as well as the property in possession and its value. The procedure for publishing and submitting of the report (including the form of report) are determined by the state authorized body. Accounting of means spent by a party for preparation and conduct of election campaigns is performed separately.

4. The oversight of the party compliance with the requirements of this law is carried out by the authorized state body, and in cases established by law other authorized bodies according to their authorities and procedures prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the organizing and conducting audit in the Republic of Armenia”. Upon the request of state authorized body, for the verification of the party report published and submitted to the state authorized body, within three days, the party shall provide the authorized body with necessary information on means entered into and spent from the cash-box and bank account of the party, preliminary accounting and other documents.
5. The source of a donation received by the party the value of which exceeds the hundred-folds of the minimum salary established by the law shall be specified in the financial report of the party.

6. The number of the party members that made payments according to the part 1 of the Article 23 of this Law shall be mentioned in the party report together with the total sum of those payments.

7. The failure to publish and submit reports established by this Law or publish and submit reports not complying with the requirements established by this Law shall subject to liability according to the law.

Article 28.1 Audit of Party Reports

1. The parties, which actives value exceeds the ten thousand-fold of minimum salary established by law, shall publish the reports only after audit, together with the audit expertise.

2. The parties receiving financing form state budget according to the Article 27 of this Law, shall publish the reports only after audit, together with the audit expertise.

CHAPTER 6
REORGANIZATION, LIQUIDATION AND PROHIBITION OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE PARTY

Article 29. Reorganization of the Party

1. The party may be reorganized (merged, united, divided, separated, reorganized) solely into other party(s), by the decision of the Conference and in conformity with the procedure established by Article 19.2 of this Law.

2. In case of the reorganization of the party, its rights and obligations are transferred, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation, to the legal successor party(s).

Article 30. Prohibition of the Party

1. The activity of the party may be prohibited by the decision of the Constitutional Court.

2. The President of the Republic of Armenia may bring the issue of prohibition of the activity of the party to the Constitutional Court, on the grounds envisaged by Article 9 of this Law.

Article 31. Liquidation of the Party

1. The party may terminate its activity by the decision of the Conference of the party, in compliance with the procedure established by Article 19.2 of this Law.

2. The party is subject to liquidation, if:

The points 1, 2 and 3 are lapsed 09.02.12 LA-10-N
4) the state authorized body has not been notified on the fulfillment of the requirements of Article 5 (1.1) of this Law.

3. In case of prohibition of the activity of the party by the decision of the Constitutional Court, the party shall be subject to liquidation.

4. In case of liquidation of the party according to the part 1 of this Article, title to the remaining property may be transferred to the non-governmental organization or foundation registered in the Republic of Armenia or to the Republic of Armenia, based on the decision of the conference in case of stated in the Charter.

The title to the remaining property shall be transferred to the Republic of Armenia in the case of liquidation of the party by judicial order. This provision is recognized Unconstitutional by the decision CCD-669, 22.12.2006 of the RA Constitutional Court.

CHAPTER 7
CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 32. Transitional Provisions

The requirement of Article 31.2 of this Law shall apply to the results of elections to the National Assembly occurred after the coming of this Law into effect.

Article 33. Coming of this Law into Force

1. This Law comes into force after three months from its official promulgation.

1.1. The point 4 of the Article 31.2 shall apply to the parties, registered prior to this Law coming into force, in six months after this Law becomes effective: within that period the parties are required to bring the territorial coverage and the number of members into consistency with the requirements of this Law, and inform the state authorized body about it or about the lack of its necessity in a written form.

2. From the date when this Law becomes effective, the Law of the Republic of Armenia on “Public-Political Organizations” dated February 26, 1991 shall be deemed invalid.

3. Within one year following the date of effectiveness of this Law, parties (public-political organizations) established prior to the Law coming into force, are required to bring the program of the party, the territorial coverage and the Charter into consistency with the requirements of the Law, and inform the state authorized body about it, or about the lack of its necessity. Party (public-political organizations), which fail to notify the authorized body within the specified period, shall be subject to liquidation.

The parties (public-political organizations) which, though, have notify the authorized body within the specified period, but failed to register the presented program and amendments to the Charter, shall have the right to bring the program and the Charter of the party (public-political organizations) into consistency with the requirements of the Law in established manner and again apply to the authorized body by February 15, 2004.
The parties (public-political organizations) shall be subject to liquidation in case of failing to apply again or applying again and receiving a rejection.

The parties (public-political organizations) subject to liquidation according to the manner established by this Article shall be obliged to adopt a decision on liquidation in the established manner by April 15, 2004.

The authorized body, in the manner established by the legislation, shall apply to the court with the request to liquidate the party (public-political organizations), in the case when the later failed to adopt a decision on the liquidation or notify the authorized body thereof, within the specified period.

President of the Republic of Armenia
Robert Kocharyan

7 August 2002
AL-410

The RA Law on Amendments and Restatements to be Made in the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Parties

04.12.2002
25.12.2003
08.12.2004
09.04.2007
14.04.2011
09.02.2012