

# Monthly Newsletter on Regulatory and Legislative Changes

APRIL 2026



## CHANGES TO THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

### "On Making Supplements to the Law on Audiovisual Media" HO-134-N (adopted on 07.04.2026, effective from 28.04.2026)

- The concept of "synthetic content" is added to the Law "On Audiovisual Media"—audiovisual, audio, or other informational material or image that has been created or altered, in whole or in part, through the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, or other digital technologies and that may create in the consumer a perception clearly inconsistent with reality or a misconception as to its origin, authenticity, or the speech, image, actions, or phenomena of a person presented therein. The regulation pertains to materials created or altered by means of AI or other digital technologies (deepfake, AI-generated content, etc.).
- Audiovisual media service providers are obliged to ensure clear, audible or visible, and legible labelling of synthetic content in broadcast audiovisual materials:
  - 1.in the case of synthetic content created or altered, in whole or in part, through the use of generative artificial intelligence or other technologies based on machine learning—with the indication "Created by AI";
  - 2.in the case of synthetic content altered, in whole or in part, through the use of other digital technologies—with the indication "Subjected to digital processing."
- A fine in the amount of 300.0 thousand AMD has been established for violating the aforementioned requirements.

### "On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Constitutional Law on the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia" HO-95-N (adopted on 07.04.2026, effective from 07.04.2026)

- The amendment tightens and clarifies the rules for the counting of ballot papers and ballot envelopes. It is established that if an envelope contains any writing, notation, or an object other than the ballot paper of the prescribed sample (for example, another paper or an unprescribed ballot paper), then that ballot paper shall be deemed invalid.
- In addition, restrictions are placed on the names of party alliances.

### "On Making a Supplement and an Amendment to the Law on Local Dues and Fees" HO-140-N (adopted on 07.04.2026, effective from 29.04.2026)

- The amendments mainly pertain to the separation and recalculation of local fees for the granting of construction permits for greenhouses and water reservoirs constructed for agricultural purposes. Greenhouses and water reservoirs constructed for agricultural purposes have been separated from other types of structures in terms of local fee rates. The amount of the fee for their construction has been established at 400 thousand AMD per 1 hectare of total area. If the area being constructed differs from 1 hectare, the amount of the fee shall be calculated proportionally, taking as a basis 400 thousand AMD per 1 hectare. As in the case of other structures, the territorial assessment coefficient of the construction site shall also apply. The amendments shall enter into force on April 29, 2026, and shall apply only to those applications that are submitted to the local self-government body after the entry into force of the law.

### "On Making an Amendment and Supplements to the Law on Eco-Patrol Service" HO-142-N (adopted on 16.04.2026, effective from 06.05.2026)

- The Law supplements the competences of the head of the state administration body authorized by the Government with respect to establishing the procedure for the participation of the eco-patrol officer in the processes of implementing biodiversity monitoring of state forests, forest lands, and specially protected natural areas. The officer acquires the right to participate in biodiversity monitoring processes in accordance with the prescribed procedure and within the limits of their competence. In addition, for the purpose of the operative acquisition and exchange of information within the framework of ensuring the protection of state forests, forest lands, and specially protected natural areas, the officer has the right to cooperate with local self-government bodies.

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**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Universal Health Insurance" HO-135-N, "On Making Amendments to the Law on Medical Aid and Services to the Population" HO-136-N, and "On Making Supplements to the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Administrative Offenses" HO-137-N (adopted on 07.04.2026, effective from 08.05.2026)**

- A number of significant amendments and supplements have been made to the Law "On Universal Health Insurance," which pertain to the groups of beneficiaries, the system of payments, the rights of patients, and the activities of the Fund.
- The requirements of the law did not extend to refugees, asylum seekers, and their family members, who, by the amendment, now become subject to insurance if they are included in certain groups subject to universal insurance. In other cases, they shall benefit from additional services in accordance with the Law "On Refugees and Asylum."
- Natural persons receiving rental payments, interest, dividends, or royalties were to be considered persons subject to insurance, regardless of the amount of income received. A threshold has been established: these persons shall be considered insured persons in the event that the aggregate of the aforementioned incomes amounts to 2,400,000 AMD or more per year.
- In addition to persons engaged in individual agricultural activities, the requirement of universal health insurance shall also extend to natural persons (drivers) carrying out passenger transport by passenger taxi automobiles who have joined the electronic system of the tax authority and provide an electronic cash register receipt for payment of the order to the customer upon the execution of each order, or who carry out passenger transportations through an electronic platform for passenger transport services.
- For drivers, insurance shall be mandatory, and they must independently pay a monthly insurance premium of 10,800 AMD. In order to be considered insured and to benefit from medical services, it is necessary to submit an application to the Fund and make the payment. Simultaneously, if the driver is also an employed worker or belongs to one of the groups insured by the state, the more favorable conditions shall apply.
- With respect to drivers, compensation for damage caused as a result of road traffic accidents shall continue to be carried out through the CTPL system, and not through the Universal Health Insurance Fund.

- It has been clarified that if a person independently paying the insurance premium fails to pay the amount for 3 consecutive months, within a one-month period after being notified of the obligations, the Fund shall have the right to apply to court with a claim for collection.
- The amendments with respect to drivers, taking as a basis the transitional provisions of the main law, shall operate from January 1, 2028.

**"On Making a Supplement and an Amendment to the Law on State Duty" HO-143-N (adopted on 16.04.2026, effective from 06.05.2026)**

- By the adoption of the Law "On Making a Supplement to the Law on State Duty" HO-258-N on December 9, 2019, a supplement was made to Article 29 of the Law, according to which natural persons departing by air transport who depart to airports with IATA codes that have not been serviced in the last 12 months preceding the moment of commencement of the first flight through airlines carrying out commercial air transportations shall benefit from the privilege of exemption from the payment of the state duty established for the exit of air passengers under point 30 of part 1 of Article 20 of the Law. By this amendment, it is established that the privilege of exemption from the payment of state duty provided for natural persons departing by air transport shall also be enjoyed by those persons who depart through airlines that have not carried out flights under their own code as a result of being included in the EU Air Safety List (blacklist). The aforementioned privilege operates if the airline organized and carried out its flights by means of aircraft operated under wet lease to those airports that, as of the date of commencement of the flights, were considered unserved. The right to exemption from the payment of state duty in respect of flights carried out by aircraft operated under wet lease shall operate within one year after the entry into force of the law, while preserving the general periods of the privilege.
  - The law shall enter into force on the day following its official publication, and the effect of the law shall extend to legal relations arising from January 1, 2020.
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**"On Making Amendments to the Law on State Duty" HO-144-N (adopted on 16.04.2026, effective from 15.05.2026)**

- The Law "On State Duty" establishes new types of state duty in the process of exporting cultural values, and the state duties levied by customs authorities for cultural values are differentiated. For the issuance of documents authorizing the export, temporary export, as well as export for the purpose of outward processing from the customs territory of cultural values and mineralogical and paleontological collections, the state duty is established in the following amounts: in the case of one cultural value—in the amount of 10.0 thousand AMD, and in the case of two or more cultural values—in the amount of 15.0 thousand AMD. For the issuance of a duplicate of the aforementioned authorizing documents, the state duty is established in the amount of 3.0 thousand AMD. The rates of state duty shall not include additional expenses related to the performance of the respective services or actions. Simultaneously, the privileges in respect of state duty in the process of exporting cultural values have also been clarified.

**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Audiovisual Media" HO-133-N (adopted on 16.04.2026, effective from 28.04.2026)**

- By the amendments made to the Law "On Audiovisual Media":
- The concept of "distributor of audiovisual programs" has been clarified. A distributor is a natural or legal person providing audiovisual programs to an operator for the purpose of dissemination, acting on the basis of a written agreement obtained with the person holding the property rights.
- The prohibitions on the abuse of audiovisual transmissions established by Article 9 of the Law have been reworded, establishing new prohibitions, including the dissemination of an audiovisual transmission or program without the consent of the person holding the property rights thereto. The criteria for the prohibitions shall be established by the regulatory state body.
- New obligations have been established for network operators: a foreign audiovisual program may be retransmitted only upon a written agreement with the holder of the property right and after notifying the regulatory body. The operator is obliged, within 24 hours after being informed by the regulatory body, to cease the retransmission of the program if administrative proceedings have been initiated on the ground of detection of abuses.

