

**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Adopted on 16 December 2016

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECTION 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 1

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 1. Constitutional status and functions of the National Assembly

1. The National Assembly is the people's representative body.
2. The National Assembly shall exercise the legislative power of the Republic of Armenia.
3. The National Assembly shall exercise oversight over the executive power, adopt the State Budget and fulfil other functions prescribed by the Constitution.
4. The powers of the National Assembly shall be prescribed by the Constitution.

Article 2. Activities and bodies of the National Assembly

1. In exercising its powers and fulfilling its functions, the National Assembly shall act in accordance with this law (hereinafter referred to as "the Rules of Procedure") through sessions, sittings, as well as the work of its bodies.
2. Deputies, Chairperson of the National Assembly, his or her deputies, factions, committees and the Council of the National Assembly (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") shall act as the bodies of the National Assembly.

CHAPTER 2

THE DEPUTY

Article 3. Rights of the deputy

1. The deputy shall have the right to:
 - (1) come up with a legislative initiative;
 - (2) introduce a draft decision, statement, address of the National Assembly;
 - (3) deliver speeches, ask questions and make proposals at the the sittings of the National Assembly, the committees, working groups thereof, as well as parliamentary hearings;
 - (4) pose written questions to the Government;
 - (5) pose oral questions to the Government members;
 - (6) hold offices conditioned by his or her status;

- (7) get involved in the working group composition of a standing or ad hoc committee;
 - (8) get involved in the composition of the sub-committee set up by his or her committee;
 - (9) withdraw from the composition of the faction;
 - (10) get familiar with any document addressed to the National Assembly, his or her faction or committee except for private or personal materials, as well as information containing state or official secret which he or she is not entitled to be aware of;
 - (11) make inquiries and proposals to the state and local self-government bodies and officials;
 - (12) have two assistants, one on paid and the other—on social basis.
2. The procedure for the exercise of the rights of the deputy shall be prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, Law of the Republic of Armenia "On guarantees of activities of a deputy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia" and Operations Procedure of the National Assembly (hereinafter referred to as "the Operations Procedure").
 3. The guarantees of activities of a deputy shall be prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On guarantees of activities of a deputy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia" and other laws.

Article 4. Obligations of the deputy

1. The deputy shall be obliged to:
 - (1) get involved in the composition of one standing committee except for cases provided for by part 7 of Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure;

- (2) participate in the sittings of the National Assembly, as well as those of the committee and the working group the member whereof he or she is;
- (3) participate in the parliamentary hearings convened by the committee the member whereof he or she is;
- (4) observe the rules of deputy ethics;
- (5) ensure the fulfilment of the requirement of incompatibility of parliamentary mandate;
- (6) organise reception of citizens, as well as respond — within his or her competence — to the written proposals of citizens as prescribed by law;
- (7) observe the safety rules in the territory and building of the National Assembly residence.

CHAPTER 3

CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND HIS OR HER DEPUTIES

Article 5. The Chairperson of the National Assembly

1. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall represent the National Assembly and ensure the regular functioning thereof.
2. The Chairperson of the National Assembly
 - (1) shall preside over the sittings of the National Assembly;
 - (2) shall convene extraordinary sittings and sessions of the National Assembly;

- (3) shall put into circulation the issues submitted for the consideration of the National Assembly and appoint a Lead Commission;
- (4) shall send to the President of the Republic the laws adopted by the National Assembly, as well as the decisions of the National Assembly on putting the draft amendments to the Constitution to referendum;
- (4.1) shall sign and publish the law adopted by the National Assembly in the case provided for by part 3 of Article 129 of the Constitution;
- (4.2) shall publish the amendments to the Constitution adopted by the National Assembly in the case provided for by part 2 of Article 202 of the Constitution;
- (5) shall sign and publish the decisions, statements and addresses of the National Assembly;
- (6) shall convene and preside over the sittings of the Council;
- (7) shall submit the draft agendas of the regular session and sittings for the approval of the National Assembly and the Council;
- (8) shall sign and promulgate the decisions of the Council;
- (9) shall approve the composition of the committees of the National Assembly and the changes therein;
- (10) may give the Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly instructions aimed at ensuring the regular functioning of the National Assembly;
- (11) shall convene political consultations, if necessary;
- (12) shall manage the tangible assets of the National Assembly;
- (13) shall appoint and dismiss from the positions held the Chief of Staff (hereinafter referred to as "the Staff") and deputies of the Chief of Staff of the National Assembly;

- (13.1) shall approve the job descriptions of positions of the civil service of the Staff, as well as shall appoint and dismiss from the positions held civil servants holding positions in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd sub-groups of managerial positions of civil service of the Staff;
- (14) shall approve the Staff list and the official pay rates of the workers;
- (15) shall—upon submission by the chairperson of a competent standing committee — approve the requirements set forth for the experts of the Budget Office (hereinafter referred to as "Budget Office") of the National Assembly, as well as the descriptions of their positions;
- (16) ***(point repealed by HO-46-N of 21 January 2020);***
- (17) may convene parliamentary hearings, laying down the procedure for the holding thereof;
- (18) may form parliamentary bodies operating on a voluntary basis;
- (19) shall appoint a representative of the National Assembly in the Constitutional Court;
- (20) may send to international organisations and foreign non-governmental organisations entitled to conduct an observation mission an invitation to conduct an observation mission during elections;
- (21) shall approve the safety rules in the territory and building of the National Assembly residence;
- (22) shall award the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Certificate of Honour of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Letter of Gratitude of the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Commemorative Medal of the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Souvenir of the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as encourage with monetary reward;

- (23) shall appoint a standing committee of the National Assembly entitled to nominate a candidate for the member of the commissions selecting winners of the state prizes and the Awards Committee of the Republic of Armenia.
3. In exercising his or her powers, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall adopt decisions and executive orders, which shall be posted on the official website of the National Assembly (www.parliament.am) within two working days, except for those containing state secret or other secret protected by law.

(Article 5 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, HO-175-N of 13 September 2019, edited, amended, supplemented by HO-46-N of 21 January 2020, supplemented by HO-264-N of 11 May 2020, amended, supplemented by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)

Article 6. The Deputy Chairpersons of the National Assembly

1. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall have three deputies.
2. Upon the instruction of the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly
 - (1) shall preside over the sittings of the National Assembly;
 - (2) preside over the Council sittings;
 - (3) replace the Chairperson of the National Assembly or carry out other instructions aimed at ensuring the regular functioning of the National Assembly.
3. The deputy chairpersons of the National Assembly shall take part in the Council sittings.
4. In case the office of the Chairperson of the National Assembly is vacant, as well as when the obligations of the President of the Republic are fulfilled by the

Chairperson of the National Assembly, the powers of the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be exercised by the Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly, who received more votes when elected to that position, and in case of equality of votes — the elder one.

CHAPTER 4

FACTIONS

Article 7. Establishment of factions

1. Factions shall be established on the opening day of the first session of the newly-elected National Assembly in accordance with the number and names of parties (party alliances), which took part in the distribution of mandates of the National Assembly.
2. Only the deputies, who received mandates according to the electoral list of the same party or party alliance, shall be included in the faction.
3. The factions established by a party (alliance of parties) or member parties of a political coalition (alliances of parties), which received no less than 54 percent of the total number of mandates as a result of the election of the National Assembly shall be considered as ruling, and the other factions — opposition.
4. The factions established by the parties (alliance of political parties), which signed a memorandum on the formation of the Government, shall be considered as ruling, and the other factions — opposition.
5. Head of the ruling faction or the secretary thereof shall come up with a statement on the signing of the memorandum at the forthcoming sitting of the National Assembly.

6. Where the head of the ruling faction comes up with a statement on withdrawing from the memorandum on the formation of the Government at the sitting of the National Assembly, the faction shall from that moment be considered as opposition.

(Article 7 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

(Article, as amended by [HO-207-N](#) of 7 May 2021, shall enter into force on the day of calling the next regular elections to the National Assembly)

Article 8. Powers of a faction

1. The faction shall — as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure — have the right to:
 - (1) come up with a legislative initiative;
 - (2) submit a draft decision, statement or address of the National Assembly for the consideration of the National Assembly;
 - (3) consider the draft law proposed by it as a priority;
 - (4) form a political coalition with other factions, as well as withdraw from a coalition;
 - (5) nominate a candidate for the position of a chairman of the standing committee or the deputy thereof reserved thereto;
 - (6) appoint a faction member to the position reserved thereto in the committee of the National Assembly, as well as change him or her;
 - (7) nominate a prime minister candidate;
 - (8) nominate to the competent standing committee candidates for the positions elected or appointed by the National Assembly;

- (9) nominate a candidate for the member of the Supreme Judicial Council;
 - (9.1) nominate a candidate for the vacant position of the member of an autonomous body in cases provided for by law;
 - (9.2) nominate to the Council of the National Assembly a candidate for the member of the Competition Board formed for the selection of candidates for the position of the member of an autonomous body in the case provided for by part 2.2 of Article 146 of the Rules of Procedure;
 - (9.3) nominate to the Council of the National Assembly a candidate for the member of the Competition Board within a three-day period after receiving the application for appointing a member within the composition of the Competition Board formed for the selection of candidates the Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Competition Board”);
 - (10) address Government members with written interpellations;
 - (11) make proposals on the draft Constitutional amendments, law, decision, statement or address of the National Assembly;
 - (12) appoint and change the representative thereof in the Council;
 - (13) recommend that the member thereof be included in the composition of an international parliamentary organisation, as well as that of the National Assembly or other official delegation in the inter-parliamentary committee;
 - (14) recommend that the member thereof be included in the friendship group of the National Assembly;
 - (15) convene parliamentary hearings;
 - (16) remove the member thereof from the faction.
2. In exercising its powers, the faction shall adopt decisions.

3. The decisions of the faction shall be adopted by majority of votes of the faction members having participated in the voting, provided that more than half of the total number of faction members participated in the voting.
- 3.1. A decision of the factions of the National Assembly taken by consensus shall, in the cases directly provided for by the Rules of Procedure, be deemed to be adopted, where the same decision has been taken by all the factions of the National Assembly.
4. The opposition faction shall have guarantees of activities laid down in the Rules of Procedure.

(Article 8 supplemented by HO-175-N of 13 September 2019, HO-439-N of 18 September 2020, HO-157-N of 24 March 2021)

Article 9. Activities of a faction

1. The faction shall act in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the charter approved by the decision thereof.
2. The charter of the faction shall lay down:
 - (1) the name of the faction;
 - (2) the rights and responsibilities of the members of the faction;
 - (3) the procedure for the election of the head of the faction and the secretary thereof, as well as the powers thereof;
 - (4) the procedure for convening and holding the sittings of the faction;
 - (5) the procedure for adopting the decisions of the faction;
 - (6) the procedure for coming up with a legislative initiative by the faction;

- (7) the procedure for the introduction by the faction of a draft decision, statement or address of the National Assembly;
 - (8) the procedure for the nomination of a prime minister candidate by the faction;
 - (9) the procedure for the nomination by the faction of candidates for the positions elected or appointed by the National Assembly to the competent standing committee;
 - (9.1) the procedure for the nomination of a candidate for the vacant position of the member of an autonomous body;
 - (10) the procedure for address by the faction to Government members with written interpellations;
 - (11) the procedure for the application by the faction to the Constitutional Court with respect to the decisions adopted as a result of a referendum and election of the President of the Republic;
 - (12) the procedure for the submission of proposals by the faction on the draft Constitutional amendments, laws and decision of the National Assembly;
 - (13) the procedure for removing a member from the faction;
 - (14) the procedure for adoption of decisions by the faction;
 - (15) other provisions related to the procedure of activities of the faction.
3. The sittings of the faction shall, as a rule, be convened during the week following the regular sittings of the National Assembly.
 4. The deputy may withdraw from the faction upon the written application of the head of faction or by coming up with a statement in that regard at the sitting of the National Assembly.

5. The activities of the faction shall terminate, where all the members thereof withdraw from the faction, and resume, where at least one deputy having that competence is included in the composition thereof.

(Article 9 supplemented by HO-175-N of 13 September 2019)

CHAPTER 5

STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 10. Establishment of standing committees

1. Standing committees shall be established for the preliminary discussion of draft laws, other issues within the competence of the National Assembly and for presentation of opinions thereon to the National Assembly, as well as for conducting parliamentary oversight.
2. Standing committees shall be established at the first session of the National Assembly, upon the decision of the National Assembly. The draft decision shall be introduced and discussed as prescribed by Article 112 of the Rules of Procedure.
3. After the establishment of standing committees, the number thereof shall not be changed.

Article 11. Formation of standing committees

1. The composition of the standing committees and the changes therein shall be approved by the Chairperson of the National Assembly, where the principles prescribed by this Article are observed.

2. Seats within a standing committee shall be allocated in proportion to the number of deputies included in the factions.
3. The faction member shall be appointed to the position of the member of the committee reserved to the faction, as well as withdraw from the composition of the committee upon the decision of the faction.
4. Where the proportionality laid down in part 2 of this Article is not violated, the deputy, who withdrew from the faction or was expelled therefrom may:
 - (1) remain in the same committee, where that faction does not appoint a member of faction in his or her stead, or there is another vacant position in the committee, or
 - (2) get involved in the vacant office existing in other committee upon his or her application addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly.
5. The faction shall have the right to retain vacant the position reserved thereto within the committee, as well as change the member thereof involved in the composition of the committee.
6. Powers of a member of the committee shall terminate, where:
 - (1) his or her powers of a deputy terminate or are terminated;
 - (2) he or she withdraws from a committee;
 - (3) he or she withdraws from or is expelled from a faction, where that faction appoints a faction member in his or her stead.
7. The Chairperson of the National Assembly and his or her deputies, as well as heads of factions may not get involved in the composition of the committee.

Article 12. Powers of a standing committee

1. Within its competences, the standing committee
 - (1) shall exercise the powers of the Lead Commission;
 - (2) shall conduct parliamentary oversight;
 - (3) shall propose candidates for the National Assembly or other state bodies for election or appointment to offices;
 - (4) may file inquiries with state and local self-government bodies and officials;
 - (5) may convene parliamentary hearings;
 - (6) may establish sub-committees and working groups;
 - (7) shall discuss petitions sent to the committee by the Chairperson of the National Assembly and reply to them.
2. State and local self-government bodies and officials shall be obliged to consider the written inquiry of the committee within a period of three weeks and reply to it in writing.
3. The standing committee may, upon the decision thereof, as prescribed by the Operations Procedure, establish sub-committees or working groups for the purpose of the preliminary discussion of issues within its competence and for submitting the results thereof to the committee. The sub-committee or working group may be dissolved upon the decision of the committee.
4. The standing committee shall have its operations procedure, which, in accordance with the sample Operations Procedure prescribed by the Council, shall be approved by the decision of the committee.
5. The powers of the standing committee shall cease in case the term of powers of the National Assembly expires.

(Article 12 supplemented by HO-22-N of 21 December 2017, HO-264-N of 11 May 2020)

Article 13. Chairperson of a standing committee and his or her deputy

1. Chairperson of the standing committee:
 - (1) shall prepare and preside over the sittings of the committee;
 - (2) shall convene an extraordinary sitting of the committee;
 - (3) shall participate in the sittings of the Council;
 - (4) shall manage the secretariat of the committee;
 - (5) shall coordinate the work of sub-committees and working groups;
 - (6) shall coordinate the activities of the committee and the committee secretariat with the bodies of the National Assembly and the Staff;
 - (7) shall submit for the approval of the committee the draft agenda of the sitting of the committee;
 - (8) shall process and reply to the notes addressed to the committee;
 - (9) may send the draft reserved to the competence of the committee to scientific, educational institutions, as well as invite specialists to the sittings of the committee for the purpose of receiving opinions thereon;
 - (10) shall inform the committee on the process of implementing the decisions thereof;
 - (11) shall record-register, as prescribed by the Operations Procedure, the absences of members of the committee from the sittings of the committee and the convened parliamentary hearings.
2. In the absence of the Chairperson of the standing committee or in case the position is vacant, he or she shall be replaced by his or her deputy, and where this is impossible — by a member determined by the committee.

Article 14. Sittings of standing committees

1. The regular sittings of standing committees shall, as a rule, be convened during the week preceding the regular sittings of the National Assembly, on the days provided for by the schedule prescribed by the decision of the Council.
2. The extraordinary sittings of the standing committee shall be convened by the chairperson of the committee, upon his or her initiative or upon the initiative of at least one quarter of the committee members. The extraordinary sitting shall be conducted according to the agenda and within the time period set by the initiator.
3. The sittings of the standing committee shall take place in the residence of the National Assembly. The sitting of the committee may, if necessary, upon the decision of the committee, be held in another venue, which the chairperson of the committee shall in advance inform the Chairperson of the National Assembly about.
4. The sittings of the standing committee shall be public. The closed sitting of the standing committee shall be held in cases prescribed by part 6 of Article 88, part 2 of Article 93 and part 6 of Article 117 of the Rules of Procedure, and may as well be held upon the decision of the committee for the purpose of ensuring the state, official, commercial or other secret protected by law. Voting during a closed sitting shall be prohibited.
5. Apart from the members of the committee, deputies and persons entitled to participate in the discussion of an issue, the public sitting of the standing committee may be attended by the following persons:
 - (1) the President of the Republic or the representative thereof;
 - (2) the Prime Minister or a Government representative;
 - (3) the Chief of Staff and his or her deputies;
 - (4) one advisor to the Chairperson of the National Assembly;

- (5) specialists of the committee secretariat;
 - (6) one expert of the Budget Office;
 - (7) heads of structural subdivisions of the Staff, who conducted a specialist expert examination on the issue under discussion;
 - (8) one assistant to each committee member;
 - (9) officers of the Staff ensuring the coverage of the sitting;
 - (10) persons invited upon the decision of the committee, as well as by the chairperson of the committee.
6. Apart from the committee members and the rapporteur, the closed sitting of the standing committee may be attended by persons specified in points 1-3 and 10 of part 5 of this Article.
 7. The journalists accredited in the National Assembly may attend the sitting of the committee with the permission of the chairperson of the committee, and at the sitting they shall carry out their professional activities in a place separated for them.
 8. Sitting of the standing committee may be held at the sitting of the National Assembly only for the purpose of ensuring the deadlines prescribed by the Constitution or Rules of Procedure.

Article 15. Procedure for holding the sittings of a standing committee

1. The sitting of a standing committee shall have a quorum where at least one quarter of the total number of the committee members are present (have registered for) at the sitting and the sitting is presided over by the chairperson of the committee, and in his or her absence or in case that position is vacant — by his or her deputy or a member determined by the committee.

2. The regular sitting of the standing committee shall commence with the approval of the agenda. No issues shall be discussed prior to the approval of the agenda.
3. Issues at the sitting of the standing committee shall be discussed in accordance with the general procedure for discussion of issues at the sitting of the National Assembly, as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the Operations Procedure of the committee.
4. Only the committee members shall have the right to submit a proposal on the approval of the agenda of the committee or the adoption of another decision falling within the competence thereof, except for the cases provided for by points 2 and 4 of part 2 of Article 78 of the Rules of Procedure.
5. Only the deputies shall have the right to ask questions to the rapporteurs, as well as deliver a speech on the procedure for conducting a sitting at the sitting of the standing committee, except for the cases provided for by points 3 and 6 of part 2 of Article 78 of the Rules of Procedure. Other persons having the right to attend the sitting of the committee may deliver a speech with the permission of the chairperson of the sitting or upon the decision of the committee.
6. Voting on each issue shall be conducted immediately after the conclusion of the discussion of an issue. A committee member shall vote in person for, against or abstain from voting on the issue put to a vote, and for or against the candidate for a position. A committee member absent from the sitting of the committee may vote as prescribed by part 6.1 of this Article.
 - 6.1. A committee member seconded by the National Assembly may inform in writing the chairperson of the committee about his or her decision related to the voting on the issue, and in the case provided for by part 2 of Article 13 of the Rules of Procedure — the person substituting him or her. The letter signed by the committee member shall be handed over to the chairperson of the committee or the person substituting him or her in a closed envelope in advance — before

secondment. The name of the issue shall be specified on the envelope and in the letter, and the decision of the committee member on voting for, against or abstaining from voting on the issue, as well as on voting for or against the candidate for the position shall be specified in the letter. The person presiding over the sitting of the committee shall open the envelope and publish the letter before the voting on the issue. After the voting, the letter shall be attached to the minutes of the sitting.

7. Decisions of the committee shall be adopted by majority of votes of the committee members having participated in the voting, where at least one quarter of the total number of committee members voted for the decision.

(Article 15 edited, supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

CHAPTER 6

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Article 16. Establishment of an ad hoc committee

1. An ad hoc committee may be established for the purpose of discussing certain draft laws, decisions, statements and addresses of the National Assembly, as well as for discussing issues related to the deputy ethics and for presenting opinions thereon to the National Assembly.
2. An ad hoc committee shall be established upon the decision of the National Assembly, the right of introducing the draft whereof shall belong to the faction.
3. The number of the members of an ad hoc committee shall be prescribed by the decision of the National Assembly, and the composition of the committee and the

changes therein shall be approved by the Chairperson of the National Assembly in accordance with the principles laid down in parts 2-6 of Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure.

4. The decision of the National Assembly on establishing an ad hoc committee shall prescribe the name of the committee, the term of its activities, as well as the terms for submitting opinions on the draft reserved to its competence or an issue regarding deputy ethics.
5. After the establishment of an ad hoc committee for a certain draft, the powers and functions of the Lead Commission shall be transferred thereto.
6. The term of activities of an ad hoc committee for a certain draft shall be up to six months, which may — upon the proposal of the committee and the decision of the National Assembly — be extended for a period necessary for the discussion of the draft reserved to the competence of the committee.
7. The term of activities of an ad hoc Committee on Deputy Ethics shall be up to two months, which may — upon the proposal of the committee and the decision of the National Assembly — be extended for up to one month for concluding the discussion of the issue.

Article 17. Activities of an ad hoc committee

1. An ad hoc committee for a certain draft shall—within its competences—exercise the powers of the Lead Commission, as well as other powers vested in the standing committee.
2. Within its competences, the ad hoc Committee on Deputy Ethics
 - (1) shall discuss and submit to the National Assembly an opinion on the issue falling within the competence thereof;

- (2) may address state and local self-government bodies and officials with an interpellation;
 - (3) may request through an inquiry and receive, as prescribed by the law, the necessary materials and documents relating to the issue under discussion in the committee;
 - (4) may order expert examinations for the examination of the factual circumstances of the issue under discussion in the committee and receive the opinions drawn up as a result thereof.
3. The information and opinions requested by the ad hoc Committee on Deputy Ethics must be forwarded thereto within a period of two weeks after receiving the inquiry, unless a longer time period is indicated in the inquiry, or unless the recipient of the inquiry suggests a reasonable time period for fulfilling the request of the committee. The Committee members may get familiar with the materials or documents relating to the information requested by the inquiry also on-site.
4. Information containing state, official, commercial or other secret protected by law shall be provided to the ad hoc Committee on Deputy Ethics at the request thereof, and the Committee members may get familiar with that information as prescribed by law.
5. The opinion of the ad hoc Committee on an issue related to deputy ethics shall not be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly and shall be posted on the official website of the National Assembly.
6. The sittings of an ad hoc committee shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure prescribed for standing committees by Article 15 of the Operations Procedure.
7. The sittings of the ad hoc Committee on Deputy Ethics shall be closed, and the regular sittings shall be convened on the days prescribed by the Committee or

the Chairperson thereof. Only the Committee members, persons invited upon the decision of the Committee Chairperson or Committee, as well as the deputy with regard whereto the committee is discussing an issue shall have the right to attend the sitting of the committee. The sitting of the Committee shall have a quorum, where more than half of the total number of committee members are present (have registered for) at the sitting, and the sitting is presided over by the chairperson of the committee, and in his or her absence or in case that position is vacant — by his or her deputy or a member determined by the committee. The decisions of the committee shall be adopted by the majority of votes of the total number of committee members.