- The amounts of fines applicable for violations are established: for carrying out retransmission without a written agreement, a fine shall be imposed on the network operator in the amount of 50.0 thousand AMD in the case of one program, and in the amount of 500.0 thousand AMD in the case of more than ten programs. For failing to cease the retransmission of the program after being informed, a fine in the amount of 500.0 thousand AMD is envisaged.
- The Law has been supplemented with a new article, which establishes the grounds for suspending the license of a network operator for up to 30 days (in particular, in the event of being subjected to penalty 3 times in 1 year, or failing to carry out justified retransmission for 72 hours) and for fully terminating the operation of the license.
- The Law shall enter into force on the tenth day following the day of its official publication. Within four months after the entry into force of the Law, the regulatory body must adopt the required criteria. Within four months after the entry into force of the criteria, distributors and operators are obliged to bring their activities into conformity with the requirements of the legislation.

**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Tax Service" HO-145-N, "On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Customs Service" HO-146-N, and "On Making an Amendment to the Law on Remuneration of Persons Holding State Positions and State Service Positions" HO-147-N (adopted on 16.04.2026, effective from 15.05.2026)**

- The purpose of the amendments is to clarify the process of appointment to tax and customs service positions and to raise the level of preparedness and integrity of the servicemen. The conditions for appointment are simplified, positions are clearly classified by groups, and new age and training regulations are established. The laws shall enter into force on the tenth day following the day of their official publication, with the exception of the regulation on dismissal from position on the ground of not having a valid training certificate, which shall enter into force two calendar years after the entry into force of the law.
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**"On Ratifying the Supplement to the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information" HO-141-N (adopted on 16.04.2026, effective from 29.04.2026)**

- Within the framework of the implementation of the Common Reporting Standard developed by the OECD, the Republic of Armenia had already ratified the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information back in 2023. By Law HO-141-N, the Supplement to the Agreement has been ratified, the purpose of which is to enhance the effectiveness of the automatic exchange of financial information by expanding the scope of the information exchanged and ensuring its accuracy and oversight.
- In particular, it shall be required to exchange detailed data on submitted self-certifications, specific types of financial accounts, and the characteristics of their current status. The clarification of the role of persons controlling legal entities and their more in-depth identification, as well as the transmission of data on the forms of participation in investment companies, are also emphasized.
- Countries that have implemented the Standard have been granted a transitional period until 2027 for the ratification of the Supplement and the conformity of domestic legislation. Joining the Supplement to the Agreement shall provide the opportunity to fully participate in the exchange of complete and up-to-date information with partner countries, contributing to the enhancement of tax transparency and the reduction of tax evasion risks.

**"On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Law on Remuneration of Persons Holding State Positions and State Service Positions" HO-138-N and "On Making a Supplement to the Constitutional Law on the Constitutional Court" HO-139-N (adopted on 16.04.2026, effective from 01.05.2026)**

- It has been established that the President, Vice-President, and judges of the Constitutional Court shall be granted supplements for length of service, for the calculation of which rates are established according to the years of tenure. By the transitional provisions, it is established that for the calculation of the aforementioned supplement, the full years worked in the position of judge of the Constitutional Court as of the moment of entry into force of the law shall be taken as a basis.
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## CHANGES TO GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

### **"On Approving the Procedure for Importation into the Territory of the Republic of Armenia of Graphitized Electrodes of HS Code 8545 11 002 0 Used in Furnaces, Originating from the People's Republic of China, without Payment of Anti-Dumping Duty" (N 426-N, adopted on 02.04.2026, effective from 03.04.2026)**

- By Decision N 101 of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission of November 17, 2025, an anti-dumping duty was established in respect of graphitized electrodes used in furnaces, of HS code 8545 11 002 0, originating from the People's Republic of China, with a circular cross-section of more than 520 mm but not more than 650 mm in diameter, or with another cross-section of more than 2700 cm<sup>2</sup> but not more than 3300 cm<sup>2</sup> in surface area, imported into the EAEU territory. The aforementioned anti-dumping duty shall operate for a period of 5 years. By the amendments to the said decision, an exemption from the payment of the anti-dumping duty was established for Armenia in respect of an annual volume of 700 tons of goods imported into the territory of the Republic of Armenia. The exemption from the anti-dumping duty shall be granted to economic entities upon the submission of a conclusion confirming the designated purpose of individual goods imported into the territory of the Republic of Armenia, issued by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the procedure established by Resolution N 228-N of the Government of March 10, 2015. The resolution also envisages that the anti-dumping duty shall likewise not be levied in respect of graphitized electrodes used in furnaces produced by Liaoning Dantan New Materials Co., Ltd., if the applicant, as of the date of registration of the goods declaration, holds a certificate of the manufacturer signed by an authorized employee of the relevant manufacturer and confirmed by the seal of that manufacturer, in accordance with the form approved by Annex 11 to the Decision, and presents information on such certificate in the goods declaration.
- The presented resolution envisages an exemption from the payment of the anti-dumping duty in an annual volume of 700 tons from January 18, 2026 to January 18, 2031.

### **"On Declaring Null and Void Resolution N 1283-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of October 10, 2012" (N 412-N, adopted on 02.04.2026, effective from 03.04.2026)**

- Henceforth, the burden of covering the travel expenses of the civil status acts registration employee shall be removed from the citizens. Those expenses shall be carried out at the expense of the state budget, which is aimed at excluding possible abuses and corruption risks, so that the employee has no additional financial expectation from the couple. In order not to create an additional burden on the state budget, it is envisaged to increase the amount of the state duty established for solemn registration, which shall fully compensate for the arising expenses.

### **"On Making Supplements and Amendments to Resolution N 1667-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of September 28, 2023" (N 443-N, adopted on 02.04.2026, effective from 16.04.2026)**

- Henceforth, the electronic platform previously operating only for state property shall also be applied for the alienation of property under community ownership. It is important to note that the regulations extend to both movable and immovable property; however, a clear exception has been established: the right to lease land parcels shall not be granted through this auction, because a different competitive procedure is provided for it by legislation. In addition, the responsible persons for the auctions may be employees of both the State Property Management Committee and the relevant community.
  - By the amendments, the principles for determining the starting prices of lots have been revised: in particular, instead of the cadastral value, the assessed market value shall be taken as a basis. New scales for the amounts of advance payments and minimum increments have also been established, depending on the value of the property, which shall allow for more flexible management of the auction process. Public notifications on the auction must be published within 10 working days after the entry into force of the relevant legal act, and the auction itself may take place 15 or 45 days after the notification, depending on the type of property.
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**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to Resolution N 286 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of April 12, 2001" (N 439-N, adopted on 02.04.2026, effective from 13.04.2026)**

- The key amendment is the transition of the alienation of state and community land parcels exclusively to the electronic auction system, which also applies to lands designated for homestead and residential house construction and maintenance. This approach is aimed at reducing the influence of the human factor, ensuring the transparency of the process, and creating equal competitive conditions for all participants.
- The resolution establishes that the starting price for sale by electronic auction must be calculated taking as a basis the assessed market value of the land parcel. The cases where the auction is deemed not to have taken place have also been clarified: in subsequent rounds, a gradual reduction of the price is envisaged—setting the starting price at 85 percent of the market value for the second auction and at 70 percent for the third and subsequent rounds. In addition, in the case of agricultural lands, a maximum size of 20 hectares has been established for one lot, and the minimum size may not be less than the size of the privatized land share in the given community.
- Announcements on the granting of the right to lease or development must be published at least one month prior to the tender on official websites and in mass media. It is important to note that the regulations on conducting auctions through realtors have been removed from the draft, as transactions of state and community property no longer fall within the regulatory framework of the law on realtor activity.

**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to Resolution N 1933-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of December 25, 2025" (N 440-N, adopted on 02.04.2026, effective from 04.04.2026)**

- The draft establishes that, for 2026, within the framework of the tariff quota of 8 thousand tons of bovine meat allocated to Armenia, meat in a volume not exceeding 7.5 thousand tons shall be exempt from import customs duty. This privilege extends exclusively to raw material designated for the production of meat products. The Ministry of Economy shall be responsible for proportionally distributing these preferential volumes among those economic entities that have already received the corresponding tariff quotas, on the condition that the new volumes do not exceed the quantities previously distributed. In order to benefit from the privilege, companies of meat products must submit to the

- authorized body their charter of meat products must submit to the authorized body their charter and information on the volumes of import, production, and sale of the given goods during the previous year. The tax invoice for the supply of goods shall be considered the primary document confirming the receipt of the goods or the sale thereof by the processing enterprise.