8. An ad hoc committee shall have its operations procedure, which, in accordance with the sample Operations Procedure prescribed by the Council, shall be approved by the decision of the committee.

Article 18. Chairperson of an ad hoc committee and his or her deputy

1. The chairperson of an ad hoc committee and his or her deputy shall be elected upon the decision of the committee.
2. The chairperson of an ad hoc committee shall have the powers of the chairperson of a standing committee prescribed by points 1, 2, 6-11 of part 1 of Article 13 of the Rules of Procedure, as well as manage the work of the persons carrying out the professional service of the activities of the committee.
3. In the absence of the chairperson of an ad hoc committee or in case the position is vacant, he or she shall be replaced by his or her deputy, and where this is impossible — by a committee member authorised upon the decision of the committee.

Article 19. Cessation of powers of an ad hoc committee

1. The powers of an ad hoc committee shall cease in case the term of the activities thereof expires or in case it is dissolved.
2. The powers of an ad hoc committee for a certain draft shall terminate also in case the draft reserved to the competence thereof is adopted or in other case when it is put out of circulation.
3. The powers of the ad hoc Committee on Deputy Ethics shall terminate also in the following cases:
 - (1) since the moment of submitting to the National Assembly the opinion on an issue related to deputy ethics;
 - (2) in the event of the cessation or termination of the powers of a deputy, the issue with regard whereto the committee is considering.
4. An ad hoc committee may be dissolved upon the decision of the National Assembly, the right of introducing the draft whereof shall belong to the faction.

CHAPTER 7

INQUIRY COMMITTEE

Article 20. Establishment of an inquiry committee

1. Upon the demand of at least one quarter of the total number of deputies, an inquiry committee of the National Assembly shall be formed by virtue of law for the purpose of establishing facts of public interest within the competence of the National Assembly and presenting them to the National Assembly.

2. The powers of an inquiry committee in the spheres of defence and security may only be exercised by a competent standing committee of the National Assembly, upon the demand of at least one-third of the total number of deputies.
3. The demand of establishing an inquiry committee shall be presented to the Chairperson of the National Assembly upon the written application of at least one quarter of the total number of deputies in the case specified in part 1 of this Article, and that of at least one-third of the total number of deputies in the case specified in part 2 of this Article, which shall refer to the following:
 - (1) subject matter of the inquiry and the scope of competence of the committee;
 - (2) name, surname of the chairperson of the committee, except for the case referred to in part 2 of this Article;
 - (3) the term of powers of the committee.
4. Except for the case referred to in part 2 of this Article, the draft decision of the National Assembly on prescribing the number of the members of the inquiry committee shall be attached to the application.
5. Where the application is not signed by the necessary number of deputies or where it
 - (1) does not comply with the requirements of parts 3 and 4 of this Article and is not brought into compliance therewith within three working days, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall return the application, specifying the reasons;
 - (2) complies with the requirements of parts 3 and 4 of this Article, the inquiry committee shall be considered to be established since the moment of presenting the demand to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, which the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall announce about.

6. Except for the case referred to in part 2 of this Article, the number of the members of the inquiry committee shall be prescribed upon the decision of the National Assembly, and the composition of the committee and the changes therein shall be approved by the Chairperson of the National Assembly, in accordance with the principles laid down in parts 2-6 of Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure.
7. The term of powers of an inquiry committee shall be up to six months, which may, upon the proposal of the committee and the decision of the National Assembly, once be extended for up to six months.

Article 21. Activities of the inquiry committee

1. The inquiry committee may,
 - (1) upon the initiative of at least one quarter of the members thereof, without a decision, address in writing to state and local self-government bodies and officials, requiring necessary information regarding the scope of competence thereof.
 - (2) upon the decision thereof, address to state and local self-government bodies and officials for examining the factual circumstances of the issue under discussion in the committee, ordering expert examinations, and receive the opinions drawn up as a result thereof;
 - (3) upon the decision thereof, invite to the committee competent officials, as well as persons, who submitted information regarding the scope of competence of the committee.
2. The information and opinions requested by the inquiry committee must be forwarded thereto within a period of two weeks after receiving the written application, unless a longer time period is indicated in the inquiry, or unless the recipient of the application suggests a reasonable time period for fulfilling the

request of the committee. Information containing state, official, commercial or other secret protected by law shall be provided to the committee upon the written application thereof as prescribed by law. The committee members may get familiar with the materials or documents requested by the application or documents also on-site.

3. The sittings of the inquiry committee shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure prescribed for standing committees by Article 15 of the Operations Procedure. The regular sittings of the committee shall be convened on the days prescribed by the committee or the chairperson thereof. The sitting of the committee shall have a quorum, where more than the half of the total number of committee members are present (have registered for) the sitting, and the sitting is presided over by the chairperson of the committee, and in his or her absence or in case that position is vacant—by his or her deputy or a member determined by the committee. The decisions of the committee shall be adopted by the majority of votes of the total number of committee members.
4. The inquiry committee shall have its operations procedure, which, in accordance with the sample Operations Procedure prescribed by the Council, shall be approved by the decision of the committee.

Article 22. Rights and obligations of persons invited to the inquiry committee

1. Officials invited to the inquiry committee shall be obliged to, and other persons, who submitted information regarding the scope of competence of the committee, shall have the right to present themselves and give explanations at the sitting of the committee, as well as respond to the questions of the committee members.
 - 1.1. The obligation of the officials specified in part 1 of this Article to present themselves and give explanations at the committee, as well as respond to the questions of the

committee members shall be maintained also after their dismissal from the position, where the request for provision of information or the invitation to present themselves and give explanations at the sitting was received before dismissal from the position.

2. The person specified in parts 1 and 1.1 of this Article shall have the right to:
 - (1) get familiar with the minutes of the sittings of the committee attended by him or her, as well as request to make changes therein;
 - (2) provide clarifications on the report of the committee, as well as fully substantiate his or her position.

(Article 22 supplemented, amended by HO-17-N of 2 October 2018)

Article 23. Limitations on the activities of the inquiry committee

1. The activities of the inquiry committee may not fall outside the scope of issues within the competence of the National Assembly.
2. Issues of preliminary investigation or those in any other stage of proceedings, as well as the issues, which were approved or denied by a judicial act having entered into legal force, may not be a subject matter of consideration by the inquiry committee.
3. Violation of any of the conditions prescribed by parts 1 or 2 of this Article shall be a ground, in accordance with point 4 of Article 168 of the Constitution, for applying to the Constitutional Court.

Article 24. Chairperson of the inquiry committee and his or her deputy

1. The inquiry committee referred to in part 1 of Article 20 of the Rules of Procedure shall be presided over by the deputy specified in point 2 of part 3 of

Article 20 of the Rules of Procedure, and the Deputy Chairperson shall be elected upon the decision of the committee — upon the nomination of a competent faction. If the position of the chairperson of the inquiry committee referred to in part 1 of Article 20 of the Rules of Procedure is held by:

- (1) the representative of the ruling faction, the right of nominating a candidate for the vacant position of the deputy chairperson of the committee shall belong to the opposition faction;
 - (2) the representative of the opposition faction, the right of nominating a candidate for holding the vacant position of a deputy chairperson of the committee shall belong to the ruling faction.
2. The functions of the chairperson of the inquiry committee in the spheres of defence and security shall be fulfilled by the chairperson of a competent standing committee of the National Assembly, and those of the deputy chairperson—by the deputy chairperson of that committee.
 3. The chairperson of the inquiry committee shall have the powers of the chairperson of a standing committee prescribed by points 1, 2, 6-8 and 11 of part 1 of Article 13 of the Rules of Procedure, as well as manage the work of the persons carrying out the professional service of the activities of the committee.
 4. Where the powers of the chairperson of the inquiry committee referred to in point 2 of part 3 of Article 20 of the Rules of Procedure terminate, the name and surname of the new chairperson of the committee shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly upon the written application of the deputies having requested to establish the committee. Where the application is signed by deputies, whose number is less than one quarter of the total number of deputies, the position of the chairperson of the inquiry committee shall remain vacant.

5. In the absence of the chairperson of the inquiry committee or in case the position is vacant, he or she shall be replaced by his or her deputy, and where this is impossible—by a member determined by the committee.

(Article 24 amended, supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 25. Review of the inquiry committee

1. The inquiry committee shall submit to the Chairperson of the National Assembly a review on the results of the activities thereof, which shall include the revealed facts regarding the issue, which served as a basis for the establishment of the committee, as well as the conclusions of the committee on the measures to be taken in respect thereto.
2. Where at least one quarter of the members of the inquiry committee have a special opinion with regard to the review, the representative thereof may deliver a supplementary review during the discussion of the review at the sitting of the National Assembly, introducing the special opinion.
3. Documents or other materials substantiating the facts and conclusions mentioned therein shall be attached to the review.
4. After being submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the review shall be discussed at the regular sitting of the National Assembly. The issue shall be discussed under the following procedure:
 - (1) the chairperson of the inquiry committee shall deliver the main review, introducing the review of the committee, following which questions may be asked thereto;
 - (2) in the case referred to in part 2 of this Article, the supplementary review may be delivered by the representative of the members of the inquiry committee, following which questions may be asked thereto;

- (3) exchange of ideas;
 - (4) chairperson of the inquiry committee shall deliver a concluding speech;
 - (5) the duration of discussing an issue may be set from 90 minutes to up to three hours.
5. After concluding the discussion of the issue, the review of the inquiry committee, as well as the special opinion submitted as prescribed by part 2 of this Article, shall be sent — as prescribed by the Operations Procedure — to the state and local self-government bodies and officials specified in the review , who may — within a one-month period — send their written reply on the review to the Chairperson of the National Assembly. The replies shall be posted on the official website of the National Assembly.

Article 26. Cessation of powers of the inquiry committee

1. The powers of the inquiry committee shall cease
 - (1) since the moment of concluding the discussion of the review thereof at the sitting of the National Assembly;
 - (2) in the event of the expiration of the term of powers of the committee, where that review had not been submitted for the consideration of the National Assembly prior to that.

CHAPTER 8

THE COUNCIL

Article 27. Composition and activities of the Council

1. The Council shall be composed of the Chairperson of the National Assembly, three of the deputies thereof, one representative from each faction and chairpersons of standing committees.
2. The Council shall act in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the charter approved by the decision thereof.

Article 28. Powers of the Council

1. The Council
 - (1) shall approve the draft agendas of the regular sessions and sittings of the National Assembly;
 - (2) shall prescribe the sequence of issues on the agenda of the regular sittings of the National Assembly;
 - (3) shall set the schedule of the days of convening the regular sittings of the standing and ad hoc committees;
 - (4) may adopt a decision on setting the duration of discussing an issue at the regular sitting of the National Assembly from one up to six hours;
 - (5) may introduce for the consideration of the National Assembly a draft decision of the National Assembly on conducting an additional sitting at the regular sittings;

- (6) shall apply to the Constitutional Court for terminating the powers of a deputy in the case prescribed by point 6 of Article 168 of the Constitution;
- (7) shall prescribe the sample operations procedures of the committees of the National Assembly;
- (8) shall approve the structure and charter of the Staff;
- (9) shall, upon the proposal of a competent standing committee, approve the operations procedure of the Budget Office, the conditions of term of office of experts, procedures for the election (appointment) thereof, as well as those for subjecting the experts of the Budget Office to disciplinary liability;
- (10) shall approve the procedures for accreditation of journalists in the National Assembly, as well as for holding press conferences, briefings in the residence of the National Assembly;
- (11) shall approve the description and the procedure for awarding the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Certificate of Honour of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Letter of Gratitude of the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Commemorative Medal of the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Souvenir of the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia;
- (12) shall approve the description of the badge "Deputy of the National Assembly";
- (13) shall approve the schedule for holding preliminary discussions of the draft State Budget at the standing committees and the joint sittings thereof, submitting proposals and making amendments by the Government;
- (14) shall approve the schedule for holding preliminary discussions of the annual State Budget at the standing committees;

- (15) shall give consent to signing an inter-parliamentary agreement;
- (16) shall approve the composition of the delegation of the National Assembly in international parliamentary organisations, inter-parliamentary committees, procedures for the formation and activities thereof;
- (17) shall establish and dissolve friendship groups of the National Assembly, as well as approve the composition and the procedures for the activities thereof;
- (18) shall prescribe the conditions for the sittings provided for by points 3 and 5 of part 3 of Article 40 of the Rules of Procedure, as well as the conditions of the tender for broadcasting the series of the TV programme "Parliamentary week."
- (19) shall appoint a member of the Competition Board formed for the selection of candidates for the position of the member of an autonomous body in the case provided for by part 2.2 of Article 146 of the Rules of Procedure;
- (20) shall, within a seven-day period following the nomination of a candidate for the member of the Competition Board by the factions of the National Assembly, appoint a member of the Competition Board from among the candidates nominated by the factions of the National Assembly in the case provided for by point 9.3 of part 1 of Article 8 of the Rules of Procedure.

(Article 28 supplemented by HO-439-N of 18 September 2020, HO-157-N of 24 March 2021)

Article 29. Procedure for convening sittings of the Council

1. The regular sittings of the Council shall, as a rule, be convened on the Friday of the week preceding the first regular sittings, as well as on the Monday of the week of the other regular sittings of the regular session of the National Assembly, at the time prescribed by the Chairperson of the National Assembly.

2. The extraordinary sittings of the Council shall be convened by the Chairperson of the National Assembly, upon his or her initiative or upon the initiative of at least one quarter of the total number of the Council members. The extraordinary sitting shall be conducted according to the agenda and within the time period set by the initiator.
3. The draft agenda of the regular sitting of the Council, as well as that of the extraordinary sitting convened by the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be drawn up and submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly by the Staff.

(Article 29 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 30. Publicity of the sittings of the Council

1. The sittings of the Council shall be public.
2. The closed sitting of the Council may be held upon the decision thereof. Voting during a closed sitting shall be prohibited.
3. Apart from the members of the Council, the following persons may attend the public sitting of the Council:
 - (1) the Chief of Staff and one of his or her deputies;
 - (2) heads of structural subdivisions of the Staff, who submitted an opinion on the issues on the agenda;
 - (3) persons invited upon the decision of the Council, as well as by the Chairperson of the National Assembly;
 - (4) the officers ensuring the service or coverage of the sitting, according to the list prescribed by the Chief of Staff;

- (5) a Government representative, at the discussion of the issues related to the agendas of sessions, sittings.
4. Apart from the members of the Council, the closed sitting of the Council may be attended by the Chief of Staff, one of his or her deputies and the officers ensuring the service of the sitting according to his or her list, and during the discussion of issues related to the agenda of sittings, also by a Government representative.

Article 31. Procedure for holding the sittings of the Council

1. The sitting of the Council shall have a quorum where more than half of the total number of the Council members are present (have registered for) at the Council sitting, and it is presided over by the Chairperson of the National Assembly or a deputy replacing him or her.
2. The regular sitting of the Council shall commence with the approval of the agenda. No issues shall be considered prior to the approval of the agenda.
3. Issues at the sitting of the Council shall be discussed in accordance with the general procedure for discussion of issues at the sitting of the National Assembly, as prescribed by the Operations Procedure of the Council.
4. Only the Council members shall have the right to approve the agenda of the Council or submit a proposal on adopting other decision within the competence thereof, as well as ask questions to the rapporteur or deliver a speech on the procedure for conducting a sitting. Other persons having the right to attend the sitting of the Council may deliver a speech with the permission of the chairperson of the sitting or upon the decision of the Council.
5. Decisions of the Council shall be adopted by the majority of votes of the total number of the Council members. Voting on each issue shall be conducted

immediately after the conclusion of the discussion of an issue. A Council member may vote for, against or abstain, and a Council member absent from the sitting of the Council may vote as prescribed by part 6 of this Article.

6. A Council member seconded by the National Assembly may inform in writing the Chairperson of the National Assembly or the deputy substituting him or her about his or her decision related to the voting on the issue. The letter signed by the Council member must be handed over to the Chairperson of the National Assembly or the deputy substituting him or her in a closed envelope in advance — before secondment. The name of the issue shall be specified on the envelope and in the letter, and the decision of the Council member on voting for, against or abstaining from voting on the issue. The person presiding over the sitting of the Council shall open the envelope and publish the letter before the voting on the issue. After the voting, the letter shall be attached to the minutes of the sitting.

(Article 31 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

SECTION 2

SESSIONS AND SITTINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

CHAPTER 9

FIRST SESSION

Article 32. Convening of the first session

1. In case of regular elections, the first session of the newly-elected National Assembly shall be convened at 10:00 pm on the day of the expiration of the term

of powers of the National Assembly of previous convocation, which the Chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission shall announce about.

2. On the day of expiration of powers of the existing National Assembly, in cases when the newly-elected National Assembly is not formed, when the elections to the National Assembly are held within the period prescribed by part 2 of Article 91 of the Constitution due to martial law or state of emergency, as well as in case of snap election to the National Assembly, the first session shall be convened after the formation of the newly-elected National Assembly, at 10:00 pm on the second Monday, which the Chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission shall announce about.

Article 33. Holding of the first session

1. Prior to the election of the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the sittings of the first session shall be opened and presided over by the eldest deputy.
2. The President of the Republic and the Catholicos of All Armenians shall have a right to deliver a welcome speech on the occasion of the opening of the first session.
3. After the welcome speeches, the deputies take the following oath: "For the sake of fulfilling the nationwide objectives and for the strengthening and prosperity of the homeland, I swear to fulfil my obligations before the people in good faith, observe the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, contribute to the sovereignty and securing of the interests of the Republic of Armenia, do everything possible to preserve the civic solidarity, national and universal human values."
4. A deputy who was absent from the sitting or replenished the composition of the National Assembly subsequently, shall take an oath at the first sitting of the National Assembly, which he or she attends.

5. After the oath of the deputies, the chairperson of the sitting — on the basis of the minutes of the Central Electoral Commission on the election of the National Assembly — shall officially announce the total number of the deputies of the National Assembly, names of the parties having formed a political coalition (alliances of parties) and introduce the deputies — reading out the name, surname of each of them, name of the party (alliance of party), following which the deputies shall be registered.
6. The chairperson of the sitting shall announce the agenda of the first sitting, which shall be as follows:
 - (1) establishment of the Counting Committee;
 - (2) election of the Chairperson of the National Assembly;
 - (3) election of the three deputies of the Chairperson of the National Assembly;
 - (4) establishment of standing committees;
 - (5) election of the chairpersons of the standing committees;
 - (5.1) discussion on the draft Law "On changes in the structure of the Government" upon recommendation of the Government;
 - (6) issue on approving a Government programme.
7. The sittings of the first session shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Article 37 of the Operations Procedure for regular sittings. Daily sittings shall be held until the conclusion of the discussion of the issue on the election of chairpersons of standing committees.
8. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within 24 hours after introducing the Government programme to the National Assembly — announce the date and time of the sitting devoted to the discussion of the issue.

9. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — at the sitting of the first session — come up with an announcement on the formation of factions and standing committees, as well as the Council.
10. The first session shall end with the concluding speech of the Chairperson of the National Assembly and announcement on the day of convening the regular session.

(Article 33 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 34. Establishment of the Counting Committee and the powers thereof

1. The Counting Committee shall be established upon the proposal of the chairperson of the sitting, upon the decision of the National Assembly. The proposal shall be submitted at a sitting of the National Assembly and put to vote without discussion. The decision shall enter into force upon its adoption.
2. The powers of the Counting Committee shall be preserved until the termination of powers of the National Assembly.
3. The first composition of the Counting Committee shall, in accordance with the principles prescribed by parts 2-6 of Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure, be approved by the person presiding over the sitting of the National Assembly, and the changes in the composition of the Committee — by the Chairperson of the National Assembly.
4. The Counting Committee shall elect, from among its composition, a Chairperson and a Secretary.
5. The candidate being elected or appointed to a position, as well as the author of the issue put to vote may not participate in the activities of the Counting Committee until the results of the relevant voting are submitted to the National Assembly.

6. The Counting Committee shall:
 - (1) organise holding of secret ballots and submit the results thereof to the National Assembly;
 - (2) in case of the non-functioning of the electronic system of the sittings of the National Assembly, register the deputies, count the votes of the deputies having participated in the open ballot, as well as organise holding of roll-call votings and submit the results thereof to the National Assembly.
7. The sittings of the Counting Committee shall be convened by the Chairperson of the Committee. The sitting of the Counting Committee shall have a quorum, where more than half of the total number of committee members are present at the sitting, and the sitting is presided over by the Chairperson of the Committee, and in his or her absence or in case that position is vacant — by the Secretary of the Committee or a member determined by the Committee.
8. Decisions of the Counting Committee on organising secret or roll-call voting, as well declaring the ballot paper of secret ballot invalid shall be adopted by the majority votes of the total number of the Committee members.
9. The minutes of a secret ballot or roll-call voting shall be signed by the Chairperson and other member of the Counting Committee.

(Article 34 supplemented, edited, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

CHAPTER 10

REGULAR SESSIONS

Article 35. Procedure for convening regular sessions

1. Regular sessions of the National Assembly shall be convened twice a year: from the third Monday of January to the third Thursday of June, and from the second Monday of September to the third Thursday of December.
2. During a regular session, regular sittings of the National Assembly shall be convened, as well as extraordinary sittings may be convened.

Article 36. Procedure for convening regular sittings

1. First regular sittings of the regular session shall be convened, as a rule, from Monday to Thursday, whereas the other regular sittings – once every three weeks, from Tuesday to Friday, but no later than the expiry of the periods indicated in part 1 of Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure.
2. ***(part repealed by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)***
3. In case of failure to conclude the discussion of issues on the agenda within the periods indicated in part 1 of this Article, regular sittings shall continue until the conclusion of discussion thereof, but no later than for three days and no later than the expiry of the periods indicated in part 1 of Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure.
4. Upon the proposal of the Chairperson of the National Assembly, upon the decision of the National Assembly, regular sittings may be transferred to a week free of sittings of the National Assembly. The proposal shall be put to vote without discussion. The decision may be adopted at regular sittings preceding the transferred sittings.

5. During a regular session of the same convocation, regular sittings may be transferred no more than once. First regular sittings of the regular session, as well as the sittings on the agenda whereof an issue subject to mandatory discussion is envisaged to be included, may not be transferred, except for the issues indicated in point 18.1 of part 3 of Article 38 of the Rules of Procedure. Regular sittings of the last week of the regular session may be transferred only in compliance with the periods indicated in part 1 of Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure.

(Article 36 supplemented, amended, edited by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 37. Procedure for holding regular sittings

1. Every day of regular sittings, from 10:00 to 18:00, four main sittings shall take place. The last main sitting of Tuesday of the first week of regular sittings shall conclude upon the statement of the last listed Deputy, and the last main sitting of Wednesday — upon responding to the question of the last listed Deputy.
2. During each day of regular sittings, from 18:30 to 20:00, one additional sitting may be held upon the decision of the National Assembly. An additional sitting may not be held at the hour of an extraordinary sitting.
3. The decision of the National Assembly on holding an additional sitting may be adopted upon the proposal of the Council, the person presiding at the sitting, head of a faction or the secretary, by the end of the last main sitting of the given day. The proposal shall be put to vote without discussion.
4. The duration of each of the main and additional sittings shall be 90 minutes, which may be extended without voting — upon the proposal of the person presiding at the sitting — for a period necessary for responding to a question, concluding the speech or holding the open voting of a discussed issue.

5. A recess of one hour shall be announced following the second sitting of each day of regular sittings, and a recess of 30 minutes following the other sittings. In case of extension of the sitting, the recess shall be reduced for a relevant period.
6. On non-working days, regular sittings shall be convened or held only in case of necessity to ensure the periods prescribed by the Constitution.

Article 38. Agenda of a regular session

1. Only issues put into circulation in the National Assembly, including issues on the agenda of the previous regular session, may be included on the agenda of a regular session.
2. The draft agenda of a regular session or on making supplements thereto shall include the following issues subject to including on the agenda as of the first day of regular sittings:
 - (1) issues subject to mandatory discussion;
 - (2) issues with regard whereto the opinion of the Lead Commission has been received or the period for submitting the opinion has expired.
3. Issues subject to mandatory discussion shall be:
 - (1) issue on electing or appointing to a vacant position;
 - (2) issue on approving a Government programme;
 - (3) issue on motion of confidence in the Government
 - (4) draft law considered urgent upon the decision of the Government;
 - (5) issue on motion of non-confidence in the Prime Minister;
 - (6) issue on applying to the Constitutional Court to terminate the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court;

- (7) issues on terminating the powers of an official elected by the National Assembly based on the opinion of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption;
- (7.1) issue on terminating the powers of a member of the autonomous body based on the opinion of that autonomous body;
- (8) issue on giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against a Deputy or depriving him or her of liberty;
- (9) issue on giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against the Human Rights Defender or depriving him or her of liberty;
- (10) issue on giving response to the interpellation of a faction;
- (11) issue considered extraordinary by the opposition faction;
- (12) draft law considered urgent by a faction;
- (13) issue on prescribing the number of members of the Investigative Commission of the National Assembly;
- (14) review of the Investigative Commission of the National Assembly;
- (15) issue on extending the period of activity of the Investigative Commission of the National Assembly;
- (16) issue on extending the period of activity of the Ad-hoc Commission of the National Assembly;
- (17) draft statement or address submitted upon the initiative of the Chairperson of the National Assembly;
- (18) reviews, communications and reports of state bodies, officials;
- (18.1) issue on discussing a draft amendment to the Constitution or a draft law in the second reading;

- (18.2) issue on repealing the decision of the National Assembly on putting draft amendments to the Constitution to referendum, the holding of the referendum called for on the basis of which has been suspended as prescribed by the Constitutional Law "On referendum";
- (19) issues having a period of discussion provided for by law or a decision of the National Assembly.
4. Issues subject to mandatory discussion shall be included on draft agendas of the regular session and sittings concurrently, except for:
- (1) issues indicated in point 18 of part 3 of this Article, which shall be included on the draft agenda of regular sittings after being submitted to the discussion of the National Assembly within a period of two months;
 - (2) issues indicated in point 18.1 of part 3 of this Article, which shall be included on the agenda of the regular session from the moment the issue on discussing the relevant draft in the first reading is included on the agenda of the regular session, and which shall be included on the draft agenda of regular sittings as prescribed by point 1 of part 2 of Article 39 of the Rules of Procedure.
5. The draft agenda of a regular session or on making supplements thereto shall be composed of the following sections:
- (1) first section, wherein issues on the agenda of the previous regular session, as well as issues subject to mandatory discussion are included;
 - (2) second section, wherein issues with regard whereto the Lead Commission has submitted a positive opinion, except for the issues indicated in point 18.1 of part 3 of Article 38 of the Rules of Procedure, as well as drafts considered alternative as prescribed by point 1 of part 6 of Article 78 of the Rules of Procedure are included;

- (3) third section, wherein issues with regard whereto the Lead Commission has submitted a negative opinion or has not submitted an opinion within the period prescribed by the Rules of Procedure are included, except for the issues indicated in point 18.1 of part 3 of Article 38 of the Rules of Procedure.
6. Draft agendas of a regular session or on making supplements thereto shall be elaborated and submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly by the Staff, following which the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall submit the draft to the discussion of the Council.
7. Draft agendas of a regular session or on making supplements thereto shall be submitted to the discussion of the National Assembly following the approval by the Council.
8. The draft agenda of a regular session or on making supplements thereto shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly through the following procedure:
 - (1) the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall deliver the main review, following which questions may be asked thereto;
 - (2) there shall be no co-reviewing;
 - (3) short discussions of issues included in the second section of the draft, with regard whereto the Lead Commission has submitted a negative opinion, may be held upon the request of authors. In that case, the author, as well as the representative of the Lead Commission shall each have the right to a speech of up to three minutes of duration, immediately after which the issue on including the draft in the agenda shall be put to vote;
 - (4) authors of the issues included in the third section of the draft, with regard whereto the Lead Commission has not submitted an opinion within the period prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, shall each have the right to a

speech of up to three minutes of duration. Immediately after the speech of the author, the issue on including the draft on the agenda shall be put to vote;

- (5) exchange of ideas;
 - (6) following the speech of the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the rest of issues — of the third section of the draft — on including on the agenda, except for issues indicated in points 3 and 4 of this part, shall be put to vote separately;
 - (7) the time necessary for the speeches provided for by points 3 and 4 of this part shall be added to the general duration of the discussion of the issue.
9. Issues included in the first and second sections of the draft agenda of a regular session or on making supplements thereto shall be included on the agenda of a regular session without voting.
 10. The issue not on the agenda of a regular session as a result of voting shall be removed from circulation.

(Article 38 supplemented, edited by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, amended, supplemented by HO-175-N of 13 September 2019, supplemented by HO-304-N of 3 June 2020)

Article 39. Agenda of regular sittings

1. Only issues on the agenda of a regular session, including those subject to mandatory discussion, as well as issues unfinished during the previous sittings may be included on the agenda of regular sittings.
2. The draft agenda of regular sittings shall be composed of the following sections:

- (1) first section, wherein issues subject to mandatory discussion, including those with regard to discussing draft amendments to the Constitution or draft laws in the second reading, the opinion of the Lead Commission with regard thereto has been received, or the time limit for submitting the opinion has expired, as well as issues unfinished during the previous regular sittings shall be included;
 - (2) second section, wherein issues shall be included in the sequence of days to be included on the agenda of the regular session. When determining the number of issues of the second section, written proposals of the Government, standing committees and factions, the volume of issues subject to discussion at the upcoming regular sittings, as well as the opportunity to prescribe the durations of discussion of issues, holding additional sittings or continuing the regular sittings shall be taken account of.
3. The Staff shall elaborate and submit to the Chairperson of the National Assembly the draft agenda of regular sittings and, in case of necessity to ensure the discussion of issues included in the draft, also:
 - (1) draft decisions of the Council on prescribing the duration of the discussion of the issues the duration whereof is not prescribed by the Rules of Procedure or the decision of the National Assembly;
 - (2) draft decisions of the National Assembly on holding an addition sitting of the National Assembly.
4. The draft agenda of regular sittings, as well as the other drafts to be adopted with respect thereto shall be discussed at the sitting of the Council, upon the submission by the Chairperson of the National Assembly, no later than on Friday of the week preceding the first regular sittings, as well as on Monday of the week of the other regular sittings of the regular session.

5. During the discussion of the draft agenda of regular sittings of the National Assembly at the sitting of the Council, members of the Council shall have the right to propose to:
 - (1) increase or decrease the number of issues of the second section of the draft agenda;
 - (2) prescribe or change the duration of discussion of an issue on the draft agenda;
 - (3) prescribe or change the sequence of discussion of issues on the draft agenda;
 - (4) submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on holding an addition sitting to the discussion of the National Assembly.
6. The draft agenda of regular sitting, as well as the other drafts having respect thereto shall be put to vote following voting on all the proposals of the Council, as well as including the adopted proposals in the drafts.
7. The draft agenda of regular sitting shall be submitted, following the adoption by the Council, to the discussion of the National Assembly.
8. The draft agenda of regular sitting shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly through the following procedure:
 - (1) the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall deliver the main review, following which questions may be asked thereto;
 - (2) there shall be no co-reviewing;
 - (3) exchange of ideas;
 - (4) the issue on including the issues of the second section of the draft on the agenda of regular sittings shall be put to vote following the concluding speech of the Chairperson of the National Assembly, in case of failure of adoption whereof all the issues of that section shall be voted on separately;

- (5) proposals on prescribing or changing the duration of discussion of an issue on the draft agenda, submitted as prescribed by part 2 of Article 62 of the Rules of Procedure, shall be put to vote;
 - (6) draft decision of the National Assembly on holding an additional sitting during regular sittings, submitted by the Council, shall be put to vote.
9. Where, in the case indicated in point 5 of part 8 of this Article, more than one proposals have been submitted with regard to the same issue, they shall be put to vote according to the duration of the time suggested for the discussion of the issue — from lengthy to short. In case of adoption of any proposal, the other proposals shall not be voted on.
 10. Issues of the first section of the draft agenda of regular sittings shall be included on the agenda of regular sittings without voting.
 11. An issue not on the agenda of regular sittings by the result of voting shall remain on the agenda of the regular session.

(Article 39 supplemented, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 40. Process of regular sittings

1. Regular sittings shall commence with the discussion of draft agendas of the regular session and sittings, upon the adoption whereof agenda issues shall be discussed in the sequence prescribed.
2. The sequence of discussion of agenda issues may change upon the statement of the Chairperson of the National Assembly, in case of objection whereto, by the head or secretary of the faction, the objection shall be put to vote without discussion. In case of adoption of a decision, the sequence of discussion of agenda issues shall not change.

3. The discussion of agenda issues shall be interrupted at each of the following convened within the periods indicated in part 1 of Article 37 of the Rules of Procedure:
 - (1) the second main sitting of Tuesday of second regular sittings, during which one issue considered extraordinary by the opposition faction may be discussed;
 - (2) the third main sitting of Tuesday of regular sittings, during which one discussion on an urgent topic of public interest may be held;
 - (3) the last main sitting of Tuesday of regular sittings, during which Deputies may make statements;
 - (4) the third main sitting of Wednesday of regular sittings, during which responses to interpellations of factions shall be submitted and may be discussed;
 - (5) the last main sitting of Wednesday of regular sittings, during which the Prime Minister and members of the Government shall respond to the questions of Deputies.
4. The discussion of agenda issues shall complete also in cases provided for by the Rules of Procedure, for a period necessary for the discussion of or voting on draft decisions on matters related to organising the activities of the National Assembly, as well as on the proposals with regard to the adoption of such decisions.
5. Discussion of agenda issues shall continue in case of absence of a discussion on, response to an interpellation on an urgent topic of public interest or absence of an issue considered extraordinary, as well as upon the conclusion of discussion thereof. The sitting shall be completed upon the completion of questions of Deputies to the Prime Minister and members of the Government, as well as of statements of Deputies.

6. Regular sittings shall conclude upon the conclusion of discussion of agenda issues, but no later than the expiry of the period indicated in part 3 of Article 36 of the Rules of Procedure.

(Article 40 edited by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 41. Procedure for convening an extraordinary sitting

1. An extraordinary sitting shall be convened by the Chairperson of the National Assembly, upon the initiative of at least one quarter of the total number of Deputies or upon the initiative of the Government. The initiative of the Government shall be implemented upon the decision of the Government.
2. On non-working days, an extraordinary sitting may be convened or held only in case of necessity to ensure the periods prescribed by the Constitution.
3. The initiative on convening an extraordinary sitting shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly by the official letter of at least one quarter of the total number of Deputies or of the Prime Minister. The following shall be indicated in the letter of Deputies, as well as in the decision of the Government attached to the letter of the Prime Minister:
 - (1) the agenda of the extraordinary sitting, including the titles and sequence of discussion of agenda issues;
 - (2) date and time of commencing the extraordinary sitting, as well as procedure for holding the extraordinary sitting — days of sittings and number of sittings to be held during each day;
 - (3) name and surname of the representative of the initiator of the extraordinary sitting;
 - (4) the list of documents attached to the letter.

4. Draft decisions of the National Assembly on prescribing the duration of discussion of agenda issues or on special procedures, as well as other documents provided for by the Rules of Procedure and the Operations Procedure may be attached to the letter.
5. Issues on discussing the same draft law in the first and second readings may be included on the agenda of an extraordinary sitting only as provided for by point 1 or 2 of part 7 of this Article.
6. Where issues on discussing the same draft law in the first and second readings are on the agenda of an extraordinary sitting, the initiator shall submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on the special procedure for the discussion of the issue, by which at least three hours shall be envisaged for submitting written proposals and three hours for submitting the opinion of the Lead Commission with regard to the draft.
7. An extraordinary sitting shall, as a rule, be convened no later than on the fifth working day following the submission of the official letter to the Chairperson of the National Assembly. An extraordinary sitting may be convened before the expiry of the indicated period where opinions of the Lead Commission with regard to the drafts on the agenda have been received or the periods for their submission have expired, whereas in exceptional cases, without an opinion, through the following procedure:
 - (1) in case of initiation of the Government, the Prime Minister has received the oral consent of the Chairperson of the National Assembly with regard to convening the extraordinary sitting earlier than the period prescribed;
 - (2) in case of initiation of Deputies or a factions, by the substantiated motion of the faction, upon the decision of the Council.
8. Where the requirements of this Article are — by the letter or any agenda issue:

- (1) not complied with and not brought into line therewith within three working days, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall return the letter or the documents having respect to the given agenda issue with an indication of the reasons;
 - (2) complied with, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall convene an extraordinary sitting of the National Assembly according to the agenda and within the period prescribed by the initiator, and the agenda of the extraordinary sitting, as well as draft issues on the agenda shall, within 24 hours, be posted on the official website of the National Assembly.
9. Where the Government fails to submit an opinion on the substantial decrease in the revenue or increase in the expenditures of the State Budget within the period prescribed by part 7 of this Article, it shall be considered that the draft on the agenda of the extraordinary sitting does not substantially decrease the revenues or increase the expenditures of the State Budget in that form.

(Article 41 supplemented, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 42. Procedure for holding an extraordinary sitting

1. On days free of regular sittings, extraordinary sittings may take place from 11:00 to 23:00.
2. Up to three extraordinary sittings may take place on the day of regular sittings, from 18:30 to 24:00.
3. The duration of each of the extraordinary sittings shall be 90 minutes, which may be extended — upon the proposal of the initiator — upon the decision of the National Assembly for a period necessary for responding to a question, concluding the speech or holding the open voting of a discussed issue. The proposal shall be put to vote without discussion. In case of extension of the sitting, the recess shall be reduced for a relevant period.

4. A recess of 30 minutes shall be envisaged following each sitting of the extraordinary sitting. In case of convening on a day free of regular sittings, one hour of recess may be envisaged following the first sitting of each day of the extraordinary sitting.

Article 43. Process of extraordinary sittings

1. An extraordinary sitting shall commence with the discussion of draft decisions of the National Assembly on special procedures for the discussion of agenda issues, submitted by the initiator, as well as the Lead Commission, whereas in case of conclusion or absence of discussion thereof, agenda issues shall be discussed in the sequence prescribed by the initiator.
2. The sequence of discussion of agenda issues may change, and an issue may be removed from the agenda upon the proposal of the representative of the initiator, without voting, as well.
3. An extraordinary sitting shall conclude upon the conclusion of the discussion of agenda issues.

CHAPTER 11

EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS

Article 44. Procedure for convening an extraordinary session

1. An extraordinary session shall be convened by the Chairperson of the National Assembly, upon the initiative of at least one quarter of the total number of Deputies or upon the initiative of the Government. The initiative of the Government shall be implemented upon the decision of the Government.

2. An extraordinary session may not be held during a regular session.
3. On non-working days, an extraordinary session may be convened or held only in case of necessity to ensure the periods prescribed by the Constitution.
4. The initiative on convening an extraordinary session shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly by the official letter of at least one quarter of the total number of Deputies or of the Prime Minister. The following shall be indicated in the letter of Deputies, as well as in the decision of the Government attached to the letter of the Prime Minister:
 - (1) the agenda of the extraordinary session, which shall include the titles and sequence of discussion of agenda issues;
 - (2) date and time of commencing the extraordinary session;
 - (3) name, surname of the representative of the initiator of the extraordinary session;
 - (4) the list of documents attached to the letter.
5. Draft decisions of the National Assembly on prescribing the duration of discussion of agenda issues or on special procedures, as well as other documents provided for by the Rules of Procedure and the Operations Procedure shall be attached to the letter.
6. Issues on discussing the same draft law in the first and second readings may be included on the agenda of an extraordinary session only as provided for by point 1 or 2 of part 8 of this Article.
7. Where issues on discussing the same draft law in the first and second readings are on the agenda of an extraordinary session, the initiator shall submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on the special procedure for the discussion of the issue, by which at least three hours shall be envisaged for submitting written proposals and three hours for submitting the opinion of the Lead Commission with regard to the draft.

8. An extraordinary session shall, as a rule, be convened no later than on the fifth working day following the submission of the official letter to the Chairperson of the National Assembly. An extraordinary session may be convened before the expiry of the indicated period where opinions of the Lead Commission with regard to the drafts on the agenda have been received or the periods for their submission have expired, whereas in exceptional cases, without an opinion, through the following procedure:
 - (1) in case of initiation of the Government, the Prime Minister has received the oral consent of the Chairperson of the National Assembly with regard to convening the extraordinary session earlier than the period prescribed;
 - (2) in case of initiation of Deputies, by the substantiated motion of the faction, upon the decision of the Council.
9. Where the requirements of this Article are — by the letter or any agenda issue:
 - (1) not complied with and not brought into line therewith within three working days, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall return the letter or the documents having respect to the given agenda issue with an indication of the reasons;
 - (2) complied with, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall convene an extraordinary session of the National Assembly according to the agenda and within the period prescribed by the initiator, and the agenda of the extraordinary session, as well as draft issues on the agenda shall, within 24 hours, be posted on the official website of the National Assembly.
10. Where the Government fails to submit an opinion on the substantial decrease in the revenue or increase in the expenditures of the State Budget within the period prescribed by part 8 of this Article, it shall be considered that the draft on the agenda of the extraordinary sitting does not substantially decrease the revenues or increase the expenditures of the State Budget in that form.

(Article 44 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 45. Procedure for holding an extraordinary session

1. An extraordinary session shall be held through the following procedure:
 - (1) four sittings with a duration of 90 minutes shall take place on each day of the session;
 - (2) a recess of 30 minutes shall be envisaged following each sitting;
 - (3) the duration of the second recess may be envisaged one hour.
2. The duration of each sitting of the extraordinary session may be extended — upon the proposal of the initiator — upon the decision of the National Assembly for a period necessary for responding to a question, concluding the speech or holding the open voting of a discussed issue. The proposal shall be put to vote without discussion. In case of extension of the sitting, the recess shall be reduced for a relevant period.

(Article 45 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 46. Process of extraordinary session

1. An extraordinary session shall commence with the discussion of draft decisions of the National Assembly on special procedures for the discussion of agenda issues, submitted by the initiator, as well as the Lead Commission, whereas in case of conclusion or absence of discussion thereof, agenda issues shall be discussed in the sequence prescribed by the initiator.
2. The sequence of discussion of agenda issues may change, also an issue may be removed from the agenda upon the proposal of the representative of the initiator, without voting.
3. An extraordinary session shall conclude in case of conclusion of discussion of agenda issues or commencement of a regular session.

CHAPTER 12

SPECIAL SITTINGS

Article 47. Procedure for convening and holding a special sitting in case of declaration of martial law

1. In case of declaration of martial law, a special sitting of the National Assembly shall be immediately convened by virtue of law.
2. Where the number of registered Deputies is not sufficient for the quorum of the sitting within four hours following the publication of the decision of the Government on declaring martial law, the sitting shall commence without ensuring quorum.
3. During the discussion of the issue:
 - (1) the Prime Minister or the representative of the Government shall deliver the main review and the concluding opinion, whereto questions may be asked after reviewing;
 - (2) there shall be no co-reviewing;
 - (3) during the exchange of ideas, only two representatives of each faction may deliver a speech.
4. Where, before the conclusion of the discussion of the issue, the quorum of the sitting is:
 - (1) ensured, the head or secretary of the faction may submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on repealing martial law or lifting any measure provided for by the legal regime of martial law. The decision of the faction thereon shall be submitted with the draft. The draft shall be put to vote without discussion immediately after the concluding speech. The decision

shall be adopted and published as prescribed by parts 4 and 5 of Article 106 of the Rules of Procedure. Where the decision is not adopted, such draft may be submitted no earlier than one month later. The person presiding shall declare the special sitting concluded following the voting;

- (2) not ensured, the person presiding shall declare the special sitting concluded.

Article 48. Procedure for convening and holding a special sitting in case of declaration of state of emergency

1. In case of declaration of a state of emergency, a special sitting of the National Assembly shall be immediately convened by virtue of law.
2. Where the number of registered Deputies is not sufficient for the quorum of the sitting within four hours following the publication of the decision of the Government on declaring state of emergency, the sitting shall commence without ensuring quorum.
3. During the discussion of the issue:
 - (1) the Prime Minister or the representative of the Government shall deliver the main review, whereto questions may be asked after reviewing;
 - (2) there shall be no co-reviewing;
 - (3) during the exchange of ideas, only one representative of each standing committee and faction may deliver a speech.
4. Where, before the conclusion of the discussion of the issue, the quorum of the sitting is:
 - (1) ensured, the head or secretary of the faction may submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on lifting the state of emergency or any measure

provided for by the legal regime of state of emergency. The decision of the faction thereon shall be submitted with the draft. The draft shall be put to vote without discussion immediately after the concluding speech. The decision shall be adopted and published as prescribed by parts 4 and 5 of Article 107 of the Rules of Procedure. Where the decision is not adopted, such draft may be submitted no earlier than one month later. The person presiding shall declare the special sitting concluded following the voting;

- (2) not ensured, the person presiding shall declare the special sitting concluded.

Article 49. Procedure for convening and holding a special sitting dedicated to assuming the post of the President of the Republic

1. The President of the Republic shall assume the post at the special sitting of the National Assembly, which shall be convened, in case of regular elections, on the day of termination of powers of the previous President, whereas in case of extraordinary elections — on the tenth day following the election of the President of the Republic.
2. The date and time of convening the sitting shall be announced by the Chairperson of the National Assembly.
3. The procedure for holding the sitting shall be prescribed by the Council, upon the proposal of the Chairperson of the National Assembly.