**"On Making Amendments to Resolution N 98-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of January 23, 2025" (N 469-N, adopted on 09.04.2026, effective from 11.04.2026)**

- The support program aims to promote the export of goods of Republic of Armenia origin to the markets of the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada by producers of the Republic of Armenia through the reimbursement of customs duties. By the presented resolution, the main amendment pertains to CPA C 10.8 product group. Previously, this entire group was established as an exception, with the aim of preventing the provision of reimbursement for products made from non-Armenian raw materials; however, in practice, this had also caused issues for goods of Armenian origin. Now the list of exceptions is being clarified, and the general classifier "C 10.8" is being replaced with the narrower subgroups "C 10.81 and C 10.82." This shall allow for avoiding unjustified rejections and ensuring that producers using local raw materials fully benefit from state support.
  - 1.C 10.81: Manufacture of sugar. Includes the manufacture of sugar (cane sugar, beet sugar), sugar syrups, and molasses.
  - 2.C 10.82: Manufacture of cocoa, chocolate, and sugar confectionery. Includes the manufacture of cocoa powder, cocoa butter, chocolate, candies, marmalade, and other similar confectionery.

**"On Making a Supplement to Resolution N 1223-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of August 11, 2005" (N 467-N, adopted on 09.04.2026, effective from 10.04.2026)**

- The draft proposes to include the relevant work of the Alarm Management Directorate of the 112 Operational Centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the list of works of a separate category of employees conditioned by a 24-hour daily duration of working time.
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**"On Applying Tariff Quotas in Respect of Individual Types of Goods of Iranian Origin Imported into the Territory of the Republic of Armenia from the Islamic Republic of Iran during 2026" (N 472-N, adopted on 09.04.2026, effective from 11.04.2026)**

- The tariff quotas for individual types of goods imported from Iran to Armenia are established for 2026. According to the regulation, within the framework of the envisaged volumes, goods of Iranian origin may be imported at a 0 percent customs duty rate, provided there is an import license, which derives from the Free Trade Agreement concluded between the EAEU and Iran and is aimed at ensuring its implementation and promoting trade and economic cooperation. The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia is recognized as the authorized body for the issuance of licenses. The list of goods subject to quotas mainly includes agricultural products, including poultry meat, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, apples, and tomato paste. The adoption of the draft does not envisage a change in state budget revenues or expenditures.

**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to Resolution N 596-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of March 19, 2015" (N 535-N, adopted on 18.04.2026, effective from 22.04.2026)**

- The main amendment is the establishment of a special regime for multi-building urban development complexes. Whereas previously the logic of "full completion and operation" applied, it is now permitted to execute a phased completion act and an interim operation permit. This means that individual buildings included in the composition of the complex or their independent parts may be officially put into operation if they are technically ready and safe, even if the construction of the entire complex is still underway. Strict preconditions have been established for obtaining an interim operation permit: the facility must have safe and independent entrances, exits, and the necessary engineering infrastructures.
- The developer is obliged to present a conditional demarcation scheme, by which the areas being operated shall be clearly separated from the construction zones, ensuring the protection of people's life and property. It is noteworthy that the legal status of interim operation shall be preserved even in the event that the construction of the entire complex is subsequently suspended or terminated.

**"On Making a Supplement to Resolution N 1159-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of July 9, 2020" (N 503-N, adopted on 18.04.2026, effective from 19.04.2026)**

- By the amendment to Resolution N 1159-N of the Government of July 9, 2020 "On Defining the List of Bodies of the State Administration System and Corresponding Sectors Providing Official Clarifications on Legislative Acts and Government Resolutions," it has been established that the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia shall provide clarification on legislative acts (with the exception of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia) and resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia regulating the following sectors—protection of consumer interests (cooperating with the Commission for the Protection of Competition and Consumer Interests on issues related to the application of legislation on the protection of consumer interests), with the exception of cases of official clarification of legislative acts and resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia pertaining to the fields of financial, insurance, healthcare services, crypto-assets, and banking activities.

**"On Making Supplements and an Amendment to Resolution N 1518-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of October 30, 2025" (N 603-N, adopted on 30.04.2026, effective from 06.05.2026)**

- By the amendments, used or waste electronic equipment (HS 8549) is removed from the list of exceptions to the export ban. In practice, those goods are often imported for the purpose of processing, converted into scrap, and re-exported, which contradicts the logic of the ban, since that secondary raw material can be fully processed in Armenia. In addition, copper anodes (HS 7402), which are an important intermediate link in the deep processing chain of copper, are also included within the framework of the temporary ban. An exception is established for certain unused fittings (7307) and metal structures (7308 90), which, by their nature, are not secondary raw material and have high value.
  - The amendments also clarify the cases when the movement of goods is of a technical or contractual nature. In particular, the ban shall not extend to goods that are sent to EAEU countries for the purpose of repair and are subject to return, or that are returned due to poor quality within the framework of warranty service.
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**"On Making Supplements and Amendments to Resolution N 1976-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of December 3, 2020" (N 557-N, adopted on 23.04.2026, effective from 01.05.2026)**

- Henceforth, medical institutions connected to the electronic healthcare system, when accepting payment by payment instruments, shall be obliged to generate the electronic cash register receipt precisely through the electronic healthcare system. The personalized identification code provided by the system for each medical service rendered must be included in that receipt as a mandatory requisite.
- In addition, new requirements are introduced in electronic cash register receipts for the sale of goods subject to stamping: henceforth, the quantity of identification means and the verification number generated by the algorithm approved by the tax authority must be indicated.

**"On Defining the Methodology for Determining the Degree of Pressure on Water Resources" (N 604-N, adopted on 30.04.2026, effective from 01.01.2027)**

- The draft defines the methodology for determining the degree of pressure on water resources. The degree of pressure calculated on the basis of the methodology reflects the pressure of water use on renewable water resources and highlights the importance of balanced management of supply and demand. It shall enable the assessment of the state of water resources and reserves in the country, as well as the level of their use by water demand.

**"On Making Amendments and a Supplement to Resolution N 1118-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of September 17, 2015" (N 574-N, adopted on 30.04.2026, effective from 01.05.2026)**

- The amendments are conditioned by the necessity of simplifying (clarifying) the procedures for granting the privilege of exemption from customs duty for economic entities implementing investment programs and promoting one more prospective sector. In terms of expanding the list of priority sectors, waste treatment, disposal, and material recovery have been included. The other amendment pertains to the time limits for eliminating the grounds for rejecting applications. The new regulations shall operate from the day following the official publication, but shall not extend to applications already submitted prior thereto.
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## DRAFT LAWS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT

### **"On Approving the Draft Law 'On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia'" (N 414-A, adopted on 02.04.2026, effective from 03.04.2026)**

- One more ground is added to the grounds for conducting an on-site court session: within the framework of proceedings on medical coercive measures, where ensuring the participation of the accused in the court session is impossible due to the state of the person's mental health. The on-site session may be conducted in a psychiatric organization.
- A clear time limit is also established for initiating proceedings on medical coercive measures: when grounds for their application are discovered, the investigator must henceforth render a decision no later than 24 hours after those grounds emerge.

### **"On Approving the Draft Laws 'On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Law on Energy,' 'On Making a Supplement to the Law on Licensing,' and 'On Making a Supplement to the Law on State Duty'" (N 392-A, adopted on 02.04.2026, effective from 03.04.2026)**

- Energy storage is defined as the deferral of the use of produced electricity or its transformation into an accumulable form for subsequent use. It is also defined as a new type of activity subject to licensing, including the stages of construction of the station and storage. Persons holding a license may construct or reconstruct storage stations, buy and sell electricity in the wholesale market, and provide storage services. Storage in stations with a capacity of up to 1 MW, as well as activities carried out exclusively for own needs in stations with a capacity of more than 1 MW, shall not be licensed. Such entities become participants in the electricity market by operation of law. Licenses may be granted with or without a guarantee, including through a tender. Restrictions are established according to which persons holding transmission and distribution licenses may not engage in storage, with the exception of special cases.
- The presentation of financial guarantees is envisaged for obtaining a license and extending time limits; in the event of non-performance of obligations, they may be transferred to the state budget, with the exception of force majeure cases. In the field of renewable energy, in certain cases, obtaining a license requires the waiver of the state guarantee for the purchase of electricity, which may not be restored subsequently.

- The Law "On State Duty" establishes the rates of state duty levied for energy storage activities, which are differentiated according to the stages of the life cycle and the capacity of the station:

1. For the period of construction or reconstruction of new storage capacities in the electricity system: in the amount of 100 times the annual base duty;
2. For the stage of storage activity, based on the installed capacity of the station, in particular: for stations having a capacity of up to 15 megawatts—in the amount of 100 times the annual base duty; for a capacity from 15 to 50 megawatts—in the amount of 1,000 times the annual base duty; for stations having a capacity of more than 50 megawatts—in the amount of 5,000 times the annual base duty.

### **"On Approving the Draft Law 'On Making Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia' and the Draft Related Law" (N 390-A, adopted on 02.04.2026, effective from 03.04.2026)**

- The main substantive amendment at the stages of criminal proceedings and enforcement of judicial acts is ensuring the participation of persons who have been arrested, detained, or are serving a sentence by means of video communication. The use of video conferencing is permitted for clearly lawful purposes, such as the protection of public order and health, ensuring security, or maintaining reasonable time limits for judicial examination. Participation by video conference is excluded if the accused or the prosecutor presents a reasoned objection.

### **"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Draft Law 'On Identity Document' and Related Laws" (N 545-A, adopted on 23.04.2026, effective from 24.04.2026)**

- The Law "On the Passport of the Citizen of the Republic of Armenia" is declared null and void, as a result of which it is expected to adopt a single unified Law "On Identity Document," which shall comprehensively contain provisions on the status of persons and identity documents. Along with this amendment, the related laws shall be amended accordingly. The institution of special residence status is removed, with certain exceptions established in the transitional provisions.
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**"On Approving the Draft Law 'On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia'" (N 462-A, adopted on 09.04.2026, effective from 10.04.2026)**

- The draft was developed in accordance with the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters for the purpose of fulfilling the obligations provided for by the latter and the Common Reporting Standard. The full and effective application of the Standard is possible only through the conformity of domestic legislation and the introduction of a clear legal toolkit. The necessity of the legislative amendments is conditioned not only by the requirements of bringing the new model legislation deriving from international obligations and the current tax legislation into conformity with the requirements of the Standard, but also by the necessity of introducing and effectively applying the leading experience of global tax administration. Simultaneously, the legislative amendments derive from the necessity to regulate issues arising in law-application practice after the first automatic exchange of information by the Republic of Armenia in September 2025. The draft proposes a systemic and comprehensive approach, as a result of which Chapter 80.2 of the Code, regulating the provisions on the exchange of information on financial accounts, has been entirely rewritten, guided by the Standard and the model legislation developed in 2025 by the Secretariat of the OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, as well as by the methodological guidelines and recommendations provided by the latter, in particular:
- Clear definitions have been given for the key concepts deriving from the Standard and applied in the Code, which shall ensure their uniform interpretation and consistent application in law-application practice.
- It is proposed to reserve the conduct of the verification of the correctness of compliance in respect of reporting financial institutions to the tax authority of the Republic of Armenia, since the Standard is applied exclusively for tax purposes and, at any stage of the process, only the tax authority is the competent authority. Moreover, the draft also presents amendments to the relevant provisions of Chapter 68 of the Code regulating tax audits, according to which it is proposed to expand the scope of issues of a thematic tax audit by adding the issue of the correctness of compliance of financial accounts, as a result of which the tax authority may conduct a thematic audit exclusively on issues of the correctness of compliance of financial accounts.

- It is proposed to also apply measures of liability to account holders and controlling persons in cases where the latter provide false or incomplete information to reporting financial institutions, or fail to provide the mandatory information established by due diligence procedures.
- For the purpose of aligning with the practical capabilities of financial institutions, the time limit for submitting information to the tax authority has been extended, changing the current May 10 to June 30, which shall contribute to the submission of more complete and quality data.
- The provisions on the preservation and record-keeping of documents by reporting financial institutions have also been clarified, according to which the financial institution shall preserve all documents related to financial accounts, as well as the information existing in computer programs and on electronic media, in accordance with the procedure and time limits established by legislation, but for a period of no less than five years.

**"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Draft Law 'On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia'" (N 480-A, adopted on 18.04.2026, effective from 19.04.2026)**

- The amendments aim to make electronic control cash register machines (electronic cash registers) a fully fledged alternative tool to conventional cash registers and to expand the spheres of their application. The draft proposes to:
    1. standardize all provisions pertaining to cash registers and electronic cash registers that can be applied in the case of both tools;
    2. establish an authorizing norm, by which the Government shall define:
    3. the technical requirements for the electronic control cash register machine, the requirements for its registration, removal from registration, the mandatory requisites of the electronic receipt generated through it, the requirements presented to the internet website or electronic application (electronic trading platform), the rules for the application of the electronic control cash register machine, as well as the procedure for applying an electronic control cash register machine and generating an electronic receipt on behalf of another taxpayer;
    4. the spheres of activity, cases, and time limits when the application of the electronic control cash register machine is mandatory for organizations, individual entrepreneurs, and notaries when carrying out sales, performing works, or providing services.
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**"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Package of the Draft Law 'On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expert Examination' and the Draft Related Law" (N 453-A, adopted on 09.04.2026, effective from 10.04.2026)**

- The package of legislative amendments aims to bring the legislation of Armenia into conformity with the requirements of international environmental conventions (Espoo, Aarhus) and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Among the key substantive amendments is the clarification of the concepts of "public" and "concerned public." Significant amendments have been made to the types of activities subject to EIA and expert examination and their thresholds: in particular, the requirements for pharmaceutical production, asbestos processing, and paper production have been clarified. The construction or major renovation of state or community schools and kindergartens in existing territories shall be exempted from a separate EIA expert examination, since the environmental impact assessment shall be carried out within the framework of the state comprehensive urban development expert examination. In addition, for the purpose of promoting afforestation programs, it is envisaged to exempt them from the payment of the state duty established for EIA.

**"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Draft Law 'On Making Supplements to the Law on Food Safety' and the Draft Related Law" (N 483-A, adopted on 18.04.2026, effective from 19.04.2026)**

- These legislative amendments in the field of food safety are mainly directed at the legal regulation of the process of exporting fish and fish products to the countries of the European Union. The key substantive novelty is the establishment of the mandatory requirement and procedures for the registration of economic entities in the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) of the European Union, which is conditioned by the authorization for the export of fish products received by Armenia from March 2025. By the amendments, the Government is vested with the authority to approve the procedure and requirements for registering in the system, terminating registration, and issuing the health certificates necessary for export.
- In practical terms, a clear mechanism is established, according to which, for registration in the TRACES system, the economic entity must apply to the Food Safety Inspection Body, after which a mandatory inspection is carried out to ascertain conformity with EU standards.

**"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Draft Law 'On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Accreditation'" (N 482-A, adopted on 18.04.2026, effective from 19.04.2026)**

- The amendments proposed in the Law "On Accreditation" aim to modernize the regulations of the sector, bring them into conformity with international standards (ISO/IEC 17011), and increase the transparency of the system.
- Among the key amendments is the introduction of an electronic automated accreditation system (e-accreditation), through which the entire process shall be carried out. The terminology is also clarified, and new concepts are introduced, including "conformity assessment scheme" and "technical assessor."
- The powers of the National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB) are expanded, which shall also carry out the certification of legal persons registering declarations of conformity and performing state registration.
- The measures of liability are also tightened by the amendments: if the accreditation of an organization is terminated on the ground of submitting false data or issuing a document without proper assessment, its founder or manager may not submit a new application for at least six months.

**"On Approving the Draft Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Law on Medicinal Products'" (N 476-A, adopted on 18.04.2026, effective from 19.04.2026)**

- The amendments permit the importation of unregistered but essential and oncological medicinal products for the purpose of preventing shortages of medicinal products on the market. The list of medicinal products produced by medical institutions for their own needs that do not require registration is also expanded.
  - GMP and GDP certificates shall be issued on the basis of professional observation reports, and in the event of the absence of the necessary certificates, the license may be immediately terminated. Customs warehouses storing pharmaceutical products shall be obliged to obtain a wholesale distribution license and undergo GDP certification.
  - The amendments also revise the grounds for refusing importation; relabelling is permitted, as well as the distribution of medicinal products in previous packaging for an additional six months, provided that this does not affect the quality of the medicinal product. Simultaneously, the requirement for mandatory indication of registration data in advertising is removed.
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**"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Package of the Draft Law 'On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Regulation of Gaming Activities' and Related Drafts" (N 491-A, adopted on 18.04.2026, effective from 19.04.2026)**