Article 50. Special sittings convened with the aim of ensuring the periods prescribed by the Constitution or the Rules of Procedure

(title supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

1. In case of failure to hold regular sittings of the National Assembly within the period prescribed by part 2 of Article 115 of the Constitution, the issue on motion of non-confidence in the Prime Minister shall be discussed at a special sitting of the National Assembly immediately convened by virtue of law.
2. In case of failure to hold regular sittings of the National Assembly within the periods prescribed by part 2 of Article 125 and Article 126 of the Constitution, the issue on election of the President of the Republic shall be discussed at a special sitting of the National Assembly immediately convened by virtue of law.
- 2.1. In the case prescribed by part 3 of Article 140 of the Rules of Procedure, the issue on election of the Prime Minister shall be discussed on the day following the day of expiry of the period for nomination of candidates for the Prime Minister — at 12:00, at a special sitting of the National Assembly convened by virtue of law.
3. In case of failure to hold regular sittings of the National Assembly within the period prescribed by part 1 of Article 157 of the Constitution, the issue on confidence in the Government shall be put to vote at a special sitting of the National Assembly immediately convened by virtue of law.
4. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall announce the date and time of convocation of special sittings indicated in this Article.
5. Where the periods prescribed by the Constitution or the Rules of Procedure are not violated, a special recess may be announced only upon the proposal of the Chairperson of the National Assembly, by the decision of the National Assembly. The proposal shall be put to vote without discussion.
6. Where, as prescribed by Article 51 of the Rules of Procedure, the quorum of the sitting is:

- (1) ensured, the person presiding shall declare the special sitting concluded following the conclusion of the discussion of the issue;
 - (2) not ensured for discussion of the issue provided for by part 2.1 of this Article, conditioned by emergency situations, as well as when participation of Deputies in the sitting of the National Assembly is hindered, including by use of threat, the sitting of the National Assembly shall be considered interrupted, with regard to which the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall make a statement. In this case, the sitting shall be convened on the following day, at 10:00. The rules on interrupting the sitting provided for by this point shall apply also to the resumed sitting;
 - (3) not ensured, and this is not the case provided for by point 2 of part 6 of this Article, the special sitting shall be considered unsuccessful.
7. Where the ordinary course of the sitting is hindered during the discussion of the issue provided for by part 2.1 of this Article, and it is impossible to resume it during the measures taken by the person chairing the sitting, as well as when participation of Deputies in the sitting of the National Assembly is hindered, including by use of threat, the sitting of the National Assembly shall be considered interrupted, with regard to which the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall make a statement. In this case, the sitting shall continue on the following day, at 10:00. The rules on interrupting the sitting provided for by this part shall apply also to the resumed sitting.

(Article 50 supplemented, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, edited, supplemented by HO-17-N of 2 October 2018)

CHAPTER 13

GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR HOLDING SITTINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 51. Quorum of the sitting of the National Assembly

1. A sitting of the National Assembly shall have a quorum where more than half of the total number of Deputies were registered, as prescribed, at the beginning of the sitting.
2. Registration of Deputies shall be carried out as prescribed by the Operations Procedure, electronically, at the beginning of the first sitting of each day of regular sittings, extraordinary sittings or an extraordinary session, as well as of a special sitting of the National assembly. A Deputy who is late for registration shall be registered, upon the request thereof, by the Staff member, as prescribed.
3. A Deputy shall be registered personally. Registration shall be equal to voting, and participation of a Deputy in registration shall be record-registered among the number of votings.
4. Where the number of registered Deputies is not sufficient for the quorum of the sitting, registration shall be carried on until the registration of the necessary number of Deputies, but no more than for four hours. Where, within the indicated period, the quorum of the sitting is:
 - (1) ensured, the person presiding at the sitting shall inform the Deputies on the commencement of the sitting;
 - (1.1) not ensured, conditioned by emergency situations, as well as when participation of Deputies in the sitting of the National Assembly is hindered, including by use of threat, the sitting of the National Assembly shall be considered interrupted, with regard to which the Chairperson of the

National Assembly shall make a statement, except for the cases of discussion of the issues provided for by parts 1-3 of Article 50 of this Law. In this case, the sitting shall be convened on the following day, at 10:00. The rules on interrupting the sitting provided for by this point shall apply to the resumed sitting;

- (2) not ensured, sittings of the given day of regular sittings, extraordinary sitting or an extraordinary session, as well as the special sitting shall be considered unsuccessful.

(Article 51 supplemented by HO-17-N of 2 October 2018)

Article 52. Powers of the person presiding over the sitting of the National Assembly

1. The person presiding at the sitting shall:
 - (1) declare the sitting or session open, as well as concluded;
 - (2) announce recesses of the sitting;
 - (3) ensure the sequence of the discussion of agenda issues and inform on the following three issues before the commencement of the discussion of each issue;
 - (4) inform on the procedure for and duration of the discussion of the issue before the commencement of the discussion of the issue;
 - (5) give the floor for a speech, as well as asking a question or responding thereto;
 - (6) announce registration of Deputies, putting the name on the list of speakers and for asking questions, holding voting, as well as the results of the voting;
 - (7) co-ordinate the work of employees servicing the sitting;

- (8) interrupt the speeches for the purpose of recovering the normal course of the sitting.
2. In case of failure to perform the lawful request of the person presiding at the sitting, deviating in the speech from the question discussed, making an offensive expression, registering or voting instead of an absent Deputy, hindering the voting of a Deputy, hindering to the natural course of the sitting of the National Assembly or performing other actions violating the order of the sitting, the person presiding shall have the right to impose disciplinary measures on the Deputy and to warn or remove from the sitting hall another person present at the sitting.
3. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on a Deputy:
 - (1) warning by publishing the name and surname;
 - (2) switching the microphone off;
 - (3) depriving of the right to make a speech into the microphone during one sitting;
 - (4) removing from the sittings to take place until the end of the given day, depriving from the right to be present at the hall during that time;
 - (5) depriving from the right to be present at the sitting hall of the National Assembly on days of sittings of the National Assembly for up to seven days.
4. A disciplinary measure, as a rule, must be imposed from mild to strict, be proportionate to the gravity of the action and pursue the aim of ensuring the normal course of the sitting. The disciplinary measure prescribed by point 5 of part 3 of this Article may be imposed where the disciplinary measure prescribed by point 4 of part 3 of this Article has been imposed on the Deputy before that, and the Deputy has not performed it voluntarily.

5. In case of removal of the main rapporteur from the sitting hall, the discussion of the issue shall be postponed for the period of imposition of the disciplinary measure. Where the removed rapporteur is a Deputy, the discussion of the issue shall resume in case of early recovery of participation thereof in the sitting of the National Assembly.
6. The Council shall, upon the substantiated motion of the faction, have the right to recover the participation of the removed Deputy in the sitting of the National Assembly before the expiry of the period of imposition of the disciplinary measure.
7. In case of failure to obey the request of removal from the sitting, the person presiding shall assign the implementation of the request to the Security Service of the National Assembly.
8. Where disorder emerges at the sitting and the person presiding is not able to recover the normal course of the sitting, he or she may interrupt the sitting for up to half an hour.
9. Where the disorder continues following the resuming of the sitting, the person presiding shall declare the sitting concluded.

Article 53. Publicity of sittings of the National Assembly

1. Sittings of the National Assembly shall be public.
2. A closed sitting of the National Assembly may be held upon the proposal of at least one fifth of the total number of Deputies or upon the proposal of the Government, upon a decision adopted by majority vote of the total number of Deputies. Voting during a closed sitting shall be prohibited.
3. The proposal on holding a closed sitting shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly by the official letter of at least one fifth of the total number

of Deputies or of the Prime Minister. The date, time of holding a closed sitting of the National Assembly and the title of the issue discussed shall be indicated in the letter of Deputies, as well as in the decision of the Government attached to the letter of the Prime Minister.

4. Where the requirement of part 3 of this Article are — by the letter:
 - (1) not complied with and not brought into line therewith within three working days, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall return the letter with an indication of the reasons;
 - (2) complied with and has been submitted during a sitting of the National Assembly, the proposal on holding a closed sitting shall be put to vote at that sitting without discussion, and in case of submitting the letter on a day free of sittings of the National Assembly, the proposal shall be put to vote at the beginning of the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly.

Article 54. Persons having the right to be present at a sitting of the National Assembly

1. Besides the Deputies and persons having the right to participate in the discussion of the issue, the following persons may be present at the public sitting of the National Assembly:
 - (1) the President of the Republic or the representative thereof;
 - (2) the Prime Minister or the representative of the Government;
 - (3) members of the Government;
 - (4) Chairpersons of the Central Bank and the Audit Chamber;
 - (5) the Prosecutor General;

- (6) the Human Rights Defender;
 - (7) the Chief of Staff, one of the Deputies thereof, and Staff employees ensuring the servicing or coverage of the sitting in accordance with the list defined thereby;
 - (8) persons invited by the Chairperson of the National Assembly or the person presiding at the sitting;
 - (9) persons allowed by the Chief of Staff.
2. Besides the Deputies and the rapporteur, persons indicated in points 1-3 and 7 of part 1 of this Article may also be present at the closed sitting of the National Assembly.
 3. Heads of structural subdivisions of the Staff, advisers and assistants to the Chairperson of the National Assembly and to the Deputies thereof, experts (specialists) of steering commissions and factions may be present at the sitting of the National Assembly upon the permit of the Chief of Staff.
 4. Journalists accredited to the National Assembly shall carry out their professional activities at a special place separated within the seat of the National Assembly, and may be present at sitting halls upon the permit of the Chief of Staff.
 5. Separate parts shall be allocated to factions in the sitting hall of the National Assembly, and special places — to the President of the Republic, member of the Government, the Staff and invited persons.

CHAPTER 14

GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR DISCUSSION OF ISSUES AT THE SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 55. General procedure for discussion of issues at the sitting of the National Assembly

1. Unless otherwise provided for by the Rules of Procedure, the issues at the sitting of the National Assembly shall be discussed under the following procedure:
 - (1) main review;
 - (2) questions addressed to the rapporteur, answers thereof, responses of the questioner and rapporteur;
 - (3) co-review;
 - (4) questions addressed to each co-rapporteur, answers thereof, responses of the questioner and rapporteur;
 - (d) exchange of ideas;
 - (e) voting.
2. During the discussion of an issue, a Deputy shall — as prescribed by Article 59 of the Rules of Procedure — have the right to deliver a speech on the procedure for chairing a sitting once before and after the voting.
3. The voting on the issues shall be held by open vote — roll-call voting. Secret ballot shall be held in the cases provided for by the Rules of Procedure.

Article 56. Main review and co-review

1. Person entitled by the Rules of Procedure shall have the right to deliver a main review or co-review.

- 1.1. Where the general duration of discussion of the issue is not defined, or no other time limit for reviews is prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, up to twenty minutes shall be allocated for main reviews and co-reviews.
2. The procedure for delivering a main review or co-review shall be defined by the Operations Procedure.

(Article 56 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 57. Asking questions

1. Deputies shall each have the right to submit one question to the main rapporteur and each co-rapporteur.
2. Following the answer, the questioner and the rapporteur shall have the right to respond.
3. Where the general duration of the questions is not defined:
 - (1) two minutes shall be allocated for each question;
 - (2) three minutes shall be allocated for answering each question;
 - (3) one minute shall be allocated for each response.
4. The Chairperson of the National Assembly or the person presiding over the sitting shall have the right to ask extraordinary questions to the main rapporteur and each co-rapporteur.
5. A Listed Deputy that is absent from the hall shall be deprived of the right to ask a question during the discussion of the given question, as well as after the termination of the time prescribed for asking questions.
6. The procedure for being listed for questions, as well as for asking questions, answering them, responding to the answers shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure.

Article 58. Exchange of ideas

1. Exchange of ideas shall be carried out under the following procedure:
 - (1) speeches of Deputies and invited persons;
 - (2) speeches of representatives of factions;
 - (3) concluding speeches.
2. Where the duration of exchange of ideas is not defined, or no other time limit for speeches is prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, ten minutes shall be allocated for each speech.
3. Where the duration of exchange of ideas is not defined, the listed Deputies that are included in the opposition and ruling factions shall deliver speeches by turns.
4. Before concluding speeches, the Chairperson of the National Assembly or the person presiding over the sitting, and before voting – only the Prime Minister or, upon the assignment thereof, one of the Deputy Prime Ministers shall have the right to extraordinary speech.
5. Right to speech may be granted to persons invited to the discussion of the issue upon recommendation of the Lead Commission or the person presiding over the sitting — upon the decision of the National Assembly, as well as upon recommendation of the Chairperson of the National Assembly or the Lead Commission — upon the decision of the Council.
6. The written application with regard to speech on behalf of the faction that includes the name, surname of the representative thereof may be submitted by the head or secretary of the faction to the Chairperson of the National Assembly or person presiding over the sitting:
 - (1) in advance — before the approval of the draft agenda for regular sittings of the National Assembly; or

- (2) during the discussion of the issue at the National Assembly — before the termination of the speeches of Deputies and invited persons.
7. Co-rapporteur and main rapporteur, as well as other persons entitled by the Rules of Procedure shall have the right to deliver a concluding speech.
8. During the discussion of the issue, the following persons shall be deprived of the right to speech:
 - (1) listed Deputies that are absent from the hall, representatives of the factions and invited persons;
 - (2) listed Deputies — after termination of the time limit prescribed for speeches.
9. Listed Deputies who, nonetheless, failed to deliver a speech due to termination of the time limit prescribed for speeches or other reason, may — within 24 hours following the discussion of the issue — submit to the Staff the texts of written speeches thereof which shall be included by the Staff in the shorthand notes of the sitting of the National Assembly.
10. The Procedure for being listed for speeches, as well as for delivering a speech shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure.

Article 59. Speeches on the procedure for chairing a sitting

1. A Deputy may once, immediately before voting:
 - (1) refute the statement made with regard to his or her person;
 - (2) make a statement with regard to conflict of interests;
 - (3) make a statement on refusal to participate in the voting on the issue;
 - (4) make a proposal on a recess in the cases provided for by the Rules of Procedure;

- (5) make a proposal with regard to the adoption of a decision on matters related to the organisation of the activities of the National Assembly, in the cases provided for by the Rules of Procedure.
2. A Deputy may once, after voting — before starting the discussion of a regular issue:
 - (1) express his or her opinion on the procedure for chairing a sitting;
 - (2) make a proposal with regard to restoring the results of the open vote on the illuminated indicator board and express an opinion on the violations made during the voting;
 - (3) make a proposal with regard to the adoption of a decision on matters related to the organisation of the activities of the National Assembly, in the cases and under the procedure provided for by the Rules of Procedure.
- 2.1. A Deputy may once, immediately after voting — before the person presiding over the sitting makes a statement as prescribed by part 7 of Article 60 of the Rules of Procedure, make a statement with regard to his or her decision on non-operation of his or her electronic individual voting system and on voting for, against or abstaining from voting on the issue put to a vote, as well as voting for or against the candidate elected for a position.
3. A Deputy may also express his or her opinion in his or her speech with regard to the issues referred to in points 1 and 3 of part 1 or part 2 of this Article.
4. Where the duration of the discussion of the issue is not defined, one minute shall be allocated for each speech related to the procedure for chairing a sitting.
5. The Procedure for being listed for speeches related to the procedure for chairing a sitting, as well as for delivering a speech shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure.

(Article 59 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 60. Open vote

1. Open vote shall be held through electronic system — as prescribed by the Operations Procedure. Addressing the person presiding over the sitting before the termination of the vote shall be prohibited.
2. Open vote shall be roll-call voting. In case the electronic system does not function, roll-call votings provided for by the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure shall be held as prescribed by Article 61 of the Rules of Procedure.
3. The person presiding over the sitting shall inform about the approximate time of voting, announce, before voting, all the issues or proposals to be put to vote, clarify the formulations thereof, and, in the cases prescribed by the Constitution, shall also remind of the quantity of votes by which the decision shall be adopted.
4. A Deputy present at the sitting of the National Assembly shall vote in person — "for", "against" or "abstain" on the issue put to a vote, and for or against the candidate elected for a position, or may refuse to participate in the voting. A Deputy absent from the sitting of the National Assembly may vote as prescribed by part 5 of this Article.
5. A Deputy seconded by the National Assembly may inform in writing the Chairperson of the National Assembly about his or her decision related to the voting on the issue. The letter signed by the Deputy shall be handed over to the Staff in a closed envelope in advance — before secondment. The name of the issue shall be specified on the envelope and in the letter, and the decision of the Deputy on voting for, against or abstaining from voting on the issue, as well as on voting for or against the candidate elected for a position shall be specified in the letter. The official of the Staff shall open the envelope and submit the letter to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, and, in case the electronic system does not function, to the Chairperson of the Counting Committee before the voting on the issue. After the voting, the letter shall be attached to the minutes of the sitting.

6. The voting results shall be restored on the illuminated indicator board, where a Deputy makes a proposal thereon in the speech with regard to the procedure for chairing a sitting. Where a Deputy reveals violations which might have affected the voting results, the voting on the issue shall be repeated without discussion, upon the recommendation of the person presiding over the sitting.
7. After termination of the voting, the person presiding over the sitting shall — based on the results of the voting held through electronic system, the decisions announced as prescribed by part 2.1 of Article 59 of the Rules of Procedure, as well as the letters submitted as prescribed by part 5 of this Article — announce whether the decision has been adopted or not, after which the voting of a Deputy — voting "for", "against", "abstain" or failure to vote may not be challenged or changed.

(Article 60 edited, supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 61. Procedure for holding secret ballot, and, in case the electronic system does not function, roll-call voting

1. Secret ballot, and, in case the electronic system does not function, roll-call voting shall, upon assignment of the person presiding over the sitting of the National Assembly, be organised by the Counting Committee, by informing the Deputies at the sitting of the National Assembly about the time and place of and procedure for holding it.
2. The Counting Committee shall introduce the voting results at the sitting of the National Assembly, based on which the person presiding over the sitting shall announce whether the decision has been adopted or not, and in case of election — whether the candidate has been elected or not.
3. The procedure for organising, holding and summarising the results of secret ballot, and, in case the electronic system does not function, of roll-call voting shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure.

(Article 61 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 62. Duration of the discussion of issues at the sitting of the National Assembly

1. Duration of the discussion of draft amendments to the Constitution, drafts of laws, National Assembly decisions, statements and addresses at the sitting of the National Assembly may not, as a rule, exceed one hour, except for the cases directly provided for by the Rules of Procedure, as well as prescribed by parts 2 and 3 of this Article.
2. Where the duration of the discussion of the issue is not directly provided for by the Rules of Procedure or is not prescribed by the decision of the National Assembly, more than one hour may be prescribed as the duration of the discussion of the issues referred to in part 1 of this Article upon recommendation of a Deputy, a faction, Lead Commission, and in case of drafts submitted upon the initiative of the Government or popular initiative — also upon the recommendation of the main rapporteur, upon the decision of the National Assembly. The main rapporteur may submit the proposal with regard to prescribing the duration of the discussion of the issue to the person presiding over the sitting at the beginning of the discussion of the given issue at the sitting of the National Assembly, and others — also during the discussion of the draft agenda for regular sittings of the National Assembly. The proposal shall be put to vote without discussion.
3. Where the duration of the discussion of the issue is not directly provided for by the Rules of Procedure or prescribed by the decision of the National Assembly, from one up to six hours may be prescribed as the duration of the discussion of the issues referred to in part 1 of this Article, upon the decision of the Council. The decision may be adopted before the approval of the agenda for regular sittings of the National Assembly.

4. In case of one-hour or ninety-minute duration of the discussion of the issue, the general duration of the exchange of questions and ideas, as well as the distribution of time allocated for reviews, questions, answers and speeches shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure, and in case of other duration of the discussion — in proportion to the time limits of one hour, upon the decision of the National Assembly or the Council.
5. The time necessary for organising and holding votings shall not be calculated within the duration of the discussion of the issue.

(Article 62 supplemented, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 63. Postponement and recesses of the discussion of the issue

1. The discussion of the issue shall not begin and shall be postponed without voting upon the recommendation of the main rapporteur, as well as in case he or she is absent at the beginning of the discussion. Where the main rapporteur fails — within a period of two months following the postponement of the discussion — to show up at the discussion of the issue upon a written application addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the issue shall be withdrawn from circulation. The discussion of the issue may, as prescribed by this part, be postponed once.
2. The discussion of the issue may be recessed for up to one hour during the concluding speech, upon the recommendation of the main rapporteur — upon the decision of the National Assembly. The proposal shall be put to vote without discussion.
3. A recess with a duration of twenty minutes shall be declared before the voting on the issue upon the request of the head or secretary of the faction.

4. Where the discussion of the issue has been recessed, voting shall be resumed from the stage at which it was recessed following the expiry of the time limit for the recess.
5. Where the duration of the discussion of the issue is directly provided for by the Rules of Procedure, no recess may be declared during the discussion of that issue.

(Article 63 edited by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 64. Special procedure for the discussion of an issue

1. The National Assembly may prescribe a special procedure for the discussion of a separate issue, by which the number of rapporteurs, persons asking questions thereto and persons delivering speeches may not be restricted, as well as the time period directly prescribed by the Rules of Procedure for a speech or asking a question may not be reduced.
2. The following shall have the right to submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on the special procedure:
 - (1) the initiator of the extraordinary session or sitting — with regard to the discussion of the issue on the agenda;
 - (2) the standing or ad hoc committee — with regard to the discussion of the issue reserved to the competence thereof;
 - (3) the main rapporteur — with regard to the discussion of the issue submitted thereby;
 - (4) inquiry commission — with regard to the discussion of the review thereof;
 - (5) ***(point repealed by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)***

3. The draft decision of the National Assembly on the special procedure for the discussion of the issue may be submitted before the beginning of the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly and shall be put to vote without discussion.

(Article 64 amended, supplemented by HO-175-N of 13 September 2019, amended by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)

SECTION 3

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

CHAPTER 15

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

Article 65. The right to legislative initiative

1. A Deputy, a faction and the Government shall have the right to legislative initiative.
2. The legislative initiative shall be implemented through submission of a draft law or package of draft laws for the discussion of the National Assembly. The provisions for the draft law, prescribed by the Rules of Procedure shall also extend to the package of draft laws.
3. The legislative initiative shall be implemented by the Government and the faction upon the decision thereof.

4. At least fifty thousand citizens having the right of suffrage shall be entitled to propose, upon popular initiative, a draft law to the National Assembly. The popular initiative shall be implemented as prescribed by the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Referendum" — in compliance with the requirements for the legislative initiative, prescribed by the Rules of Procedure.
5. Draft laws reserved to the exclusive competence of the Government by part 1 of Article 110, part 2 of Article 116, Article 117, Article 121, part 2 of Article 147 and part 1 of Article 189 of the Constitution may not be submitted upon the initiative of a faction or Deputy, as well as upon popular initiative.
6. The initiatives of adopting or amending the Constitution shall be implemented as prescribed by Chapter 19 of the Rules of Procedure.