- The amendments envisaged in the Law "On Regulation of Gambling Activities" and related legal acts aim to modernize state oversight of the sector by introducing "responsible gambling" rules and restricting the activities of unlicensed organizers. One of the key directions of the reforms is the tightening of promotional lotteries: henceforth, only a person advertising their own goods or services may be the organizer thereof, and the prize fund must be exclusively in-kind and not exceed 0.5 percent of turnover. For the purpose of strengthening oversight over advertising, it is established that any advertisement of games and lotteries must be agreed upon with the authorized body in electronic format prior to publication.
- In the digital environment, a strict prohibition is established on the online targeting of prohibited advertising to users located in the territory of Armenia, including through international platforms. Advertisers are obliged to take reasonable technical measures (geo-blocking) to prevent the display of such advertising in the territory of Armenia. With respect to financial operations, it is established that bets, account replenishment, and the provision of winnings must be carried out exclusively by non-cash means and in Armenian drams (with the exception of specially identified foreign nationals). In addition, a mandatory identification requirement of the person is introduced before participating in a game, and the use of a gaming account belonging to another person is strictly prohibited.
- Organizers are obliged to connect to the "Monitoring Center," which carries out the recording of all gaming operations, winnings, and events, and risk assessment. In the system of inspections, 70 percent of gambling sector entities shall be mandatorily classified as high risk, which implies at least one inspection per year. State bodies are permitted to carry out control purchases to monitor compliance with licensing conditions. Technical requirements are also established for gaming halls: their interior space must be invisible from the outside, and video recording materials must be preserved for at least 30 working days.
- The measures of liability have been significantly tightened: for violations in the field of advertising, the fine may reach up to 2,000 times the minimum wage (2 million AMD).

- For failing to block unlicensed websites, internet operators may be fined up to 3 million AMD. It is also noteworthy that in the event of commissioning the organization of a promotional lottery to persons without state registration, a fine of ten million AMD has been established. All these amendments are aimed at protecting the licensed market and increasing the effectiveness of state oversight.

**"On Approving the Proposal to Sign the Draft Protocol 'On Making Amendments to the Treaty on the Specifics of Criminal and Administrative Liability for Violations of the Customs Legislation of the Customs Union and the Member States of the Customs Union of July 5, 2010'" (N 536-A, adopted on 23.04.2026, effective from 24.04.2026)**

- The amendments envisaged in the Treaty "On the Specifics of Criminal and Administrative Liability for Violations of the Customs Legislation of the Customs Union and the Member States of the Customs Union" of 2010 aim to establish uniform principles and approaches when establishing liability for non-compliance with the requirements of EAEU law. Henceforth, when establishing measures of liability, the member states must be based on the principles of legality, justice, humanity, equality before the law, presumption of innocence, and proportionality of punishment. In terms of substance, the classification of violations according to their nature and degree of public danger, as well as the clear definition of the subjects of liability and types of punishments, is emphasized. As a main approach, the priority application of preventive measures before the imposition of the actual punishment is enshrined.

**"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Draft Laws of the Republic of Armenia 'On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Procurement' and 'On Making Supplements to the Law on the Budgetary System of the Republic of Armenia'" (N 589-A, adopted on 30.04.2026, effective from 01.05.2026)**

- The law introduces the legal basis for the application of AI in the procurement process, enshrines the institution of public oversight, and tightens the conditions and control of procurements from one person. Simultaneously, the regulation of grants is clarified, the use of English is permitted in certain cases, and a "mirror" principle is introduced to restrict the participation of countries that apply restrictions to residents of the Republic of Armenia.
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**"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Draft Law 'On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia'" (N 486-A, adopted on 18.04.2026, effective from 19.04.2026)**

- By the amendments made to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia in 2021 and by Resolution N 1324-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of August 12, 2021, the institution of the compliant taxpayer was introduced. The main regulations pertaining to the compliant taxpayer are established by Article 293.1 of the Code. Simultaneously, by part 3 of that article, the period of validity of the compliant taxpayer certificate is established as 12 months from the day of issuance of the certificate. In order to make the compliant taxpayer system more attractive, a necessity has arisen to revise the regulations established by the Code and to envisage additional incentive instruments for the introduction of the system, as well as to improve and enhance the regulations pertaining to the issuance of the compliant taxpayer certificate. For that purpose, the draft law proposes to establish that:

- 1.The process of issuance of the compliant taxpayer certificate shall not pertain to investment funds, taking into account that an investment fund may also be a pool of assets and that the manager of the given investment fund acts on its behalf, which may apply for and receive a certificate in the prescribed manner, as well as the low profit tax rate of 0.01% being applied;
- 2.The compliant taxpayer certificate shall be issued for an indefinite period;
- 3.The tax authority shall carry out monitoring of the activities of taxpayers holding a compliant taxpayer certificate on a quarterly basis, with the aim of ensuring the manifestation of continuous compliant conduct of the taxpayer;
- 4.The Government shall establish the procedure for terminating the operation of the certificate, which shall specify the cases when the operation of the compliant taxpayer certificate shall be terminated based on the results of the monitoring carried out;
- 5.With respect to taxpayers holding a compliant taxpayer certificate, the tax authority shall perform the function of servicing taxpayers established by the Code through an individual—a corresponding official of the tax authority; in the course of planning comprehensive tax audits, a coefficient of 0.8 shall be applied when assessing the criteria determining the riskiness in the case of taxpayers holding a compliant taxpayer certificate.

- Simultaneously, within the framework of expanding the favorable administrative conditions for compliant taxpayers, it is envisaged to establish priority with respect to the refund of VAT amounts of compliant taxpayers holding a certificate, in particular, to revise the criteria for considering VAT amounts subject to refund as risky.

**"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Draft Laws 'On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia' and 'On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Law on State Duty'" (N 572-A, adopted on 30.04.2026, effective from 01.05.2026)**

- By the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia," it is proposed to revise the approaches to the taxation of dividends paid by banks and to establish a 15 percent rate of income tax or profit tax of a non-resident for dividends paid by banks, if the dividends are received from shares issued by banks and not listed on stock exchanges included in the list defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Simultaneously, it is proposed to eliminate, with respect to banks, the possibility of refunding the tax withheld from dividends in the event of making reinvestment in the amount of the income tax withheld from dividends.
  - The said draft also proposes to establish that dividends received from banks by resident profit tax payers from shares not listed on stock exchanges included in the list defined by the Government shall also be subject to taxation at a 15 percent rate, the obligation for the calculation and payment to the budget of which shall be borne by the bank paying the dividend, as a tax agent. Moreover, with respect to dividends received from banks by resident profit tax payers considered shareholders of banks, the amount of profit tax calculated by the bank shall not be established as an amount deductible from the amount of profit tax for resident profit tax payers.
  - Simultaneously, by the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Law on State Duty," for the period encompassing July 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026, it is proposed to establish a state duty on dividends paid from shares issued by banks and not listed on stock exchanges included in the list defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, in the amount of 15 percent of the dividends.
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**"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Draft Law 'On Making Amendments to the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Subsoil'" (N 538-A, adopted on 23.04.2026, effective from 24.04.2026)**

- The draft proposes to make an amendment to part 1 of Article 48 of the Code, clarifying that legal and natural persons, without formalizing the right to subsoil use, within the boundaries of their own land parcels, having notified the authorized body in accordance with the procedure established by the Government, and without the application of drilling and blasting works, may carry out the following works for the extraction of non-metallic mineral resources not registered in the state balance:
  1. Exclusively for purposes not pursuing profit—for the satisfaction of own economic and household needs—up to a depth of two meters, as well as the construction of underground structures up to a depth of five meters;
  2. Extraction of solid non-metallic mineral resources for the purpose of obtaining profit—in a volume of a maximum of 20 cubic meters per calendar year;
  3. Extraction of solid non-metallic mineral resources for the purpose of obtaining profit—in the case of the construction of apartment buildings and public buildings—to the depth specified in the design documents approved in accordance with the procedure established by law.
- The words "for own needs" are removed from Article 62 of the Code, which creates a legal basis for the lawful sale of raw materials extracted by small enterprises.
- At the same time, the proposed regulation aims to ensure the interconnected and controllable implementation of construction processes and subsoil use, establishing clear conditions for the extraction of solid non-metallic mineral resources carried out within the framework of the construction of apartment buildings and public buildings, ensuring compliance with urban development and safety norms. The prohibition of drilling and blasting works, in its turn, is aimed at increasing the level of safety by reducing the possible risks for the environment and the population.

**"On Approving and Considering Urgent the Draft Law 'On Making an Amendment to the Law on Local Self-Government in the City of Yerevan' and the Draft Law 'On Making Amendments and Supplements to Related Laws'" (N 513-A, adopted on 18.04.2026, effective from 19.04.2026)**

- The City Hall shall be able to suspend and seal illegal constructions, and in the event of non-compliance with the requirements, criminal liability is also envisaged.
- New rules are established for unauthorized structures, the external appearance of buildings, solar stations, vending devices, and the use of electric scooters, and the requirements for cargo transportations are also tightened.
- A digitalized unified account is introduced for the automatic settlement of obligations to the community, and the credit capabilities of Yerevan are expanded. Simultaneously, administrative proceedings shall be carried out mainly under written procedure, and in certain cases, structures may pass to the community by court decision.

**"On the Proposal of the Government of the Republic of Armenia Regarding the Package of Draft Laws of the Republic of Armenia 'On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Law on Regulation of Gambling Activities,' 'On Making Supplements and an Amendment to the Law on Games with Winnings, Internet Games with Winnings, and Casinos,' and 'On Making Supplements to the Law on Lotteries'" (N 543-L, adopted on 23.04.2026, effective from 24.04.2026)**

- The drafts envisage significantly expanding the circle of persons prohibited from participating in games.
  - One of the main amendments pertains to the protection of socially vulnerable groups: it is envisaged to prohibit participation in games for those citizens who are registered in the system of social assessment of families or reside in accommodations of the state social housing fund. In addition, restrictions are envisaged for beneficiaries of support programs financed from the state budget. With respect to financial operations, a strict prohibition is introduced on the use of bank cards to the account of which social allowances or pension funds are transferred.
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**"On Approving the Draft Law 'On Making an Amendment to the Law on Investment Funds'" (N 454-A, adopted on 09.04.2026, effective from 10.04.2026)**

- The draft proposes to set the maximum number of participants of non-public investment funds at 99 instead of the current 49. It is proposed to establish that a non-public fund may have no more than 99 participants. In the event that the number of participants exceeds 99, the non-public fund shall be obliged, within 90 calendar days, to re-register as a public fund in accordance with the general procedure established by this law or to correspondingly reduce the number of its participants. In the event of non-compliance with the requirement to re-register as a public fund or to reduce the number of participants, the non-public fund shall be subject to liquidation through judicial procedure.

**"On Approving the Draft Law 'On Making Supplements to the Law on State Registration of Rights to Property' and the Draft Related Law" (N 394-A, adopted on 02.04.2026, effective from 03.04.2026)**

- The basis of the amendments is the elimination of technical and legal discrepancies existing in cadastral maps. Any difference that leads to an incorrect reflection of the dimensions, area, location, or designated purpose of the property is considered an error. The basis for correction is a plan and a conclusion drawn up by a qualified person. Exceptions are envisaged where the consent of neighbors is not mandatory: for example, if the boundaries coincide with previously registered data and this is confirmed by orthophoto plans.
- If the owner has died and no successor has appeared within 8 months, the correction shall be carried out without their consent. In the case of state or community lands, the principle of "silence is consent" applies: in the event of no response within 15 working days. As a result of cadastral revision, if the area of the land parcel decreases, the community shall provide compensation. If the area increases, registration shall be carried out free of charge; however, in the event of subsequent alienation of the property, the value of the increased portion must be paid, and in certain cases—immediately at the moment of correction.
- It is established that in communities not having master plans or zoning projects after July 1, 2024, new development shall not be permitted.

**"On Approving the Draft Law 'On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia' and the Drafts of Related Laws" (N 411-A, adopted on 02.04.2026, effective from 03.04.2026)**

- By the draft, reverse mortgage is defined as a special type of mortgage of residential property, in the case of which the bank makes periodic payments in favor of a person who has reached retirement age, and the latter retains the right to live in their apartment and the right of ownership. It is also established that the obligation is limited solely to the amount obtained from the sale of the pledged property; the shortfall may not be collected at the expense of other property. The Code also envisages a new approach to the property relations of spouses: property acquired during marriage may be registered as the exclusive property of one spouse, and in that case, it shall not be included in the inheritance mass until the death of the other spouse.
  - By the amendments to the Law "On State Registration of Rights to Property," reverse mortgage is included in the list of rights subject to registration, and the procedure for registration of property is simplified, permitting its registration as joint or exclusive property based on a joint application of the spouses.
  - Privileges are envisaged by the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia: payments received within the framework of reverse mortgage shall not be subject to income tax, and the alienation of such property by the bank shall be exempt from VAT.
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# UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

## **THE FOLLOWING DRAFT LAWS WERE ADOPTED IN THE FIRST READING.**

### **"On Defining the Minimum Requirements for Insurance of Liability of Air Carriers and Aircraft Operators in Respect of Passengers, Flight and Cabin Crew, Baggage, Cargo, and Third Parties" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The draft establishes the minimum requirements for the insurance of liability of air carriers and aircraft operators. The purpose of the draft is to harmonize the legislation with EU aviation regulations and standards.
- The effect of the law extends to all air carriers and operators in the airspace of the Republic of Armenia. Exceptions are made for certain state aircraft, model aircraft weighing less than 20 kg, balloons, parachutes, and certain small or non-commercial flying devices. Insurance must mandatorily be in place for each flight. It covers harm caused to passengers, crew, baggage, cargo, and third parties; moreover, the insured risks also include military operations, terrorism, hijacking or unlawful seizure of the aircraft, and civil commotions. The amounts of minimum insurance coverage are calculated in SDRs (Special Drawing Rights):
  - 1.in the event of bodily injury or death, compensation shall amount to at least 250,000 SDR for each person (in the case of small, non-commercial aircraft, it shall amount to 100,000 SDR per passenger);
  - 2.in the event of loss of or damage to baggage during commercial transportations, 1,519 SDR per passenger is provided for, and in the case of cargo—26 SDR per kilogram;
  - 3.third parties: compensation for harm caused to third parties depends on the maximum take-off weight (MTOW) of the aircraft and, according to categories, ranges from 0.75 million to 700 million SDR per incident.
- All carriers, including foreign carriers, operating flights through the airspace of Armenia are obliged to present insurance certificates to the authorized body. If the authorized body is not satisfied as to the propriety of the insurance coverage, it is vested with the right to prohibit the take-off of the given aircraft, as well as to apply other measures of liability established by law.
- It is envisaged that the law shall enter into force on January 1, 2027.

### **"On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Customs Regulation" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The draft aims to specify the process of conducting customs audits, clarify unregulated relations in respect of customs audits, enshrine provisions on the electronic notification of documents pertaining to customs audits, and revise the norms of liability for violations discovered as a result of customs audits. The draft proposes the following in the Law "On Customs Regulation":
    - 1.to establish that the time limit for a desk audit may not exceed 40 working days, and the person subject to the audit must be notified of the commencement of the desk audit;
    - 2.to remove the type of desk customs examination that duplicates the forms of customs control;
    - 3.to establish the cases of lifting the suspension of the audit time limit, as well as to establish, by analogy with the grounds for suspension established by the Tax Code and encountered in practice, corresponding grounds for the suspension of the time limit for a customs audit;
    - 4.to establish the time limit for the submission of objections by the audited person regarding the customs audit act;
    - 5.to establish the types of decisions rendered by the customs authority based on the summary of the audit results;
    - 6.to establish and clarify the methods of notification of documents pertaining to customs audit. The following have been established as methods of notification: hand delivery, electronic mail, postal communication, and the electronic management system for the submission of reports. Moreover, with respect to customs audits, analogous to document circulation carried out exclusively with tax authorities, the electronic method of the given notification has also been provided for;
    - 7.to eliminate duplicative requirements for individual persons operating in the field of customs affairs;
    - 8.to establish liability in respect of organizations for violations discovered as a result of customs audits. In addition to the amounts of undercalculated taxes and penalties, a fine in the amount of 20% of the total amounts not calculated or undercalculated shall also be levied, with the exception of cases of violation of the condition for the release of conditionally released goods or means of transport, where the fine shall be calculated in the amount of 50%.
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**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia are aimed at modernizing the criminal-legal toolkit for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic (psychoactive) substances, and their precursors. The regulations on liability for the illicit trafficking or sale of narcotic drugs or psychotropic (psychoactive) substances have been supplemented with new characteristics. Committing the crime "using information or communication technologies" has been established as a norm aggravating liability. Simultaneously, a severe punishment has also been established if the act was committed with the involvement of a juvenile or against a juvenile.