(Article 65 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 66. The author of a legislative initiative

1. During the discussion of a draft law, the following shall have the right to be the author or main rapporteur of a legislative initiative:
 - (1) a Deputy — in case of the initiative thereof;
 - (2) the Deputy referred to in the official letter with regard to the legislative initiative — in case of the initiative of two or more Deputies;
 - (3) the representative of a faction — in case of the initiative of the faction;
 - (4) the representative of the Government — in case of the initiative of the Government;
 - (5) the authorised representative of a popular initiative — in case of a popular initiative.

2. In the case provided for by point 4 of part 1 of this Article, a member of the Government or head of another state body and deputies thereof, as well as the Secretary of the Security Council, the representative on the International Legal Affairs, the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs and the heads of the Offices of the Civil Service and for Co-ordination of the Activities of the Inspection Bodies of the Office of the Prime Minister may be appointed as the representative of the Government. In the given case, as well as other cases provided for by the Rules of Procedure, the representative of the Government shall be appointed, as well as may be changed upon the decision of the Prime Minister.
3. The representative of a faction shall be appointed, as well as may be changed upon the decision of the faction.
4. The author shall — as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure — be entitled to:
 - (1) deliver a main review, deliver a speech, answer questions during the discussion of the draft law;
 - (2) accept or reject proposals with regard to the draft law;
 - (3) elaborate the draft law;
 - (4) recall the draft law at any time;
 - (5) withdraw from the composition of the authors of the initiative.
5. The procedure for recalling the draft, as well as for withdrawing from the composition of the authors of the initiative shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure.

(Article 66 amended by HO-46-N of 21 January 2020, HO-418-N of 16 December 2021)

Article 67. Submitting a draft law for the discussion of the National Assembly and putting it into circulation

1. A draft law shall be submitted for the discussion of the National Assembly by an official letter addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly — through the Staff. The form of the letter, as well as the documents attached thereto shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure.
2. Where the official letter on the legislative initiative:
 - (1) does not comply with the requirements prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the Operations Procedure and is not brought into compliance therewith within three working days, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall return the letter and the documents attached thereto to the author of the initiative, specifying the reasons;
 - (2) complies with the requirements prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the Operations Procedure, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within three working days following the receipt of the letter — appoint a Lead Commission and put the draft law into circulation as prescribed by the Operations Procedure.

Article 68. Withdrawing a draft law from circulation

1. A draft law, and, in case of a package of drafts, also other drafts shall be withdrawn from circulation, where:
 - (1) the main rapporteur fails to show up at the discussion of the issue in the manner prescribed upon the recommendation thereof at the beginning of the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly or the Lead Commission or following the postponement of the discussion of the issue in case of his or her absence;

- (2) the author fails to submit an elaborated draft in the manner prescribed following the postponement of the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly or the Lead Commission;
 - (3) the draft is not included in the agenda for the regular session as a result of voting;
 - (4) the draft is not adopted as a result of voting at the sitting of the National Assembly, unless otherwise provided for by the Rules of Procedure;
 - (5) a Deputy, a faction or the Government fails — within two months following the discontinuation or termination of parliamentary powers of the authors of the draft — to inform by written application addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly about joining the legislative initiative, specifying the name, surname of the main rapporteur;
 - (6) the new Prime Minister fails — within two months following the acceptance of the resignation of the Government — to inform by official letter addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly that the decision of the Government with regard to the legislative initiative remains in force, specifying the name, surname and position of the person having the right to be an author;
 - (7) the author recalls the draft.
2. In case the draft is withdrawn from circulation, it is simultaneously withdrawn from the agendas, as well as draft agendas for the regular session or sittings.

(Article 68 edited by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

CHAPTER 16

GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR DISCUSSION OF A DRAFT LAW

Article 69. General procedure for discussion of a draft law

1. A draft law shall be discussed in two readings at the National Assembly.
2. A draft law on ratification, suspension or revocation of international treaties shall be discussed in one reading.
3. A draft law shall, as a rule, be discussed under the following procedure:
 - (1) submission of written proposals on a draft put into circulation;
 - (2) preliminary discussion of a draft by the Lead Commission before the first reading;
 - (3) discussion of a draft in the first reading at the National Assembly;
 - (4) submission of written proposals on a draft adopted in the first reading;
 - (5) preliminary discussion of a draft by the Lead Commission before the second reading;
 - (6) discussion of a draft in the second reading at the National Assembly.
4. The draft law on State Budget shall be discussed as prescribed by Chapter 20 of the Rules of Procedure.

Article 70. General procedure for submitting written proposals on a draft law

1. Written proposals on a draft law put into circulation, as well as adopted in the first reading shall be submitted to the Staff by the official written letter of a

competent person. The form of the letter, the list of documents attached thereto, as well as the procedure for processing the letter shall be prescribed by the Staff.

2. The Government shall, together with proposals thereof, submit an opinion on significant reduction in revenues of the State Budget or increase in expenditures, as well as other documents provided for by law.
3. Where the Government fails to submit an opinion on significant reduction in revenues of the State Budget or increase in expenditures, it shall be considered that the draft does not significantly reduce the revenues of the State Budget or increase expenditures in that form.
3. Where the official letter or the documents attached thereto:
 - (1) do not comply with the requirements prescribed by the Rules of Procedure or the Operations Procedure and are not brought into compliance therewith within three working days, the proposals shall not be processed;
 - (2) comply with the requirements prescribed by the Rules of Procedure or the Operations Procedure, the proposals shall be processed as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and Operations Procedure.

Article 71. General procedure for preliminary discussion of a draft law

1. The preliminary discussion of a draft law shall be carried out by the Lead Commission, as well as may be carried out by other standing committees upon the initiative of another standing committee or upon recommendation of the Council as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure.
2. The Lead Commission, as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure:
 - (1) shall submit, before the first and second readings, an opinion to the National Assembly;

- (2) may submit for the discussion of the National Assembly a draft decision of the National Assembly on the special procedure for the discussion of the issue.
3. The discussion of the issue shall not begin and shall be postponed without voting upon the recommendation of the main rapporteur, as well as in case he or she is absent at the beginning of the discussion. Where the main rapporteur fails — within a period of two months following the postponement of the discussion — to show up at the discussion of the issue upon a written application addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the issue shall be removed from circulation. The discussion of the issue may, as prescribed by this part, be postponed once.
4. Where at least one fourth of the members of the Lead Commission have a special opinion with regard to the opinion of the commission, the representative thereof may deliver a co-review during the discussion of the issue at the National Assembly, introducing the special opinion.
5. Apart from the Lead Commission, the other standing committees may — before the beginning of the discussion of the issue — submit written opinions thereof to the National Assembly. In this case, the representative of the standing committee shall have the right to deliver a co-review during the discussion of the draft at the Lead Commission, as well as at the National Assembly.
6. Except for the cases referred to in points 1 and 2 of part 6 of Article 78 of the Rules of Procedure, the opinion of the Lead Commission on the draft law shall — within three working days following the adoption of the decision of the commission on the opinion, but not later than on the Friday of the week preceding the first regular sittings, as well as at 12:00 on the Monday of the week of the other regular sittings of the regular session of the National Assembly — be submitted to the National Assembly as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the Operations

Procedure. The procedure for submitting the opinions of other standing committees of the National Assembly shall be prescribed by the Staff.

7. After receiving the opinion of the Lead Commission, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — as prescribed by Article 38 of the Rules of Procedure — include the issue on discussing the draft in the first reading in the relevant section of the agenda for the regular session or of the draft on making supplements thereto, and the issue on discussing the draft in the second reading — in the section of issues subject to mandatory discussion at the regular sittings.

(Article 71 amended, edited by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 72. General procedure for submitting the elaborated draft law for the discussion of the National Assembly or Lead Commission

1. The elaborated draft law shall, in the cases prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, be submitted for the discussion of the National Assembly or Lead Commission together with the summary of the proposals submitted with regard to the draft, as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, as well as the statement of information on the amendments made to the draft. The elaborated draft shall be submitted to the Staff by the official letter of a competent person. The form of the letter, other documents attached thereto, as well as the procedure for processing the letter shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure.
2. Where the official letter or the documents attached thereto:
 - (1) do not comply with the requirements prescribed by the Rules of Procedure or the Operations Procedure and are not brought into compliance therewith within three working days, the Chairperson of the National Assembly — in case the draft is submitted for the discussion of the National Assembly, and the Chairperson of the Lead Commission — in case the draft

is submitted for the discussion of the Lead Commission, shall return the drafts to the person having submitted them, specifying the reasons;

- (2) comply with the requirements prescribed by the Rules of Procedure or the Operations Procedure, they shall be processed in the manner prescribed.

(Article 72 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 73. The time limits for the discussion of a draft law deemed to be urgent upon the decision of the Government

1. A draft law deemed to be urgent upon the decision of the Government shall be either adopted or rejected within a period of two months.
2. A draft law deemed to be urgent upon the decision of the Government shall be discussed in the first reading and put to vote at the regular sittings of the National Assembly within a period of one month after being put into circulation, and in the second reading — within a period of one month following the adoption in the first reading.
3. The interval between the regular sessions of the National Assembly shall not be calculated within the time limits prescribed by parts 1 and 2 of this Article.
4. A draft shall cease to be deemed urgent, where upon the recommendation of the representative of the Government the discussion of the draft is postponed or extended by a term exceeding the term referred to in part 1 of this Article, as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure.
5. The term referred to in part 1 of this Article shall not be deemed to be expired, where the National Assembly adopts a decision on the draft — refuses to adopt in the first reading, as well as in the second reading and fully or adopts as a law.

Article 74. Issue of the confidence in the Government with respect to the adoption of a draft law

1. With respect to the adoption of a draft law submitted by the Government, the Government may raise the issue of its confidence.
2. The Government may raise the issue of its confidence with respect to the draft law not more than twice within the same session.
3. The Government may not raise the issue of its confidence during martial law or state of emergency, as well as with respect to the adoption of a draft constitutional law.
4. The Prime Minister or the representative of the Government may — immediately before the voting on the draft law in the first or second reading — request to recess the discussion of the issue until the next sitting for the purpose of orientation with regard to raising the issue of confidence in the Government with respect to the adoption of that draft.
5. The Government shall raise the issue of its confidence, by submitting to the Chairperson of the National Assembly or the person presiding over the sitting the official letter signed by the Prime Minister, wherein the name of the draft law with respect to the adoption whereof the Government has raised the issue of its confidence is specified. The draft decision of the National Assembly on seeking confidence in the Government shall be attached to the letter.
6. The draft decision of the National Assembly on seeking confidence in the Government shall be put to vote without discussion not later than within seventy-two hours upon the submission thereof. In case no regular sittings are held within that time period, the draft shall be put to vote at a special sitting of the National Assembly, immediately convened by virtue of law.
7. The decision on seeking confidence in the Government shall be adopted by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies, by roll-call voting.

8. Where the decision of the National Assembly on seeking confidence in the Government is adopted within the time limit prescribed by part 1 of Article 157 of the Constitution, the draft law submitted by the Government shall be deemed to be adopted as a law.

(Article 74 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 75. Submission and discussion of a draft law deemed to be a first priority upon the decision of the faction

1. A draft law submitted by the faction may be deemed to be a first priority upon the decision thereof, where the opinion of the Lead Commission with regard thereto has been received or the time limit for submitting the opinion has expired.
2. Only one draft may — upon the decision of the faction — be deemed to be a first priority at each regular session of the National Assembly.
3. The decision of the faction on considering the draft a first priority may be submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly not later than at 18:00 on the Thursday of the week preceding the first regular sittings, as well as on the Friday of the week preceding the other regular sittings of the regular session of the National Assembly.
4. In case more than one first priority drafts are included in the agenda for the regular sittings of the National Assembly, they shall be discussed according to the sequence of days on which they were put into circulation. Where the drafts were put into circulation on the same day, the sequence for the discussion of the drafts shall be determined according to the number of the members of the factions — in the ascending order.

(Article 75 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 76. Adoption of laws

1. Constitutional laws shall be adopted by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies, the laws provided for by part 3 of Article 109, part 2 of Article 116, Article 117, part 4 of Article 119, part 4 of Article 120 and part 1 of Article 122 of the Constitution shall be adopted by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies, and other laws — by majority of votes of the Deputies participating in the voting, provided that more than half of the total number of Deputies have participated in the voting.
2. Where the National Assembly rejects the adoption of the draft law submitted under the procedure prescribed by part 6 of Article 109 of the Constitution, then the draft may be put to referendum as prescribed by the Constitution and the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Referendum".

(Article 76 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

CHAPTER 17

PROCEDURE FOR THE DISCUSSION OF A DRAFT LAW IN THE FIRST READING

Article 77. Submission of written proposals on a draft law put into circulation

1. The author, a Deputy, a faction and the Government shall have the right to submit a written proposal on a draft law put into circulation.
2. Written proposals may be submitted within a period of one month after putting the draft into circulation.

3. Written proposals on draft laws deemed to be urgent upon the decision of the Government, as well as on ratification, suspension or revocation of an international treaty may be submitted within a period of two weeks after putting the draft into circulation.
4. Where the issue on discussing the draft in the first reading is included in the agenda for the extraordinary session or sitting of the National Assembly, and the time limit prescribed by part 2 or 3 of this Article has not expired, written proposals may be submitted within two working days after the agenda for the session or the sitting, as well as draft issues on the agenda are posted on the official website of the National Assembly.

(Article 77 supplemented, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 78. Preliminary discussion of a draft law by the Lead Commission before the first reading

1. A draft law put into circulation shall be discussed by the Lead Commission without any amendment within a period of two weeks following the expiry of the time limit for the submission of written proposals, and in the case provided for by part 4 of Article 77 of the Rules of Procedure — within two working days following the expiry of the time limit for the submission of written proposals.
2. During the discussion of the issue:
 - (1) the author of the draft shall deliver a main review;
 - (2) the author may submit proposals during his or her review or the concluding speech, as well as express his or her position with regard to other proposals submitted in the manner prescribed;
 - (3) the representative of the Government shall have the right to ask questions to the rapporteur;

- (4) the members of the commission, and in case of a Deputy or popular initiative — also the representative of the Government may submit proposals with regard to the draft in their speech;
 - (5) the authors of written proposals submitted in the manner prescribed shall have the right to deliver a speech and answer the questions;
 - (6) the members of the commission, as well as the main rapporteur shall have the right to ask questions to the authors of the proposals after the speech.
3. After the concluding speech of the main rapporteur:
- (1) the draft shall be put to vote without amendment, where no proposal has been submitted with regard thereto in the manner prescribed;
 - (2) all the proposals submitted as prescribed by Article 77 of the Rules of Procedure, as well as part 2 of this Article shall be put to vote as prescribed by the Operations Procedure.
4. After the voting on the proposals, the main rapporteur may:
- (1) put the draft to vote without amendment, where the draft is reserved to the exclusive competence of the Government;
 - (2) put the draft to vote with the corrections acceptable for him or her, where the draft is reserved to the exclusive competence of the Government;
 - (3) put the draft to vote with the corrections made based on all the proposals adopted by the commission;
 - (4) put the draft to vote with the corrections made based on some part of the proposals adopted by the commission;
 - (5) postpone the voting on the issue for the purpose of elaboration of the draft, which shall be deemed to be adopted without voting. In case the draft elaborated by the main rapporteur is submitted at least three working days

before the forthcoming sitting of the commission, it shall be put to vote without discussion at the given sitting as prescribed by points 2-4 of this part. Where no elaborated draft is submitted within a period of two months following the postponement of the voting on the issue, or upon the decision of the commission the time limit is not extended by written application of the author, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation.

5. Where the draft put to vote is adopted in the cases prescribed by point 1 of part 3, part 4 or point 1 of part 6 of this Article, it shall be deemed to have received a positive opinion, and in case it is not adopted — a negative opinion by the commission.
6. In the case referred to in point 4 of part 4 of this Article, upon the consent of the author of the draft having received a negative opinion, from five up to ten days shall be allocated for the submission of the draft elaborated based on all the proposals adopted by the commission. Where within the time limit prescribed:
 - (1) a faction or a Deputy submits a draft elaborated based on all the proposals adopted by the commission, it shall be put to vote without discussion at the sitting of the commission within three working days, but not later than on the Friday of the week preceding the forthcoming regular sittings. In case of receiving a positive opinion, the given draft, as well as the other draft having received a negative opinion shall be deemed to be alternatives and shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by Article 80 of the Rules of Procedure. Where the elaborated draft receives a negative opinion, the given draft, as well as the negative opinions on the other draft shall be submitted to the National Assembly within one working day;
 - (2) no draft elaborated based on all the proposals adopted by the commission is submitted, the negative opinion on the draft referred to in point 4 of part 4 of this Article shall be submitted to the National Assembly within one working day.

7. The procedure prescribed by part 6 of this Article shall not extend to drafts reserved to the exclusive competence of the Government.
8. The drafts elaborated in the cases provided for by point 5 of part 4, as well as point 1 of part 6 of this Article shall be submitted to the Lead Commission, and in the cases provided for by points 2-4 of part 4 of this Article — to the National Assembly.

(Article 78 amended, edited, supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 79. Discussion of a draft law in the first reading at the sitting of the National Assembly

1. During the discussion of a draft law in the first reading at the sitting of the National Assembly, a main review shall be delivered by the author(s) of the draft, and co-review shall be delivered by:
 - (1) the representative of the Lead Commission;
 - (2) the representative of the members of the commission having submitted a special opinion on the opinion of the Lead Commission;
 - (3) the representative of the Government, where the draft has been submitted upon the initiative of a faction, a Deputy or popular initiative;
 - (4) one representative of each standing committee having submitted a written opinion on the draft.
2. Where the draft has been submitted upon the initiative of a faction, Deputy or popular initiative, one member, and in the cases provided for by the decision of the Council or the National Assembly with regard to prescribing the duration of the discussion of the issue — up to three members of the Government authorised by the Prime Minister shall have the right to extraordinary speech during the exchange of ideas, before the speeches of the representatives of the factions.

3. Before the concluding speech of the co-rapporteur, the representative of the Government having delivered a co-review shall have the right to a concluding speech.
4. In the cases referred to in point 1 of part 3, points 3 and 4 of part 4 of Article 78 of the Rules of Procedure, the draft having received a positive opinion of the Lead Commission shall be put to vote without amendment, and a draft reserved to the exclusive competence of the Government may be put to vote with the corrections acceptable for the Government.
5. Where a draft is reserved to the exclusive competence of the Government or a negative opinion of the Lead Commission on the draft has been received or the Lead Commission has failed to submit an opinion on the draft within the time limit prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, the author of the draft may recommend to postpone the discussion of the draft at the sitting of the National Assembly for the purpose of elaboration of the draft, which shall be adopted without voting.
6. In case of submitting an elaborated draft within a period of two months following the postponement of the discussion of the issue, but not later than on the Friday of the week preceding the regular sittings, the discussion of the issue shall be resumed at the given sittings, and in case of failing to submit an elaborated draft within the prescribed time limit, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation. In case of resuming the discussion of the issue:
 - (1) a speech with a duration of up to five minutes shall be delivered by the main rapporteur who may put the elaborated draft to vote without amendment;
 - (2) a speech with a duration of up to three minutes may be delivered by the representative of the Lead Commission;
 - (3) a speech with a duration of up to two minutes may be delivered by the representative of each faction.

7. Where the decision of the National Assembly is adopted as a result of the voting, the draft shall be deemed to be adopted in the first reading, and in case the decision is not adopted, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation.

(Article 79 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, HO-17-N of 2 October 2018)

Article 80. Discussion of draft laws in the first reading, deemed to be alternatives

1. In accordance with point 1 of part 6 of Article 78 of the Rules of Procedure, drafts deemed to be alternatives shall be discussed and put to vote as prescribed by Article 79 of the Rules of Procedure, with the following difference:
 - (1) the authors of draft laws deemed to be alternatives shall have the right to main review. The author of the draft that was the first to be discussed by the Lead Commission shall be the first to deliver a speech;
 - (2) the discussion of the issue may be postponed upon the consent of the main rapporteurs;
 - (3) the drafts shall be put to vote according to the sequence of the discussion.
2. Where both drafts receive the number of votes necessary for adoption, the draft having received a greater number of "for" votes shall be deemed to be adopted.
3. Where both drafts receive equal number of votes that are necessary for adoption, the draft having received the least number of "against" votes shall be deemed to be adopted.

CHAPTER 18

PROCEDURE FOR THE DISCUSSION OF A DRAFT LAW IN THE SECOND READING

Article 81. Submission of written proposals on a draft law adopted in the first reading

1. The author, a faction and the Government shall have the right to submit a written proposal on a draft law adopted in the first reading, as well as besides the author, the other Deputies — on only amended provisions of a draft put into circulation.
2. Written proposals may be submitted within a period of two weeks following the adoption of the draft in the first reading.
 - 2.1. In case the issues on discussing the same draft law in the first and second readings are included in the agenda for the extraordinary session or sitting of the National Assembly, written proposals may be submitted within the time limit prescribed by the decision of the National Assembly, provided for by part 6 of Article 41 or part 7 of Article 44 of the Rules of Procedure, respectively.
 - 2.2. Where the issue on discussing in the second reading the draft law adopted in the first reading is included in the agenda for the extraordinary session or sitting of the National Assembly, and the time limit prescribed by part 2 of this Article has not expired, written proposals may be submitted within two working days after the agenda for the extraordinary session or the sitting, as well as draft issues on the agenda are posted on the official website of the National Assembly.
3. The time limits prescribed by parts 2 and 2.2 of this Article may change upon the recommendation of the author or the Lead Commission — upon the decision of the National Assembly. The proposal on changing the time limit shall be put to vote without discussion, immediately after the adoption of the draft in the first reading.

(Article 81 edited, amended, supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 82. Preliminary discussion of a draft law by the Lead Commission before the second reading

1. A draft law adopted in the first reading shall be discussed without amendment by the Lead Commission within a period of two weeks following the expiry of the time limit for the submission of written proposals and in the case provided for by part 2.2 of Article 81 of the Rules of Procedure — within two working days following the expiry of the time limit for the submission of written proposals, and in case the issues on discussing the same draft law in the first and second reading are included in the agenda for the extraordinary session or sitting of the National Assembly — within the time limit prescribed by the decision of the National Assembly, provided for by part 6 of Article 41 or part 7 of Article 44 of the Rules of Procedure, respectively.
2. The issue shall be discussed by the commission as prescribed by parts 2-5 and 8 of Article 78 of the Rules of Procedure.

(Article 82 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 83. Discussion of a draft law in the second reading at the sitting of the National Assembly

1. A draft law shall be discussed in the second reading at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by Article 79 of the Rules of Procedure.
2. Only the authors of the proposals on the draft, submitted as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure shall have the right to ask questions to the rapporteurs.
3. Where the draft is not adopted, the main rapporteur may — immediately after the voting and upon the decision of the National Assembly — recommend to return the discussion of the draft to the stage of submission of written proposals, provided for by Article 81 of the Rules of Procedure, which shall be put to vote

without discussion. In case the decision is not adopted or the proposal is not submitted, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation.

4. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall within one week forward the adopted law to the President of the Republic, who shall sign and promulgate it within a period of twenty-one days following the receipt thereof, or shall apply within the same time period to the Constitutional Court for the purpose of determining the compliance of the law with the Constitution.