**"On Investments" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The adoption of the draft is conditioned by the necessity of comprehensive and new regulation of investment relations. The current Law "On Foreign Investments" does not ensure predictability of regimes, transparency of state policy, and proportionality of incentives. The draft aims to completely change the law adopted back in 1994, creating a modern, simple, and predictable legal environment for investments.
- In contrast to the current law, the draft regulates issues of both foreign and local (domestic) investments.
- The concept of "investment" is clarified. The law does not extend to portfolio investments (acquisition of less than 10 percent of a company's shares for the purpose of short-term income that does not grant management rights);
- Fundamental rights of investors and guarantees of protection:
- foreign investors are granted rights equal to those of local investors, as well as conditions no less favorable than the conditions granted to investors of other states;
- the concepts of direct and indirect expropriation are defined. In the event of lawful alienation (overriding public interest), prompt, adequate (at market value), and effective compensation is guaranteed;
- stability guarantee—if the guarantees established by law are amended to the detriment of the investor, then investments already made shall continue to be protected under the old conditions for an additional five years;
- the unhindered import and export of capital and property, currency conversion, and repatriation of profit are guaranteed.

- Investment incentives (privileges):
  - the state may provide various incentives—fiscal (tax, customs), financial, simplified administration, support for the acquisition of a land parcel or infrastructure development;
  - privileges may be granted not only by laws but also by specific investment agreements concluded between the Government and the investor, taking into account the particularities.
  - Dispute resolution and justice:
  - Investors have the right to resolve disputes in courts or in international arbitration provided for by international treaties.
  - A mandatory condition is that in the event of a dispute with a state body, the parties must first attempt to resolve it through negotiations.
  - Since the law shall also extend to local investors, a gradual transition of the application of the law has been established for their property and other (non-equity) assets:
  - from the moment of entry into force of the law, it shall extend to those local investors whose investment exceeds 500 million AMD;
  - from January 1, 2028, it shall extend to investments exceeding 200 million AMD;
  - from January 1, 2030, it shall extend to all local investors, regardless of the amount.
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**THE FOLLOWING DRAFT LAWS WERE ADOPTED IN THE SECOND READING AND COMPLETELY**

**"On Making Supplements to the Law on the Anti-Corruption Committee" (available at the [following link](#))**

- By the supplements made to the Law "On the Anti-Corruption Committee," the list of incentive measures applied to the officers of the Anti-Corruption Committee is expanded. The legislative act enshrines that, in addition to the monetary remuneration provided for the officers, awarding the officer with a medal or a breast badge may also be applied as a type of incentive. Another supplement made to the Law establishes an authorizing norm pertaining to the procedures for the material and technical provision of the officers. In particular, it is enshrined that the procedure for allocating special means to an officer of the Anti-Corruption Committee, as well as for keeping, carrying, and surrendering them, shall be established by the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Committee.

**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Protection of Consumer Rights" (available at the [following link](#)), "On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Advertising" (available at the [following link](#)), and "On Making an Amendment to the Law on Economic Competition and Protection of Consumer Interests" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The Law "On Protection of Consumer Rights" clarifies and expands the fundamental concepts, establishes a new regulation on the conformity of goods with the contract, including in the case of goods containing digital elements. The obligations of the seller are enshrined with respect to updates, incorrect installation, guarantees, and the provision of information, as well as the rights of the consumer in the event of goods of improper quality or non-conforming goods (repair, replacement, price reduction, or termination of the contract). Clear time limits are established for notification of non-conformity, proof thereof, and remediation of defects. The guarantees for consumer protection in the case of distance contracts and contracts concluded off-premises are expanded, including the right to withdraw from the contract within 14 days, delivery time limits, and allocation of risks.
- The Law "On Advertising" establishes clear criteria for misleading and comparative advertising, strengthens guarantees against unfair advertising, and enshrines that the burden of proving the accuracy of data presented in advertising lies with the advertiser.

- Comparative advertising is permitted only under objective, verifiable conditions that do not mislead the consumer. The overall purpose of the amendments is to strengthen the protection of consumer rights, ensure fair competition, and bring the legislation of the Republic of Armenia into full compliance with EU legal standards. The Law on the amendments and supplements shall enter into force on July 1, 2026.

**"On Making an Amendment to the Law on Public and Individual Notification via Internet" (available at the [following link](#)), "On Making Amendments to the Law on Banks and Banking Activity" (available at the [following link](#)), and "On Making an Amendment to Related Laws"**

- The package makes a number of amendments aimed at modernizing notification procedures. In the Law "On Public and Individual Notification via Internet," the means of publishing public notification in the press is replaced by posting on the website (azdarar.am). The same amendments are also made to the provisions on notifications of individual legal acts. Amendments are also made to the provisions on notifications of individual legal acts, such as: the Law "On Banks and Banking Activity," the Law "On the Bankruptcy of Banks, Credit Organizations, Investment Companies, Persons Providing Services Involving Crypto-Assets, Investment Fund Managers, and Insurance Companies," the Law "On Pawnshops and Pawnshop Activity," the Law "On Payment and Settlement Systems and Payment and Settlement Organizations," the Law "On Bankruptcy," the Law "On Insurance and Insurance Activity," the Law "On the Securities Market," the Law "On Covered Mortgage Bonds," the Law "On Investment Funds," the Water Code and the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia, and so forth.
  - Simultaneously, the requirement for banks, credit organizations, investment companies, persons providing services involving crypto-assets, investment fund managers, and insurance companies to publish the balance sheet in the press having a circulation of at least 2,000 copies and to present a copy of the newspaper as verification is eliminated. Instead, banks are obliged to present the identification number of the public notification on the balance sheet or the electronic document certifying the fact that the announcement has been published, as well as the link to the public notification.
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**"On Making Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia" (available at the [following link](#)), "On Making Supplements to the Law on Bank Secrecy" (available at the [following link](#)), and "On Making Supplements to Related Laws"**

- By the supplements made to the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia, the legal possibility of seizing documents by electronic means is enshrined. The laws establish the conditions for recording; in particular, if the seizure of documents constituting bank or related secrecy is carried out by electronic means, a note thereon shall be made in the protocol. A copy of the seizure protocol shall also be transferred by electronic means to the person from whom the given documents were seized. The legislation enshrines that, in the event of carrying out seizure by electronic means, a document certifying the fact of execution of the seizure shall mandatorily be attached to the seizure protocol, which shall be downloaded automatically. The conditions for the transfer and submission of information are also enshrined in the Laws "On Bank Secrecy," "On Insurance and Insurance Activity," and "On Funded Pensions." In the corresponding cases provided for by law, information and documents may be provided not only in an envelope or in a sealed and closable part of an envelope signed by the head of the executive body or the person substituting them, but also by electronic means.

**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Higher Education and Science" (available at the [following link](#))**

- By the amendment made to the Law "On Higher Education and Science," it is established that the powers of a person elected or appointed to managerial positions of academic or administrative structural subdivisions in a public university shall be subject to termination by decision of the rector if the person has attained the age of 65. This norm also extends to the positions of the head of a scientific organization operating within the composition of a research university, the deputy heads, and the heads of its academic structural units. The legislation enshrines that the Government shall approve the list of specializations and admission examinations for bachelor's and continuous and integrated educational programs for the corresponding academic years, as well as the admission places with full compensation of tuition fees by the state for full-time study.

- The law establishes that until the introduction and organization of educational processes with partial load, the relations of admission to part-time study in universities shall continue to be regulated by legal acts adopted on the basis of the relevant provisions of the Law "On Education."

**"On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Law on Service in the Police" (available at the [following link](#)) and "On Making Supplements and Amendments to Related Laws"**

- The amendments introduce a system of annual performance evaluation and mandatory training for police officers, the results of which shall serve as a basis for promotion or restrictions. In the field of the rescue service, the time limits for attestation and transitional regulations are revised.
- By the amendments on domestic violence, the circle of family members is expanded, and the police are obliged to take measures to transfer affected persons to a shelter.
- The Law "On Foreigners" establishes a special procedure for crossing the border of the Republic of Armenia by wanted foreigners, based on a document provided by the police.

**"On Making Amendments to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia" (available at the [following link](#)), "On Making an Amendment to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia" (available at the [following link](#)), and "On Making a Supplement to the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia" (available at the [following link](#))**

- By the amendments made to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia:
    1. in terms of examination and analysis, the scope of a desk (internal) examination shall include, together with the tax calculations and information submitted to the tax authority, also other information that has become known to the tax authority;
    2. under the current regulations, the basis for conducting a thematic examination by the tax authority may be exclusively the results of a desk (internal) examination carried out by the tax authority on definitely known taxable transactions. The phrase "definitely known" has been removed from this regulation;
    3. currently, an assignment for thematic examinations in respect of each taxpayer may be issued no more than once during each tax year. The aforementioned restriction has been removed, and a thematic examination may be carried out in the presence of the corresponding grounds, without quantitative limitation.
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- Currently, the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia provides for criminal liability for non-payment of taxes, duties, or other mandatory payments in the event of exceeding 10 million AMD (large amount) and 20 million AMD (particularly large amount). By the amendment, the aforementioned amounts have been revised. A large amount is considered to be the amount of taxes, duties, or other payments exceeding 30 million AMD within one tax year, or the amount of taxes, duties, or other payments exceeding 45 million AMD within two consecutive tax years. A particularly large amount is considered to be the amount of taxes, duties, or other payments exceeding 50 million AMD within one tax year, or the amount of taxes, duties, or other payments exceeding 75 million AMD within two consecutive tax years.
  - In practice, the tax authority shall submit a report to initiate criminal proceedings in the event that the administrative act has entered into force and all stages of administrative appeal have been exhausted.
  - In respect of alienation transactions carried out by persons engaged in trading activities, the VAT taxation base shall be the positive difference between the calculated taxation base or 80% of the actual value and the acquisition price of the given item (including VAT) substantiated by documented evidence.
  - The restrictions on offsets have been supplemented: persons engaged in trading activities involving items made of gold shall not make an offset or reduction in the amount of the VAT amount indicated in the tax invoice or customs declaration or import tax declaration attributable to the alienation transactions of those items. The aforementioned restriction shall not extend to transactions subject to taxation at the 0% VAT rate.
  - The law on the amendments and supplements shall enter into force on July 1, 2026. The new rules shall apply to alienation transactions of items made of gold carried out after that date and in respect of the VAT amount indicated in the documents attributable thereto. For the purpose of calculating the VAT taxation base under the procedure provided for persons engaged in trading activities, the VAT amount included in the acquisition price of the aforementioned items acquired prior to the entry into force of the law shall not be included.

**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The specifics for determining the VAT taxation base are supplemented with new rules for calculating the VAT taxation base in the event of the alienation of items made of gold, including items made of gold and precious stones:
  - In respect of alienation transactions carried out by the producer, the taxation base shall be the positive difference between the taxation base calculated under Article 61 of the Code—and in the case of gratuitous transactions or transactions with consideration significantly lower than the actual value, 80% of the actual value thereof—and the acquisition price of the gold and precious stones used for the production of the given item, substantiated by the documents prescribed by Article 55 of the Code. The base calculated under the said procedure may not be less than 10 percent of the base calculated under Article 61 of the Code or 10 percent of 80% of the actual value of the abovementioned transactions.
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# DRAFTS PLACED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON THE E-DRAFT PLATFORM

## **"On Making a Supplement to the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The draft proposes to make amendments to the provisions of the Civil Code of the RA, permitting developers to acquire state dram bonds at the expense of the resources of the developer's special account, the interest income received in respect of which shall be credited to the developer's bank account, and the resources received from the redemption or sale of the bonds—exclusively to the developer's special account.
- It is also envisaged that the restrictions established by the Code with respect to the balance of the developer's special account (pledge, seizure, collection, etc.) shall equally apply also to the bonds.

## **"On Making a Supplement to the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Subsoil," "On Making an Amendment to the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia," and "On Making a Supplement to the Law on Urban Development" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The drafts propose to enshrine that the relevant data on the right to subsoil use, construction and demolition permits, as well as water use permits shall be subject to reflection on the national geoportal with thematic spatial layers and metadata. Simultaneously, it is envisaged to clarify the time limit for the integration of that data and, in corresponding cases, the connection of the entry into force of the given acts or the emergence of legal consequences with their reflection on the national geoportal.

## **"On Making an Amendment to the Law 'On Regulation of Gaming Activities'" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The draft proposes to remove from the Law "On Regulation of Gambling Activities" the provision on the provision of AML/CFT results by financial institutions on the basis of the consent of persons subject to oversight.

## **"On Defining the Procedure for the Extraction of Renewable Reserves of Sand, Sand-Gravel, and Sand-Gravel-Boulder Mixture in Riverbed-Type Deposits and Declaring Null and Void Resolution N 18-N of the Government of the RA of January 10, 2008" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The draft proposes to establish a uniform procedure for the extraction of renewable reserves of sand, sand-gravel, and sand-gravel-boulder mixture in riverbed-type deposits in the territory of the RA.

- Simultaneously, it is proposed to declare null and void Resolution N 18-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of January 10, 2008, which pertains only to the Araks River. The draft establishes the conditions, restrictions, and control mechanisms for carrying out extraction, including requirements for the preservation of the riverbed and hydromorphological stability, the implementation of monitoring, and the digitized presentation of the results thereof. Additional requirements are envisaged in the border layer, including the use of technical means equipped with GPS systems. The adoption of the draft is conditioned by the amendments made to the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Subsoil and aims to ensure uniform regulation of the sector, increase oversight, and reduce possible negative impacts on the environment.

## **"On Defining the List of Exchanges Serving as the Basis for Determining the Initial Value of Crypto-Assets" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The draft establishes that the exchanges serving as the basis for determining the initial value of crypto-assets are: Binance Holdings Limited (<https://www.binance.com/>), Bybit Fintech Limited (<https://www.bybit.com/>), Aux Cayes Fintech Co. Ltd (<https://www.okx.com/>), Coinbase Global, Inc. (<https://www.coinbase.com/>), Bitget Limited (<https://www.bitget.com/>), Payward, Inc. (<https://www.kraken.com/>), Gate Technology Ltd (<https://www.gate.com/>), Phoenixfin Limited (<https://www.kucoin.com/>).

## **"On Making Supplements and an Amendment to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The draft envisages establishing the term "parental hour" for employees having a child up to twelve years of age and legislatively enshrining the possibility of applying a flexible working schedule by mutual agreement of the employee and the employer.
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**"On Making Amendments and Supplements to the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Administrative Offenses" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The content of waste reporting is being revised, clarifying, in place of the concept of "use," also the stages of storage and disposal. Beginning from 2026, reports shall mandatorily be submitted exclusively by electronic means through the "Platform of Digital Services of the Environmental Management Sector," which shall enable state bodies to have direct access to the data. A new norm of liability is supplemented, establishing fines for violating the rules of waste accounting and handling: for individual entrepreneurs—in the amount of 80 times the minimum wage, and for legal persons—in the amount of 130 times, and in the event of a repeat violation—in double the amount.

**"On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia" (available at the [following link](#))**

- The current regulations on transfer pricing contain a number of provisions, the application of which is problematic in practice. It is proposed to:
- not plan transfer pricing audits in advance, since the analysis of transfer pricing documentation may give rise to a need to commence a transfer pricing audit of a taxpayer that was not on the planned list;
- with respect to subparagraph (b) of the definition of "country having special liberal tax systems" provided for in point 5 of part 1 of Article 361 of the Code, it is proposed to develop an order of the Chairman of the SRC, which shall clearly define also the specificities related to corporations or associations benefiting from special tax regimes;
- clarify the scope of application of transfer pricing regulations for non-resident profit tax payers operating in the Republic of Armenia through a permanent establishment. In particular, it is established that transfer pricing regulations shall be applicable in the event of attributability to the permanent establishment of a non-resident profit tax payer operating in the Republic of Armenia through a permanent establishment;
- an extension of the time limit provided for the notification on controlled transactions by taxpayers until July 30 inclusive has also been envisaged;
- for the application of transfer pricing regulations and the emergence of the obligation to notify on controlled transactions, exceeding an aggregate amount of 600 million AMD during the tax year has been envisaged;

- for the failure to submit transfer pricing documentation within the established time limit, it is proposed to reduce the amount of the measure of liability, establishing a fine in the amount of 1 million, 3 million, or 5 million AMD, depending on the amount of gross income based on the results of the reporting year in which the controlled transaction was carried out.

**"On Defining the Cases and Conditions for the Use of Advance Payments as Security for the Performance of Customs Obligations in Respect of Customs Payments, Internal Market Protection Measures, and Other Taxes Payable to Customs Authorities by Way of Pledge of Monetary Funds, as well as Security for the Performance of Customs Obligations by Way of Pledge of Monetary Funds in Respect of Goods Imported by Natural Persons for Personal Use" (available at the [following link](#))**

- According to the proposed regulation, the declarant or their authorized representative may submit an application to the customs authority through the electronic system to apply the amounts of advance payments existing in the unified account as a means of security. Advance payments may be used as security if the declarant has no other unperformed customs obligations, or if the existing balance is sufficient both for the settlement of old debts and for the new security.
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