CHAPTER 19

ADOPTION OF AND AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Article 84. The initiative of adopting or amending the Constitution

1. At least one third of the total number of Deputies, the Government or two hundred thousand citizens having the right of suffrage shall have the right to the initiative of adopting or amending the Articles referred to in part 1 of Article 202 of the Constitution.
2. Except for the Articles referred to in part 1 of Article 202 of the Constitution, at least one fourth of the total number of Deputies, the Government or one hundred fifty thousand citizens having the right of suffrage shall have the right to the initiative of amending other Articles of the Constitution.
3. The initiative of adopting the Constitution or amending the Articles referred to in part 1 of Article 202 of the Constitution shall be implemented by submission for the discussion of the National Assembly of draft amendments to the Constitution, as well as of draft decision of the National Assembly with regard to putting that draft to referendum.

4. Except for the Articles referred to in part 1 of Article 202 of the Constitution, the initiative of amending other Articles of the Constitution shall be implemented by submission of draft amendments to the Constitution for the discussion of the National Assembly.
5. The initiative of the Government with regard to amendments to the Constitution shall be implemented upon the decision of the Government, and the popular initiative of the submission of a draft law to the National Assembly upon popular initiative shall be implemented in compliance with the procedure prescribed by the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia "On referendum".
6. The author of the initiative of the amendments to the Constitution shall be the relevant person provided for by Article 66 of the Rules of Procedure, who has the competences of the author of a legislative initiative.

(Article 84 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 85. Procedure for submitting the initiative of amendments to the Constitution for the discussion of the National Assembly and for putting the draft into circulation

1. Draft amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted for the discussion of the National Assembly by an official letter addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, through the Staff. The form of the letter, as well as the documents attached thereto shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure.
2. Where the official letter on the initiative:
 - (1) does not comply with the requirements prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the Operations Procedure and is not brought into compliance therewith within three working days, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall return the letter and the documents attached thereto to the author of the initiative, specifying the reasons thereon;

- (2) complies with the requirements prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the Operations Procedure, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within three working days following the receipt of the letter — appoint a Lead Commission and put the draft amendments to the Constitution into circulation as prescribed by the Operations Procedure.
3. The draft amendments to the Constitution shall be withdrawn from circulation as prescribed by Article 68 of the Rules of Procedure in case of draft laws, as well as in the cases prescribed by Article 86 of the Rules of Procedure.

Article 86. Procedure for the discussion and adoption of draft amendments to the Constitution

1. Draft amendments to the Constitution shall be discussed in two readings at the National Assembly, in case of draft laws — as prescribed by Chapters 16-18 of the Rules of Procedure.
2. Before fully adopting the draft amendments to the Constitution in the second reading, the draft decision of the National Assembly on applying to the Constitutional Court on matters pertaining to amendments to the Constitution shall be put to vote. Where the decision is adopted, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall, within two working days, sign and forward the given decision to the Constitutional Court together with the draft amendments to the Constitution, discussed in the second reading to assess the constitutionality of the draft amendments to the Constitution from the point of view of compliance with the non-amendable Articles of the Constitution, and the discussion of the issue shall be interrupted until the receipt of the decision of the Constitutional Court.
3. Where the Constitutional Court, when assessing the constitutionality of the draft amendments to the Constitution from the point of view of compliance with the non-amendable Articles of the Constitution, recognizes draft amendments to the

Constitution as contradicting the Constitution, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation.

4. Where the Constitutional Court, when assessing the constitutionality of the draft amendments to the Constitution from the point of view of compliance with the non-amendable Articles of the Constitution, recognizes draft amendments to the Constitution as complying with the Constitution, the voting on the issue shall — following the entry into legal force of the decision thereof — be held at the forthcoming sitting of the National Assembly under the following procedure:
 - (1) in the case referred to in part 3 of Article 84 of the Rules of Procedure, the draft decision of the National Assembly on putting draft amendments to the Constitution to referendum shall be put to vote, which shall be adopted by at least two thirds of votes of the total number of Deputies;
 - (2) in the case referred to in part 4 of Article 84 of the Rules of Procedure, draft amendments to the Constitution shall be put to vote, which shall be adopted by at least two thirds of votes of the total number of Deputies.
5. Where draft amendments to the Constitution referred to in point 2 of part 4 of this Article are not adopted, the main rapporteur may deliver a speech with a duration of up to twenty minutes, submitting a draft decision of the National Assembly on putting the draft to referendum. Representatives of the factions may — following the speech of the main rapporteur — deliver speeches with a duration of up to ten minutes, after which the draft decision shall be put to vote. The decision shall be adopted by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies. Where the decision is not adopted, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation.
6. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall, within one week, forward the decision of the National Assembly on putting draft amendments to the Constitution to referendum together with the relevant draft to the President of

the Republic who shall call a referendum within a period of three days following the receipt thereof.

7. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall, within one week, promulgate the draft amendments to the Constitution, adopted by the National Assembly.

(Article 86 supplemented, amended by HO-304-N of 3 June 2020, amended by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)

CHAPTER 20

ADOPTION OF THE STATE BUDGET

Article 87. Time limits for submission, discussion and adoption of the draft law on State Budget

1. The National Assembly shall adopt the State Budget upon submission of the Government. The State Budget shall include all budget revenues and expenditures prescribed by law.
2. The Government shall submit the draft State Budget for the discussion of the National Assembly as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Budget System of the Republic of Armenia" at least ninety days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.
3. The form of the official letter for submitting a draft, as well as the list of documents attached thereto shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure.
4. The discussion of the draft at the sitting of the National Assembly shall begin not later than at the first regular sittings of November preceding the fiscal year.

Article 88. Preliminary discussion of the draft law on State Budget at standing committees

1. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within two working days following the receipt of the draft law on State Budget — draw up the schedule for holding preliminary discussions of a draft, for submitting proposals at lead and other standing committees and joint sittings thereof, by consulting with the Prime Minister, and shall submit it for the approval of the Council.
2. The Lead Commission on the preliminary discussion of a draft shall be the competent standing committee.
3. Preliminary discussions of a draft shall take place at the sittings of standing committees and joint sittings thereof, wherein the members of the Government and persons authorised by the Prime Minister, as well as other persons specified in the schedule shall also participate in the manner prescribed.
4. The representative of the commission shall introduce, through co-review, the results of the preliminary discussions of a draft by the Lead Commission during the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly.
5. Except for the Lead Commission, the representatives of other standing committees shall have the right to deliver a co-review during the discussion of a draft at the National Assembly, where the draft has been previously discussed at the given commissions and the opinion of the commission thereon is available.
6. Materials pertaining to expenditure items of the draft containing state and official secret shall be discussed at the joint closed sitting of the competent standing committees of the National Assembly, wherein Deputies, Chairperson of the Audit Chamber and persons authorised by the Government shall participate.

Article 89. Submission of written proposals with regard to draft law on State Budget and of the draft for the discussion of the National Assembly

1. Deputies and factions shall have the right to submit written proposals as a result of preliminary discussions of the draft State Budget.
2. The Government may — following the expiry of the time limit for the submission of written proposals, prescribed by the schedule — submit the draft for the discussion of the National Assembly without amendment or by elaborating it upon the initiative thereof or based on written proposals.
3. The Government shall submit the elaborated draft for the discussion of the National Assembly, by attaching a summary drawn up as prescribed by the Operations Procedure.
4. The proposals with regard whereof the Government has expressed a positive opinion in the summary shall, in a mandatory manner, be included in the draft Budget.

Article 90. Procedure for the discussion of the draft law on State Budget at the sitting of the National Assembly

1. The draft law on State Budget shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly under the general procedure, without prescribing the duration — in compliance with the procedure prescribed by this Article.
2. Up to three representatives of the Government may deliver a speech, each with a duration of up to thirty minutes.
3. The following shall deliver a speech with a duration of up to thirty minutes:

- (1) the Chairperson of the Central Bank, by submitting the opinion of the Central Bank on the draft;
 - (2) the representative of the Lead Commission, by submitting a draft, as well as the opinion of the commission on the adoption or rejection thereof;
 - (3) the representative of the competent standing committee, by submitting the opinion of the commission on the lawfulness and reasonableness of expenditures of the draft containing state and official secret;
 - (4) one representative from other standing committees having submitted an opinion on the draft, by submitting the relevant opinion.
4. The members of the Government and marz governors shall — upon submission of the Prime Minister — be granted the right to seven extraordinary speeches before the speeches of the factions.
 5. Exchange of ideas shall terminate with a thirty-minute concluding speech of the Prime Minister or the head of a state administration body authorised by the Government in the field of public finance management.
 6. Following the termination of the exchange of ideas, the person presiding over the sitting shall announce a recess for the discussion of the draft at least for four days.
 7. Following the recess for the discussion of the draft, Deputies and factions shall submit their proposals as prescribed by the Operations Procedure.

(Article 90 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 91. Resuming the discussion of the draft law on State Budget at the sitting of the National Assembly

1. After resuming the discussion of the draft law on State Budget, the issue shall be discussed under the general procedure — in compliance with the procedure prescribed by this Article.
2. The Prime Minister or the head of a state administration body authorised by the Government in the field of public finance management shall introduce the final variant of the draft and the proposals included in the summary in a speech with a duration of up to one hour, after which questions may be asked thereto.
3. In case of submission of an application, the following shall each have the right to one speech with a duration of ten minutes:
 - (1) the Deputies having submitted a proposal on the draft;
 - (2) one representative from each faction;
 - (3) one representative from each standing committee;
 - (4) the Chairperson of the National Assembly, Deputies thereof.
4. Following the speeches, a concluding speech with a duration of up to thirty minutes shall be delivered by the Prime Minister or the head of a state administration body authorised by the Government in the field of public finance management, who may make a proposal with regard to the adoption of the final variant of the draft law on State Budget as a law.
5. In case the draft law on State Budget is not adopted, the Government shall — within a period of two weeks following the voting — submit to the National Assembly the draft law on State Budget, which shall be discussed and put to vote within one month as prescribed by this Chapter of the Rules of Procedure.

6. In the case referred to in part 4 or part 5 of this Article, the Government may raise the issue of its confidence with respect to the adoption of the draft law on State Budget as prescribed by Article 74 of the Rules of Procedure. Where the decision on seeking confidence in the Government:
 - (1) is adopted, the draft law on State Budget shall be deemed to be adopted as a law;
 - (2) is not adopted, the draft law on State Budget shall — within a period of two weeks following the approval of the Programme of the new Government — be submitted for the discussion of the National Assembly as prescribed by this Chapter, and shall be put to vote within one month following the submission thereof.
7. A draft law on making a supplement or amendment to the Law on the State Budget shall be discussed at the National Assembly under special procedure.

CHAPTER 21

SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LAWS

Article 92. Procedure for submission and discussion of a draft law on ratification, suspension or revocation of international treaty

1. The Government shall have the right to the initiative of a draft law on ratification, suspension or revocation of an international treaty.
2. An international treaty shall be submitted for ratification by the National Assembly, where it or the commitments enshrined therein do not contradict the Constitution upon the decision of the Constitutional Court.

3. A draft law on ratification, suspension or revocation of an international treaty shall be discussed in one reading at the sitting of the National Assembly.
4. A draft law on ratification, suspension or revocation of an international treaty may be put to vote at the Lead Commission and the National Assembly only with the corrections acceptable for the Government.
5. A law on ratification, suspension or revocation of an international treaty shall be adopted by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.
6. Where a decision on ratification of an international treaty is adopted, and, pursuant to the statement of information of the Government, the adoption of a new law or amendments to the existing law arise from the relevant treaty, the Government shall — within the time limit prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On international treaties of the Republic of Armenia" — submit for the discussion of the National Assembly draft laws on making amendments to a relevant law or on adopting a new law.
7. The procedure prescribed by this Article shall also extend to the adoption of draft laws on joining international treaties by the Republic of Armenia.
8. The procedure prescribed by this Article shall not extend to accession by the Republic of Armenia to supranational international organisations, as well as those related with territorial changes of the Republic of Armenia, which shall be resolved as prescribed by Article 205 of the Constitution and Article 104 of the Rules of Procedure.

Article 93. Procedure for submission and discussion of a draft law on amnesty

1. The Government shall have the right to the initiative of a draft law on amnesty.
2. A draft law on amnesty shall be discussed at the closed sitting of a competent standing committee.

3. A draft law on amnesty shall be discussed at the forthcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly following the expiry of the time limit for the submission of the opinion of the competent standing committee.
4. A draft law on amnesty may be put to vote at the lead commission or the National Assembly only with the corrections acceptable for the Government.
5. A draft law on amnesty shall be adopted by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.

Article 94. Procedure for submission and discussion of a draft law on administrative-territorial division of the Republic of Armenia

1. The Government shall have the right to the initiative of a draft law on administrative-territorial division of the Republic of Armenia.
2. In case of merger or division of communities, the heads of those communities shall have the right to submit to the National Assembly written opinions thereof with regard to merger or division, and deliver a co-review during the discussion of the issue at the National Assembly or the Lead Commission.
3. The heads of communities shall forward to the Chairperson of the National Assembly their written applications on participating in the discussion of the issue within five working days after putting the relevant draft law into circulation at the National Assembly.
4. A draft law on administrative-territorial division may be put to vote at the Lead Commission or the National Assembly only with the corrections acceptable for the Government.

Article 95. Procedure for submission and discussion of a draft law on the establishment of inter-community union

1. The Government shall have the right to the initiative of a draft law on the establishment of an inter-community union.
2. The heads of communities of an inter-community union established by a draft law shall have the right to submit to the National Assembly written opinions thereof with regard to the union, and deliver a co-review during the discussion of the issue at the National Assembly or the Lead Commission.
3. The heads of communities shall forward to the Chairperson of the National Assembly their written applications on participating in the discussion of the issue within five working days after putting the relevant draft law into circulation at the National Assembly.
4. A draft law on the establishment of an inter-community union may be put to vote at the Lead Commission or the National Assembly only with the corrections acceptable for the Government.

Article 96. Procedure for the discussion of an issue deemed to be extraordinary by opposition faction

1. A draft law or a draft decision of the National Assembly may — upon the consent of the author; upon the decision of an opposition faction — be deemed to be extraordinary, where the opinion of the Lead Commission with regard thereto has been received or the time limit for the submission of the opinion has expired.
2. The following issues may not be deemed to be extraordinary:
 - (1) draft amendments to the Constitution;
 - (2) discussion of a draft law in the second reading;

- (3) draft law deemed to be a first priority upon the decision of a faction;
 - (4) draft decisions of the National Assembly on electing and appointing to positions, as well as on terminating the powers of officials, removing them from office and recalling them.
3. One issue deemed to be extraordinary by an opposition faction shall be discussed at the second main sitting on Tuesday of the second regular sittings convened within the time limits referred to in part 1 of Article 36 of the Rules of Procedure.
 4. The decision of an opposition faction on considering the issue extraordinary may be submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly not later than at 18:00 on Friday of the week preceding the regular sittings of the National Assembly. Where more than one decision is submitted within the given time limit, the issue with regard whereof the decision has been submitted earlier shall be discussed at the forthcoming regular sittings. Where the decisions are submitted on the same day, the sequence for the discussion of the issues deemed to be extraordinary shall be determined according to the number of the members of the opposition factions — in the ascending order.
 5. The duration of the discussion of the issue shall be ninety minutes.

(Article 96 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

SECTION 4

PROCESS OF ADOPTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECISIONS, STATEMENTS AND ADDRESSES

CHAPTER 22

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT DECISIONS, STATEMENTS AND ADDRESSES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 97. Decisions of the National Assembly

1. The National Assembly shall adopt decisions in the cases prescribed by the Constitution, as well as on matters related with the organising of its activities.
2. The Operations Procedure, as well as other decisions on matters related with the organising of the activities of the National Assembly shall be adopted in the cases and as provided for by the Rules of Procedure.
3. Persons provided for by the Constitution or the Rules of Procedure shall have the right to submit a proposal on the adoption of a draft decision or decision of the National Assembly.
4. A draft decision of the National Assembly may be put into circulation or submitted during the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure.
5. A proposal on the adoption of a decision of the National Assembly shall — in the cases directly provided for by the Rules of Procedure — be submitted during the sitting of the National Assembly.
6. A draft decision of the National Assembly shall be discussed in one reading at the National Assembly.

Article 98. Statements and addresses of the National Assembly

1. A statement or an address of the National Assembly shall be the expression of the political stance of the National Assembly with regard to certain issues, events and facts.
2. A Deputy and a faction shall have the right to submit a draft statement or address of the National Assembly.
3. A draft statement or address of the National Assembly shall be submitted and put into circulation under the procedure prescribed by the Rules of Procedure for draft decisions of the National Assembly.
4. A draft statement or address proposed by the Chairperson of the National Assembly may also be submitted during the sitting of the National Assembly and be discussed on an extraordinary basis.
5. Statements and addresses of the National Assembly shall be adopted by majority of votes of the Deputies participating in the voting, provided that more than half of the total number of Deputies have participated in the voting.

Article 99. Submitting and putting a draft decision of the National Assembly into circulation

1. A draft decision of the National Assembly shall be submitted for the discussion of the National Assembly by an official letter addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly — through the Staff. The form of the letter, as well as the list of documents attached thereto shall be prescribed by the Operations Procedure.
2. Where the official letter:
 - (1) does not comply with the requirements prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the Operations Procedure and is not brought into

compliance therewith within three working days, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall return the letter and the documents attached thereto to the author, specifying the reasons;

- (2) complies with the requirements prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the Operational Procedure, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within three working days following the receipt of the letter — appoint a Lead Commission and put the draft decision of the National Assembly into circulation as prescribed by the Operations Procedure.

Article 100. Preliminary discussion of a draft decision of the National Assembly

1. The preliminary discussion of a draft decision of the National Assembly shall be carried out in accordance with the general procedure prescribed by Article 71 of the Rules of Procedure.
2. A draft decision of the National Assembly shall be discussed by the Lead Commission within a period of two weeks after putting it into circulation, and in case the draft is included in the agenda for the extraordinary session or sitting of the National Assembly — within two working days.
3. Before the end of the discussion of the issue, the author shall have the right to submit an elaborated draft or propose in the concluding speech thereof the postponement of the discussion of the draft at the sitting of the commission for the purpose of elaboration of the draft, which shall be deemed to be adopted without voting. In case the discussion of the issue is not postponed, the draft shall be put to vote.
4. Where the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the commission is postponed for the purpose of elaboration of the draft, and the author fails — within a

period of two months following the postponement — to submit an elaborated draft, or upon the decision of the commission the given time limit is not extended by written application of the author, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation.

5. In case the elaborated draft is submitted at least three working days before the forthcoming sitting of the commission, it shall be put to vote at the given sitting.
6. In case the draft is adopted, it shall be considered that the commission has submitted to the National Assembly a positive opinion thereon, and in case it is not adopted — a negative opinion.

Article 101. Discussion and adoption of a draft decision of the National Assembly at the sitting of the National Assembly

1. During the discussion of a draft decision of the National Assembly at the sitting of the National Assembly, a main review may be delivered by the author(s) of the draft, and co-review may be delivered by:
 - (1) the representative of the Lead Commission;
 - (2) the representatives of the standing committees of the National Assembly, having submitted an opinion on the draft;
 - (3) the representative of the members of the commission having submitted a special opinion on the opinion of the Lead Commission.
2. All the proposals submitted by the factions with regard to the draft shall be put to vote before the concluding speech of the author. The adopted proposals shall be included in the final variant of the draft put to vote.
3. In the concluding speech, the main rapporteur may:

- (1) put the draft to vote with the corrections referred to in part 2 of this Article;
 - (2) propose the postponement of the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly for the purpose of elaboration of the draft, which shall be adopted without voting.
4. In case of submission of an elaborated draft within a period of two months following the postponement of the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly, but not later than on the Friday of the week preceding the regular sittings, the discussion of the issue shall be resumed during the given regular sittings. In case an elaborated draft is not adopted within the prescribed time limit, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation.
5. In case of resuming the discussion of the issue:
 - (1) a speech with a duration of up to five minutes shall be delivered by the main rapporteur who may put the draft to vote;
 - (2) a speech with a duration of up to three minutes may be delivered by the co-rapporteur;
 - (3) a speech with a duration of up to two minutes may be delivered by the representative of each faction.
6. The decisions of the National Assembly, except for the cases prescribed by the Constitution, shall be adopted by majority of votes of the Deputies participating in the voting, provided that more than half of the total number of Deputies have participated in the voting.
7. In the cases prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, the decisions of the National Assembly shall be adopted by secret ballot or roll-call voting.
8. The decisions, statements and addresses of the National Assembly shall be signed and promulgated by the Chairperson of the National Assembly as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure.

9. The decisions, as well as statements and addresses on matters related with the organising of the activities of the National Assembly shall enter into force from the moment of their adoption, and other decisions of the National Assembly — upon their promulgation, unless a later time period is prescribed by those decisions.
10. The decisions, as well as statements and addresses of the National Assembly shall be officially promulgated as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On legal acts".

(Article 101 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 102. Withdrawing a draft decision of the National Assembly from circulation

1. A draft decision of the National Assembly shall be withdrawn from circulation in the following cases:
 - (1) the main rapporteur fails to show up at the discussion of the issue in the manner prescribed upon the recommendation thereof at the beginning of the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly or the Lead Commission or following the postponement of the discussion of the issue in case of his or her absence;
 - (2) the author fails to submit an elaborated draft in the manner prescribed following the postponement of the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly or the Lead Commission;
 - (3) the draft is not included in the agenda for the regular session as a result of voting;
 - (4) a Deputy or a faction fails — within two months following the discontinuation or termination of parliamentary powers of the authors of

the draft — to inform by written application addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly about joining the initiative, specifying the name, surname of the main rapporteur;

(4.1) the draft decision of the National Assembly on repealing the decision of the National Assembly on putting draft amendments to the Constitution to referendum — in case of the end of martial law or state of emergency;

(5) the author recalls the draft.

2. In case the draft is withdrawn from circulation, it is simultaneously withdrawn from the agendas, as well as draft agendas for the regular session or sittings.

(Article 102 edited by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, supplemented by HO-304-N of 3 June 2020)

CHAPTER 23

SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR THE DISCUSSION OF ISSUES WITH REGARD TO THE DECISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 103. The issue on approving the Programme of the Government

1. The Prime Minister shall, within a period of twenty days following the formation of the Government, submit the Programme of the Government to the National Assembly.

2. During the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly:

(1) the Prime Minister shall be given up to three hours for introducing the Programme of the Government, after which questions may be asked thereto;

- (2) one representative from each standing committee may deliver a co-review;
 - (3) exchange of ideas shall be carried out under the general procedure;
 - (4) the Prime Minister shall be given up to one hour for the concluding speech.
3. The National Assembly shall approve the Programme of the Government within a period of seven days, by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.
 4. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall sign and immediately promulgate the decision of the National Assembly on approving the Programme of the Government.
 5. Where the National Assembly does not approve the Programme of the Government, the factions shall — within a period of seven days after accepting the resignation of the Government — be entitled to nominate candidates for Prime Minister as prescribed by Article 140 of the Rules of Procedure, and election of the Prime Minister shall be held.
 6. Part 5 of this Article shall not extend to the Programme of the Government formed in accordance with Article 115 of the Constitution.

Article 104. Procedure for the submission and discussion of a draft decision of the National Assembly with regard to holding a referendum on accession by the Republic of Armenia to supranational international organisations or on territorial changes of the Republic of Armenia

1. The issues related with the accession by the Republic of Armenia to supranational international organisations, as well as those related with territorial changes of the Republic of Armenia shall be resolved through referenda.
2. The Government shall have the right to submit a draft decision of the National Assembly with regard to holding a referendum on accession by the Republic of

Armenia to a supranational international organisation or on territorial changes of the Republic of Armenia.

3. The draft decision of the National Assembly on applying to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue put to referendum shall be put to vote immediately after the concluding speech of the main rapporteur during the discussion of the draft at the sitting of the National Assembly. Where the decision is not adopted, the draft decision of the National Assembly on holding a referendum shall be withdrawn from circulation.
4. Where the Constitutional Court recognizes the issue put to referendum or draft legal acts pertaining thereto as contradicting the Constitution, the draft decision of the National Assembly on holding a referendum shall be withdrawn from circulation.
5. Where the Constitutional Court recognizes the issue put to referendum and draft legal acts pertaining thereto as complying with the Constitution, the draft decision of the National Assembly with regard to holding a referendum on accession by the Republic of Armenia to a supranational international organisation or on territorial changes of the Republic of Armenia shall — following the receipt of the decision of Constitutional Court — be put to vote without discussion at the forthcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly. The decision shall be adopted by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.
6. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall, within twenty-four hours, sign and promulgate the decision of the National Assembly with regard to holding a referendum on accession by the Republic of Armenia to a supranational international organisation or on territorial changes of the Republic of Armenia.
7. The President of the Republic shall call a referendum within a period of three days following the adoption by the National Assembly of a decision on holding a referendum.

Article 105. Procedure for submitting and discussing a proposal on declaring war or on establishing peace

1. The right to submit a proposal on declaring war or on establishing peace shall pertain to the Government.
2. The proposal on declaring war or on establishing peace shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly by the Prime Minister.
3. In case it is impossible to convene a sitting of the National Assembly, the Government shall determine the issue of declaring a war.
4. During consideration of the proposal of the Government on declaring a war, as well as on establishing peace during a sitting of the National Assembly in case of convocation of a sitting of the National Assembly for declaring a war:
 - (1) the representative of the Government shall deliver the main review, whereto questions may be asked after reviewing;
 - (2) there shall be no co-reviewing;
 - (3) during the exchange of ideas, only two representatives of each faction may deliver a speech.
5. The decision of the National Assembly on declaring a war or on establishing peace shall be adopted by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.
6. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall sign and immediately promulgate the decision of the National Assembly on declaring a war or on establishing peace.
7. The person presiding shall declare the special sitting concluded following discussion of the issue.

Article 106. Procedure for submitting and discussing the draft decision of the National Assembly on lifting martial law or on revoking implementation of the measures envisaged by the legal regime of martial law

1. Factions shall have the right to submit the draft decision of the National Assembly on lifting martial law or on revoking implementation of the measures envisaged by the legal regime of martial law.
2. The draft shall be submitted to the National Assembly for discussion and put into circulation under a general procedure, and in the case specified in point 1 of part 4 of Article 47 of the Rules of Procedure, it may be submitted during a sitting of the National Assembly.
3. During discussion of the issue at a sitting of the National Assembly, the representative of the Government shall be entitled to co-review after the representative of the Lead Commission.
4. The decision of the National Assembly on lifting martial law or on revoking implementation of the measures envisaged by the legal regime of martial law shall be adopted by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.
5. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall immediately sign and publish the decision of the National Assembly on lifting martial law or on revoking implementation of the measures envisaged by the legal regime of martial law.

Article 107. Procedure for submitting and discussing the draft decision of the National Assembly on lifting state of emergency or on revoking implementation of the measures envisaged by the legal regime of state of emergency

1. Factions shall have the right to submit the draft decision of the National Assembly on lifting state of emergency or on revoking implementation of the measures envisaged by the legal regime of state of emergency.
2. The draft shall be submitted to the National Assembly for discussion and put into circulation under a general procedure, and in the case specified in point 1 of part 4 of Article 48 of the Rules of Procedure, it may be submitted during a sitting of the National Assembly.
3. During discussion of the issue at a sitting of the National Assembly, the representative of the Government shall be entitled to co-review after the representative of the Lead Commission.
4. The decision of the National Assembly on lifting state of emergency or on revoking implementation of the measures envisaged by the legal regime of state of emergency shall be adopted by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.
5. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall immediately sign and promulgate the decision of the National Assembly on lifting state of emergency or on revoking implementation of the measures envisaged by the legal regime of state of emergency.

Article 107. Procedure for submitting and discussing the draft decision of the National Assembly on repealing the decision of the National Assembly on putting draft amendments to the Constitution to referendum

1. At least one quarter of the total number of Deputies or the Government shall have the right to submit the draft decision of the National Assembly on repealing the decision of the National Assembly on putting draft amendments to the Constitution to referendum, the holding of the referendum called for on the basis of which has been suspended as prescribed by the Constitutional Law "On referendum".
2. The draft shall be submitted to the National Assembly for discussion and put into circulation under a general procedure — before the end of martial law or state of emergency. In case of the end of state of emergency or martial law, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation.
3. The decision of the National Assembly on putting to referendum the draft amendments to the Constitution adopted as prescribed by part 1 of Article 202 of the Constitution shall be repealed by at least two third of votes of the total number of Deputies.
4. The decision of the National Assembly on putting to referendum the draft amendments to the Constitution adopted as prescribed by part 3 of Article 202 of the Constitution shall be repealed by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies.
5. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall immediately sign and promulgate the decision of the National Assembly on repealing the decision of the National Assembly on putting draft amendments to the Constitution to referendum.

(Article 107.1 supplemented by HO-304-N of 3 June 2020)

Article 108. Procedure for giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against a Deputy or depriving him or her of liberty

1. The Prosecutor General shall file to the Chairperson of the National Assembly the motion on giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against a Deputy or depriving him or her of liberty. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall immediately inform the Deputy specified in the motion thereon, and in case of impossibility thereof, the Chairperson shall make a statement. The draft decision of the National Assembly on giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against a Deputy or depriving him or her of liberty shall be attached to the motion.
2. The motion shall be discussed during the upcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly under the following procedure:
 - (1) the Prosecutor General and the Deputy specified in the motion shall deliver speeches with a duration of up to twenty minutes, and questions may be given thereto;
 - (2) exchange of ideas;
 - (3) the Deputy specified in the motion and the Prosecutor General shall each be granted up to 20 minutes for a concluding speech.
3. Where the Deputy specified in the motion is absent from the sitting of the National Assembly in the beginning of discussion of the issue for an inexcusable reason, the issue shall be discussed without his or her participation.
4. The decision of the National Assembly on giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against a Deputy or depriving him or her of liberty shall be adopted by a secret ballot.
5. The decision of the National Assembly on giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against a Deputy or depriving him or her of liberty shall be signed and promulgated immediately.

Article 109. Procedure for applying to Constitutional Court for terminating powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court

1. The powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be terminated upon a decision of the Constitutional Court in cases of violation of the incompatibility requirements, political activity, impossibility to exercise his or her powers because of health condition, as well as in case of gross disciplinary violation.
2. The National Assembly may, by secret ballot and upon a decision adopted by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies, application to the Constitutional Court for terminating the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court.
3. ***(part repealed by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)***
4. A faction shall have the right to submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on applying to the Constitutional Court for termination of the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court. Where the judge of the Constitutional Court has committed an essential disciplinary violation or has been affected by a physical impairment or an illness defined by the decision of the Government, as a result of which he or she is no longer able to exercise his or her powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court, the draft decision of the National Assembly may be submitted within a period of two weeks after the relevant grounds are known.
 - 4.1. The application for termination of the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court upon the grounds of committing an essential disciplinary violation may be based on the materials provided by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption.
5. The draft shall be discussed during the upcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly upon receipt of the opinion of the Lead Commission or upon expiry of the term for submitting the opinion.

6. During discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly, the judge of the Constitutional Court shall have the right to speak, answer questions and deliver a concluding speech after the representative of the Lead Commission.
7. Where the judge of the Constitutional Court is absent from the sitting of the National Assembly in the beginning of discussion of the issue, the issue shall be discussed without his or her participation.
8. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall immediately sign and promulgate the decision of the National Assembly on applying to the Constitutional Court for terminating the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court.
9. The application submitted to the Constitutional Court for termination of the powers of a judge of the Constitutional Court may be withdrawn upon the decision of the National Assembly, the draft of which a faction shall have the right to submit. The draft shall be submitted to the National Assembly for discussion and put into circulation under a general procedure.

(Article 109 amended, edited, supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, supplemented by HO-201-N of 25 March 2020)

Article 110. Procedure for giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against the Human Rights Defender or depriving him or her of liberty

1. The Prosecutor General shall file a motion to the Chairperson of the National Assembly on giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against the Human Rights Defender or depriving him or her of liberty. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall immediately inform the Human Rights Defender thereon in the motion, and in case of impossibility thereof, the Chairperson shall make a statement. The draft decision of the National Assembly on giving consent to

initiating criminal prosecution against the Human Rights Defender or depriving him or her of liberty shall be attached to the motion.

2. The motion shall be considered during the upcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly. During discussion of the issue:
 - (1) the Prosecutor General and the Deputy specified in the motion shall deliver speeches with a duration of up to twenty minutes, and questions may be given thereto;
 - (2) during the exchange of ideas, only Deputies may deliver a speech;
 - (3) the Human Rights Defender and the Prosecutor General shall each be granted up to 20 minutes for a concluding speech.
3. Where the Human Rights Defender is, without a good reason, absent from the sitting of the National Assembly in the beginning of discussion of the issue, the issue shall be discussed without his or her participation.
4. The decision of the National Assembly on giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against the Human Rights Defender or depriving him or her of liberty shall be adopted by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies.
5. The decision of the National Assembly on giving consent to initiating criminal prosecution against the Human Rights Defender or depriving him or her of liberty shall be signed and promulgated immediately.

Article 111. Procedure for applying to the Constitutional Court for suspending or prohibiting the activities of a political party

1. A faction shall be entitled to submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on applying to the Constitutional Court for suspending or prohibiting the activities of a political party.

2. The decision of the National Assembly on applying to the Constitutional Court for suspending or prohibiting the activities of a political party shall be signed and promulgated immediately.
3. The application submitted to the Constitutional Court for suspending or prohibiting the activities of a political party may be withdrawn upon the decision of the National Assembly, the draft of which a faction shall have the right to submit. The draft shall be submitted to the National Assembly for discussion and put into circulation under a general procedure.

(Article 111 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 112. Procedure for submitting and considering the draft decision of the National Assembly on establishment of standing committees

1. Factions shall be entitled to submit the draft decision of the National Assembly on the establishment of standing committees during the first session of the National Assembly. The draft shall define:
 - (1) the names and spheres of activity of committees;
 - (2) total number of members of each committee;
 - (3) titles of separate laws reserved for preliminary discussion by committees;
 - (4) committees with the competence to nominate candidates for the National Assembly for election or appointment to position;
 - (5) scope of parliamentary oversight of committees;
 - (6) committee with the competence for general co-ordination and monitoring of the activities of the Budget Office.
2. Where more than one draft has been submitted during the first session of the National Assembly, during discussion thereof:

- (1) the authors of the drafts shall have the right to main review. The sequence of reviews shall be determined in accordance with the number of members of factions in the descending order;
 - (2) the discussion of the issue may be postponed upon the consent of the main rapporteurs;
 - (3) the drafts shall be put to vote according to the sequence of submission;
 - (4) where two drafts have been put to vote and none of them has received the necessary number of votes for adoption, the draft with the most votes shall be put to vote again;
 - (5) where more than two drafts have been put to vote and none of them has received the necessary number of votes for adoption, a second stage of voting shall be held during which the two drafts with the most votes shall be put to vote;
 - (6) where more than one draft receive the number of votes necessary for adoption, the draft having received a greater number of "for" votes shall be deemed to be adopted;
 - (7) where more than one draft have received an equal number of votes that are necessary for adoption, the draft having received the least number of "against" votes shall be deemed to be adopted.
3. A faction shall have the right to submit a draft on making amendments to the decision of the National Assembly on the establishment of standing committees following adoption of the decision.
 4. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall immediately sign and promulgate the decision of the National Assembly on the establishment of standing committees.

5. The decision of the National Assembly on the establishment of standing committees shall be repealed on the day of opening of the first session of the next convocation of the National Assembly.

Article 113. Adoption of and amendment to the Operations Procedure

1. A Deputy or faction shall have the right to submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on adoption of or amendment to the Operations Procedure.

SECTION 5

PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

CHAPTER 24

STATE BUDGET PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT

Article 114. Statements of information on State Budget performance

1. The Government shall, within 40 days after the end of each quarter, submit to the National Assembly a statement of information on performance of the State Budget, including performance of target credit and grant programmes.
2. The National Assembly shall oversee the State Budget performance, as well as the use of loans and credits received from foreign states and international organisations.
3. During its sitting, the competent standing committee shall discuss the statement of information submitted by the Government on State Budget performance.

Article 115. Submission and discussion of current opinions of the Audit Chamber

1. The current opinions of the Audit Chamber shall be submitted to the National Assembly in the cases and within the time limits prescribed by law.
2. The competent standing committee of the National Assembly shall examine the current opinions of the Audit Chamber, and if available, also the information provided by the head of a facility under audit on the current opinion. Based on the result of the examination, the committee may make a decision on convening a sitting of the committee or a joint sitting with sector-specific committees to discuss them.

Article 116. Terms for submitting and discussing the annual report on State Budget performance

1. The Government shall submit the annual report on performance of the State Budget for each year officially and electronically, as well as shall submit to the National Assembly the official opinion thereon submitted by the Central Bank to the Government prior to 1 May of the next year.
2. The annual report on State Budget performance shall, where the opinion of the Audit Chamber is available, be discussed and put to vote before the end of the regular session.
3. The Audit Chamber shall submit the opinion on State Budget performance to the National Assembly within one month upon submitting the report on State Budget performance to the National Assembly.

Article 117. Preliminary discussion of the draft law on the State Budget by standing committees

1. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within two working days following receipt of the annual report on State Budget performance — draw up the schedule for holding preliminary discussions of the annual report on the State Budget within lead and other standing committees and joint sittings thereof, by consulting with the Prime Minister, and shall submit it to the Council for approval.
2. A competent standing committee shall be the Lead Commission for preliminary discussion of the report.
3. Preliminary discussions of the report shall take place at the sittings of standing committees and joint sittings thereof, wherein members of the Government and the authorised persons of the Prime Minister, as well as other persons specified in the schedule shall also participate as prescribed.
4. The representative of the committee shall introduce, through co-review, the results of the preliminary discussion of the report at the Lead Commission during the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly.
5. Except for the Lead Commission, the representatives of other standing committees shall have the right to deliver a co-review during the discussion of the report at the National Assembly, where the report has been previously discussed at the given committee and the report is mentioned in the decision of the committee.
6. Materials of the report relating to articles of the annual report on State Budget performance relating to expenditures containing state and official secret shall be discussed at the joint closed sitting of competent standing committees, wherein Deputies, the Chairperson of the Audit Chamber and authorised persons of the Government shall participate.

Article 118. Discussion of annual report on State Budget performance at sitting of National Assembly

1. Up to three representatives of the Government may deliver main reviews with a duration of up to thirty minutes during discussion of the annual report on State Budget performance at a sitting of the National Assembly, and the following may deliver a co-review with the same duration:
 - (1) Chairperson of the Central Bank — by submitting the opinion of the Central Bank on the report;
 - (2) Chairperson of the Audit Chamber — by submitting the opinion of the Audit Chamber on State Budget performance;
 - (3) representative of the Lead Commission — by submitting the report, as well as the opinion of the Commission on the adoption or rejection thereof;
 - (4) representative of a competent standing committee— by submitting the opinion of the committee on the lawfulness and reasonableness of expenditures in the annual report on State Budget performance containing state and official secret;
 - (5) one representative of the other standing committees having submitted an opinion on the report— by submitting a relevant opinion.
2. The members of the Government and marz governors shall — upon submission by the Prime Minister — be granted the right to seven extraordinary speeches before the speeches of the factions.
3. Following the exchange of ideas, a concluding speech with a duration of up to 30 minutes shall be delivered by the Prime Minister or the head of a state administration body authorised by the Government in the field of public finance management, after which the draft decision of the National Assembly on approving the annual report on State Budget performance shall be put to vote.

4. In case of approval of the decision, the report shall be considered as approved, and in case of rejection — rejected.

CHAPTER 25

PROCEDURES FOR DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

Article 119. Posing written questions to members of Government

1. Deputies shall have the right to pose written questions to members of the Government.
2. The Prime Minister or, upon his or her instruction, the relevant member of the Government, shall — within a three-week time period following receipt of the question — respond to the question in writing.
3. The procedures for forwarding written questions and providing the responses thereto to a Deputy shall be defined by the Operations Procedure. The responses to the written questions shall be posted on the official website of the National Assembly.

Article 120. Addressing members of Government with oral questions

1. Members of the Government shall respond to the oral questions of Deputies during the final main sitting on Wednesday of each subsequent sitting convened within the time limits specified in part 1 of Article 36 of the Rules of Procedure.

2. Each of the questions must concern the sphere reserved to the competence of one member of the Government.
3. Questions shall be given as prescribed by parts 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Article 57 of the Rules of Procedure, in the sequence of listing.
4. The National Assembly shall not adopt decisions on the questions of Deputies.
5. The sitting shall end after the response to the question of the last Deputy on the list.

Article 121. Written interpellations of factions

1. Factions shall have the right to address members of the Government with written interpellations.
2. During the same regular session, interpellations may be addressed to members of the Government no more than once.
3. A faction shall exercise its right to address the Government with a written interpellation upon its decision.
4. The relevant member of the Government shall, upon instruction of the Prime Minister, forward the written response to the interpellation to the Chairperson of the National Assembly no later than thirty days following receipt of the interpellation.
5. The written interpellation shall be forwarded to the Government, as well as the response to the interpellation shall be delivered to the faction as prescribed by the Operations Procedure. The response to the interpellation shall be posted on the official website of the National Assembly.
6. Responses to interpellations shall be submitted and shall, upon recommendation of the faction, be discussed during the third main sitting on Wednesday of each

regular sitting convened within the time limits specified in part 1 of Article 36 of the Rules of Procedure. The response to one interpellation may be submitted and discussed during the regular sittings of each week.

7. The response to an interpellation sent at least one week before the convocation of regular sittings shall be submitted, as well as may, upon recommendation of a faction, be discussed during those sittings, and the responses sent later than the specified time period shall be discussed during the next regular sittings. The proposal of a faction may be submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly prior to submission of the interpellation during the sitting of the National Assembly.
8. Where the time period for submission of responses to more than one interpellation expires during the regular sittings in the same week, the response to the interpellation forwarded to the Government earlier, shall be submitted. Where interpellations have been forwarded on the same day, the sequence of submission of the responses thereto shall be determined according to the number of members of the factions — in the ascending order.
9. The response to an interpellation shall be submitted to a member of the Government in a speech with a duration of up to five minutes in the beginning of the discussion of the issue during the sitting of the National Assembly. Where a faction has not recommended discussing the interpellation, discussion of the issue shall be deemed to be complete following the speech of a member of the Government.
10. Upon recommendation of a faction, the response to an interpellation shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly under the following procedure:
 - (1) questions may be given to the member of the Government submitting the response to an interpellation;

- (2) a speech is given by a representative of the faction submitting the interpellation, whom questions may be given;
 - (3) exchange of ideas;
 - (4) the member of the Government submitting the response to an interpellation shall deliver a concluding speech, followed by the representative of the faction.
11. Based on the results of the discussion on the interpellation, in his or her concluding speech, the representative of the faction may:
- (1) recommend adopting a decision of the National Assembly on proposing the issue of further term of office of a separate member of the Government to the Prime Minister for discussion, which shall be put to vote without discussion, or
 - (2) declare that the faction envisages submitting a proposal on expressing lack of confidence in the Prime Minister, in compliance with part 2 of Article 113 of the Constitution. Where, within 24 hours following the end of the discussion of the issue, in compliance with parts 1-4 of Article 152 of the Rules of Procedure, a draft decision of the National Assembly on expressing lack of confidence in the Prime Minister is submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, it shall be discussed as prescribed by parts 5-10 of Article 152 of the Rules of Procedure.
12. The duration of the discussion of the issue shall be 90 minutes.
13. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall sign the decision of the National Assembly on proposing the issue of further term of office of a separate member of the Government to the Prime Minister for discussion and shall forward it to the Prime Minister within 24 hours.

14. Within six months following the end of the discussion of the issue, no faction may address the Government with the same interpellation or submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on expressing lack of confidence in the Prime Minister based on the result of the interpellation discussed.

Article 122. Parliamentary oversight over standing committees

1. Standing committees shall, within the scope of their competences prescribed by point 5 of part 1 of Article 112 of the Rules of Procedure:
 - (1) carry out parliamentary oversight over the course of enforcement of laws;
 - (2) may request information regarding the course of implementation of the Programme of the Government.
2. The topic of parliamentary oversight, as well as the measures to be taken in relation thereto shall, within the scope of competence of the competent standing committee, be defined upon the decision of the committee.
3. Except for members of the competent standing committee, the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the standing committees and factions shall have the right to submit proposals on the topic of parliamentary oversight, as well as on the measures to be taken.
4. In connection with clarification of the issues concerning the subject of parliamentary oversight, a committee may, upon its decision, call competent officials to the committee who are obliged to show up at a sitting of the committee and answer questions.
5. Information containing state, official, commercial or other secret protected by law shall be provided to the committee upon inquiry thereof, and the members of the committee may get acquainted with that information as prescribed by law. The members of the committee may get acquainted with the materials or documents relating to the information requested by the inquiry also on-site.

6. Based on the result of parliamentary oversight, a competent standing committee may adopt a written opinion and, as prescribed by the Operations Procedure, forward it to the other bodies of the National Assembly, as well as to competent bodies and officials.
7. Oversight over State Budget performance shall be carried out as prescribed by Chapter 24 of the Rules of Procedure.

Article 123. Procedure for holding discussions on an urgent topic of public interest

1. In one of the sessions convened during the given week of a regular session, discussions on an urgent topic of public interest may be held upon request of at least one quarter of the total number of Deputies.
2. The request of Deputies for holding a discussion on an urgent topic of public interest shall be submitted in a written application stating the following:
 - (1) topic of discussion;
 - (2) name, surname of the representative of the Deputies having submitted the request.
3. Where the application:
 - (1) does not comply with the requirements of this Article and is not brought into compliance therewith within three working days, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall return the application, specifying the reasons;
 - (2) complies with the requirements, the issue shall be discussed during a sitting of the National Assembly, as prescribed by part 4 of this Article.
4. One discussion may be held during the third main sitting of Tuesday of each regular sitting convened within the time limits specified in part 1 of Article 36 of the Rules of Procedure. The discussion may be held during the upcoming

regular sittings, where the application has been submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly at least one week before those sittings. Where more than one application have been submitted within the given time limit, the discussion the application wherefor has been submitted earlier shall be held during the upcoming regular sittings.

5. The representative of the Deputies having submitted the request shall deliver the main review.
6. The main rapporteur may, in his or her concluding speech, propose to adopt a message or declaration of the National Assembly, which shall be put to vote without discussion. Where a message or declaration is rejected, or such proposal is not made, discussion of the issue shall be deemed to be complete.
7. The duration of discussion of the issue shall be 90 minutes.

(Article 123 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 123.1. Procedure for discussing and replying to the petitions submitted to the National Assembly

1. Petitions may be submitted to the National Assembly only with regard to the issues within the competence of the National Assembly.
2. A petition shall be submitted by a letter addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly. Where the letter:
 - (1) does not comply with the requirements of part 1 of this Article or those prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On petitions” and is not brought into compliance therewith within five working days, the Staff shall return the letter, specifying the reasons thereon, and in case of existence of the grounds for rejection prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On petitions” — reject the discussion of the petition;

- (2) complies with the requirements of part 1 of this Article or those prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On petitions”, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall send the petition to the competent standing committee or committees, where the petition refers to the areas of competence of more than one standing committee.
3. The Staff shall register the petition sent to the standing committee and post it on the official website of the National Assembly.
4. The chairperson of the standing committee shall — within three working days after receiving the petition — send it to the members of the committee, which may — within a period of two weeks after receiving the petition — submit a draft reply to the petition. Where no draft reply to the petition is submitted within the period prescribed, a draft reply to the petition shall be elaborated within a week and submitted to the committee for discussion by the chairperson of the committee. The chairperson of the committee may elaborate a draft reply to the petition also in case of the submission of a draft reply to the petition by another member of the committee.
5. A draft reply to the petition shall be discussed at the sitting of the committee under a general procedure. Where more than one draft have been submitted, they shall be discussed in accordance with part 2 of Article 112 of the Rules of Procedure. Where no decision is taken by the committee with regard to the reply to the petition, the discussion of the issue shall be considered concluded.
6. The chairperson of the standing committee shall — within two working days — send the reply to the petition approved by the decision of the committee, and in case no decision is taken with regard to the reply — the relevant letter to the Staff, which shall — within three working days — send it to the person having submitted the individual petition or the person indicated in the collective petition as responsible person. The reply to the petition shall be posted on the official website of the National Assembly.

7. Decisions or other actions (inaction) of the Chairperson of the National Assembly and the standing committees on petitions, as well as decisions of the Staff on returning a petition, rejecting the discussion of a petition shall not be subject to appeal.

(Article 123.1 supplemented by HO-22-N of 21 December 2017)

Article 124. Statements of Deputies

1. Deputies may make a statement for up to thirty minutes during the last main sitting of Tuesday of each regular sitting convened within the time limits specified in part 1 of Article 36 of the Rules of Procedure.
2. A Deputy listed, but absent from the hall shall be deprived of the right to make a statement during the given sitting.
3. The sitting shall end after the statement of the last Deputy on the list.
4. Listing for statements shall be carried out in compliance with the procedure defined for questions.
5. The procedure for making a statement is defined by the Operations Procedure.

Article 125. Parliamentary hearings

1. Parliamentary hearings may be convened by:
 - (1) the Chairperson of the National Assembly;
 - (2) standing committees, ad hoc committees for the draft of a separate law — in respect of issues related to the spheres reserved thereto;
 - (3) a faction — in respect of an issue related to the draft proposed thereby or by a Deputy included within the composition of the faction.

2. Hearings shall be convened upon the decision of the Chairperson of the National Assembly, a standing or an ad hoc committee, as well as the decision of a faction.
3. A faction may convene one hearing during each regular session.
4. The day of holding hearings must not coincide with the day of a sitting of the National Assembly.
5. The minutes drawn up after hearings shall be approved upon the decision of the body having convened the hearings and shall be posted on the official website of the National Assembly.
6. The procedures for convening hearings, as well as summing up the results are defined by the Operations Procedure.

(Article 125 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

CHAPTER 26

REVIEWS, COMMUNIQUES AND REPORTS OF STATE BODIES

Article 126. Procedure for submitting, putting into circulation and discussing the reviews, communiques and reports of state bodies

1. The reviews, communiques and reports of state bodies shall, as provided for by the Constitution, be submitted to the National Assembly for discussion and put into circulation as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the Operations Procedure.
2. After being submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the issue shall:

- (1) be discussed by a competent standing committee, within a one-month time period, without the adoption of any document;
 - (2) be discussed during the regular sittings of the National Assembly on the day set by the Council, within a two-month time period.
3. The issues specified in part 1 of this Article shall be discussed during the sitting of the National Assembly under the following general procedure:
- (1) the official with the competence to present the issue to the National Assembly for discussion shall deliver a main review with a duration of up to 30 minutes, after which questions may be given thereto;
 - (2) there shall be no co-review, unless otherwise provided for by the Rules of Procedure or decision of the National Assembly;
 - (3) exchange of ideas;
 - (4) rapporteurs shall, in the same order, deliver final reviews each with a duration of up to fifteen minutes.

Article 127. Submitting and discussing the annual report on the course and results of implementation of the Government Programme

1. Every year, prior to 1 March, the Government shall submit to the National Assembly a report on the course and results of implementation of its Programme for the previous year.
2. During the sitting of the National Assembly, the report shall be discussed in the following way as prescribed by part 3 of Article 126 of the Rules of Procedure:
 - (1) the Prime Minister shall be given up to one hour to present the report;
 - (2) one representative of each of the standing committees may deliver a co-review, as well as up to three members of the Government, upon

presentation of the Prime Minister, after which questions may be given thereto;

- (3) the Prime Minister shall be given up to 30 minutes for the concluding speech.

Article 128. Submitting and discussing the communication of the Prosecutor General

1. Every year, prior to 1 April, the Prosecutor General shall submit to the National Assembly a communication on the activities of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia for the previous year.
2. During the sitting of the National Assembly, the communication shall be discussed as prescribed by part 3 of Article 126 of the Rules of Procedure, upon presentation of the Prosecutor General.

Article 129. Submitting and discussing the annual communication regarding the activities of the Human Rights Defender and the state of protection of human rights and freedoms

1. Every year, prior to 1 April, the Human Rights Defender shall submit to the National Assembly an annual communication regarding his or her activities and the state of protection of human rights and freedoms.
2. During the sitting of the National Assembly, the communication shall be discussed as prescribed by part 3 of Article 126 of the Rules of Procedure, upon presentation of the Human Rights Defender.

(Article 129 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 130. Submitting and discussing the annual communication regarding activities of the Audit Chamber

1. Every year, prior to 1 June, the Audit Chamber shall submit to the National Assembly the annual communication regarding its activities.
2. During the sitting of the National Assembly, the communication shall be discussed as prescribed by part 3 of Article 126 of the Rules of Procedure, upon presentation of the Audit Chamber.

Article 131. Submitting and discussing the annual communication regarding activities of the Central Bank

1. The requirements for the annual communication regarding the activities of the Central Bank shall be defined by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia".
2. During the sitting of the National Assembly, the communication shall be discussed as prescribed by part 3 of Article 126 of the Rules of Procedure, upon presentation of the Chairperson of the Central Bank. The representative of the Government shall be entitled to deliver a co-review.

Article 132. Submitting and discussing the annual communication regarding activities of the Central Electoral Commission

1. Every second year, prior to 1 April, as well as within one month following the election of the National Assembly, the Central Electoral Commission shall submit to the National Assembly a communication regarding the activities thereof.
2. After being submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the communication shall, as prescribed by part 3 of Article 126 of the Rules of

Procedure, be discussed during the upcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly, upon presentation of the Chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 133. Submitting and discussing the annual communication of the Commission on Television and Radio on the state of freedom of information

1. Every year, prior to 1 April, the Commission on Television and Radio shall submit to the National Assembly an annual communication regarding the activities thereof and the state of freedom of information on television and radio.
2. During the sitting of the National Assembly, the communication shall be discussed as prescribed by part 3 of Article 126 of the Rules of Procedure, upon presentation of the Chairperson of the Commission on Television and Radio.

SECTION 6

ISSUES ON ELECTING, APPOINTING TO A POSITION, DISCONTINUATING, TERMINATING POWERS OF, RECALLING, SEEKING NON-CONFIDENCE AGAINST OFFICIALS AND REMOVING THEM FROM OFFICE

CHAPTER 27

ISSUES ON ELECTING AND APPOINTING TO A POSITION

Article 134. Nominating a candidate for a position

1. Candidates shall be nominated for the position elected or appointed by the National Assembly as prescribed by the Constitution, the Rules of Procedure and

other law. Documents on nomination of candidates shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, and, in the cases provided for by the Rules of Procedure, to the chairperson of the competent standing committee by the Staff.

2. When nominating a candidate for a position, the command of the Armenian language shall be certified in accordance with part 3 of Article 80 of the Constitutional Law "Electoral Code".
3. A candidate shall not be considered as permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia for the preceding four years where he or she has been absent from the Republic of Armenia for at least 731 days out of 1461 days preceding the day of submitting an application to the public administration body authorised by the Government of the Republic of Armenia maintaining the State Population Register for the purpose of obtaining a statement of information on having permanent residence for the registration of a candidate, except for cases when the absence has been conditioned by circumstances related to staying abroad for service purposes of a person who is a public servant of the Republic Armenia, or to his or her study at higher educational institutions abroad.
4. A candidate shall not be considered as permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia for the preceding six years where he or she has been absent from the Republic of Armenia for at least 1095 days out of 2190 days preceding the day of submitting an application to the public administration body authorised by the Government of the Republic of Armenia maintaining the State Population Register for the purpose of obtaining a statement of information on having permanent residence for the registration of a candidate, except for cases when the absence has been conditioned by circumstances related to staying abroad for service purposes of a person who is a public servant of the Republic Armenia, or to his or her study at higher educational institutions abroad.

5. Where a candidate occupies a position meeting the requirements prescribed by the Constitution or law for the position elected or appointed, the documents related to those requirements may not be submitted.
6. The list of documents on nomination of candidates for the position elected by the National Assembly shall be established by the Operations Procedure. The Staff shall, upon request of the competent person, provide the list of documents necessary for the nomination of a candidate.
7. Where documents on nomination of a candidate:
 - (1) comply with the requirements of the Constitution or law, the Staff shall — within 24 hours following the receipt thereof, but no later than the expiry of the period for nomination of the candidate — register the personal files thereof and provide it to the Chairperson of the National Assembly and, in the cases provided for by Article 145 of the Rules of Procedure — to the chairperson of the competent standing committee of the National Assembly;
 - (2) do not comply with the requirements of the Constitution or law, the Staff shall — within 24 hours following the receipt thereof, but no later than the expiry of the period for nomination of the candidate — inform the competent person thereon, recommending to correct the formal mistakes found in the documents before the expiry of the period for nomination of the candidate and to complete the list of documents in case the list is not complete. Where documents on nomination of the candidate are not brought into compliance with the requirements of the Constitution or law within the period prescribed, the Staff shall immediately inform the Chairperson of the National Assembly thereon and, in the cases provided for by Article 145 of the Rules of Procedure — the chairperson of the competent standing committee of the National Assembly.

8. The Chairperson of the National Assembly, and in the cases provided for by Article 145 of the Rules of Procedure — the chairperson of the competent standing committee of the National Assembly shall — within 24 hours after receiving the personal files of the candidates — make a statement with regard to nomination of the candidates.
9. A candidate may recuse himself or herself before the completion of concluding speeches delivered during the discussion of the issue on election to the given position at the sitting of the National Assembly.

(Article 134 amended, supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, supplemented, amended, edited by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)

Article 135. General procedure for discussing issues on electing or appointing to a position

1. Issues on electing or appointing to a position shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly under the following general procedure:
 - (1) persons entitled to recommending candidates shall, in alphabetical order of surnames of the candidates, deliver speeches each with a duration of up to ten minutes;
 - (2) candidates shall deliver speeches each with a duration of up to twenty minutes;
 - (3) the person recommending a candidate and the candidate shall deliver speeches in turns;
 - (4) the person recommending a candidate and the candidate may be asked questions after the speech;
 - (5) exchange of ideas;

- (6) candidates shall, in the same order, deliver concluding speeches each with a duration of up to ten minutes.
2. ***(part repealed by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)***
3. Unless otherwise provided for by the Rules of Procedure, issues on electing or appointing to a position shall be subject to mandatory discussion at the forthcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly or may be discussed at the extraordinary session or sitting of the National Assembly in the following cases:
- (1) upon expiry of the time limit for nomination of candidates, where two or more bodies have the competence to nominate a candidate for the vacant position, and at least one candidate has been nominated;
- (2) after the nomination of a candidate, where one body has the competence to nominate a candidate for the vacant position.
4. A person elected or appointed by the National Assembly shall — in the cases prescribed by the Constitution or law — assume office by taking an oath at the sitting of the National Assembly.

(Article 135 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, amended, edited by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)

Article 136. Election of the Chairperson of the National Assembly

1. Election of the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be held during the first session of the National Assembly, as well as in case the position thereof remains vacant.
2. The factions shall have the right to nominate one candidate for the Chairperson of the National Assembly from among the National Assembly.

3. Candidates for the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be nominated:
 - (1) at the beginning of the discussion of the issue on election of the Chairperson of the National Assembly during the first session of the National Assembly;
 - (2) within a 10-day period after the position of the Chairperson of the National Assembly remains vacant.
4. ***(part repealed by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)***
5. The issue on election of the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by Article 135 of the Rules of Procedure, with the following difference:
 - (1) up to ten minutes shall be allotted for presenting candidates;
 - (2) up to 30 minutes shall be allotted for speeches of candidates;
 - (3) up to fifteen minutes shall be allotted for concluding speeches of candidates;
6. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be elected by secret ballot, by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.
7. Where more than two candidates have participated in the voting and none of them has been elected, a second round of election shall be held, in which the two candidates having received the greatest number of votes in the first round may participate. The issue shall be discussed as prescribed by part 9 of Article 139 of the Rules of Procedure.
8. Where no Chairperson of the National Assembly is elected, a new election of the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be held as prescribed by this Article.

(Article 136 amended by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)

Article 137. Elections of the Deputy Chairpersons of the National Assembly

1. Elections of the Deputy Chairpersons of the National Assembly shall be held during the first session of the National Assembly, as well as in case the positions thereof remain vacant.
2. During the first session of the National Assembly, as well as in other cases where the positions of the Deputy Chairpersons of the National Assembly simultaneously remain vacant, nomination of candidates, discussion and voting shall be carried out separately.
3. The factions shall have the right to nominate one candidate for a Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly from among the National Assembly. A candidate for one of the Deputy Chairpersons of the National Assembly may be nominated only from among the Deputies included in the opposition faction.
4. Candidates for the Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be nominated:
 - (1) at the beginning of the discussion of the issue on election of each Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly during the first session of the National Assembly;
 - (2) within a 10-day period after the position of a Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly remains vacant.
5. ***(part repealed by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)***
6. The issue on election of the Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by Article 135 of the Rules of Procedure.
7. The Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be elected by secret ballot, by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.

8. Where more than two candidates have participated in the voting and none of them has been elected, a second round of election shall be held, in which the two candidates having received the greatest number of votes in the first round may participate. The issue shall be discussed as prescribed by part 9 of Article 139 of the Rules of Procedure.
9. Where no Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly is elected, a new election of the Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be held as prescribed by this Article.

(Article 137 amended by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)

Article 138. Elections of chairpersons of standing committees and their deputies

1. Elections of chairpersons of standing committees and their deputies shall be held during the first session of the National Assembly, as well as in case the positions thereof remain vacant.
2. The faction chosen as prescribed by part 3 of this Article shall have the right to nominate a candidate for the chairperson of a standing committee and the deputy thereof. The right to nominate candidates shall be preserved until the termination of powers of the National Assembly.
3. The right to nominate candidates for the positions of chairpersons of standing committees and their deputies from among Deputies shall be distributed among factions on the opening day of the first session of the National Assembly, by the coefficient received for each position, which shall be calculated by $C_f = \frac{M_f}{(P_f + 1)}$ formula, where:
 - (1) C_f — coefficient received by a faction for each position;
 - (2) M_f — the total number of members of a faction;

- (3) Pf — the total number of the positions of chairpersons of standing committees and their deputies reserved to the faction by the right of nominating a candidate, in calculating the coefficient of the faction for each position. At the beginning of calculation of coefficients Pf shall be equal to zero.
4. The right to nominate a candidate for one of the chairpersons of standing committees or their deputies shall be reserved to the faction having the highest coefficient at the beginning of calculation of coefficients. The right to nominate a candidate for the next position shall be reserved to the faction having a relatively higher coefficient as compared to other factions. In case of equal highest coefficients, the right to nominate a candidate for the relevant position of the chairperson of the standing committee or the deputy thereof shall be determined by mutual consent of factions having equal coefficients, and, where it is impossible — by drawing of lots. Calculation of coefficients shall be repeated until the right to nominate a candidate for the last position of the chairpersons of standing committees and their deputies is determined.
5. After determining the right to nominate candidates for the positions of chairpersons of standing committees and their deputies, factions shall, upon mutual consent, exchange or surrender to each other their right to nominate a candidate for the position of the chairperson of a standing committee and the deputy thereof.
6. Candidates for the chairperson of a standing committee shall be nominated:
- (1) at the beginning of the discussion of the issue on election of the chairperson of each standing committee during the first session of the National Assembly;
 - (2) within a 10-day period after the position of the chairperson of a standing committee remains vacant.

7. *(part repealed by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)*
8. The issue on election of the chairperson of the standing committee shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by Article 135 of the Rules of Procedure.
9. Chairperson of the standing committee shall be elected by secret ballot, by majority of votes of the Deputies participating in the voting, provided that more than half of the total number of the Deputies have participated in the voting.
10. Where no chairperson of the standing committee is elected, the competent faction shall, within a 10-day period following the voting, nominate a new candidate for the vacant position.
11. The deputy chairperson of the standing committee shall be elected by the nomination of the head or secretary of the competent faction, upon the decision of the committee. Election of the deputy chairperson of the standing committee shall be held within 5 working days after the composition of the committee has been approved, as well as after his or her position has remained vacant.
12. Where a faction does not nominate a candidate for the vacant position reserved thereto of the chairperson of the standing committee or the deputy thereof within the time limit prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, the right to nominate a candidate for the given position shall, as prescribed by part 4 of this Article, pass to the faction having the highest coefficient at the beginning of calculation of the coefficients of factions.

(Article 138 amended by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)

Article 139. Election of the President of the Republic

1. Regular election of the President of the Republic shall be held not earlier than forty and not later than thirty days prior to the expiry of powers of the President

of the Republic, and an extraordinary election shall be held not earlier than within twenty-five and not later than within thirty-five days after the office of the President of the Republic remains vacant in cases of removal from office, impossibility to exercise his or her powers, resignation or death of the President of the Republic.

2. In case of a regular election, candidates may be nominated for the President of the Republic not earlier than fifty and not later than forty days prior to the expiry of powers of the President of the Republic, and in case of an extraordinary election — within a 5-day period after the office of the President of the Republic becomes vacant.
3. Judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, Anti-Corruption Committee, Police, National Security, Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, rescue, tax, customs authorities, penitentiary service, military servants may not be nominated as a candidate for the President of the Republic.
4. At least one fourth of the total number of Deputies shall have the right to nominate a candidate for the President of the Republic.
5. A candidate for the President of the Republic shall be nominated upon the written application of at least one quarter of the total number of Deputies, wherein names, surnames of the candidate for the President of the Republic, as well as the representative of Deputies having the competence to recommend him or her shall be indicated. Documents certifying the compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Constitution shall be attached to the application. In case of incompliance with the requirements of the Constitution or part 3 of this Article, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall return the application and the documents attached thereto to the representative of Deputies, specifying the reasons thereon.

6. In case of ensuring the periods prescribed by part 1 of this Article, the issue on election of the President of the Republic shall be discussed during the upcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly upon expiry of the time limit for nomination of candidates, and in case of failure to hold regular sittings of the National Assembly within those periods — at a special sitting of the National Assembly, immediately convened by virtue of law, with regard to which the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall make a statement.
7. The issue shall be discussed as prescribed by part 1 of Article 135 of the Rules of Procedure, with the following difference:
 - (1) up to fifteen minutes shall be allotted for presenting candidates;
 - (2) up to one hour shall be allotted for speeches of candidates;
 - (3) up to thirty minutes shall be allotted for concluding speeches of candidates.
8. The candidate having received, by secret ballot, at least three quarter of votes of the total number of Deputies shall be elected as President of the Republic.
9. Where no President of the Republic is elected, a second round of election shall be held wherein all the candidates having participated in the first round may participate. The issue shall be discussed as prescribed by part 1 of Article 135 of the Rules of Procedure, with the following difference:
 - (1) up to fifteen minutes shall be allotted to candidates for delivering speeches;
 - (2) only representatives of the factions may deliver speeches with a duration of up to ten minutes during the exchange of ideas;
10. The candidate having received, by secret ballot, at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies shall be elected as President of the Republic in the second round. Where no President of the Republic is elected, a third round of election shall be held wherein the two candidates having received the greatest number of votes in the second round may participate. The issue shall be discussed as prescribed by part 9 of this Article.

11. The candidate having received, by secret ballot, the majority of votes of the total number of Deputies shall be elected as President of the Republic in the third round.
12. Where no President of the Republic is elected within the period prescribed by Article 125 of the Constitution, new candidates for the President of the Republic may be nominated within a 5-day period following the voting, and a new election of the President of the Republic shall be held within a period of ten days.
13. The President of the Republic shall assume the office at the special sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by Article 49 of the Rules of Procedure.

(Article 139 edited, supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, amended by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020, HO-157-N of 24 March 2021)

Article 140. Election of the Prime Minister

1. Within a 7-day period following the acceptance of resignation of the Government in case of submission of resignation by the Prime Minister or in other cases where the position of the Prime Minister remains vacant, a faction shall have the right to:
 - (1) nominate one candidate for the Prime Minister, or
 - (2) form a political coalition with another faction and nominate one candidate for the Prime Minister.
2. A candidate for the Prime Minister shall be nominated by the decision of the faction, and in case of a political coalition — all the factions included in the coalition. Names, surnames of the candidate for the Prime Minister and of the representative of the faction (factions) having the competence to recommend him or her shall be indicated in the Decision. Documents certifying the compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Constitution shall be attached to the

Decision. In case of non-compliance with the requirements of the Constitution, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within six hours — return the decision and the documents attached thereto to the faction, specifying the reasons thereon.

3. In the cases provided for by parts 1 and 6 of this Article, the issue on election of the Prime Minister shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly on the day following the day of expiry of the time limit for nomination of candidates. In case no regular sittings of the National Assembly are held on that day, the issue on election of the Prime Minister shall be discussed on the day following the day of expiry of the time limit for nomination of candidates for the Prime Minister — at 12:00, at a special sitting of the National Assembly convened by virtue of law, with regard to which the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall make a statement.
4. In the cases provided for by parts 1 and 6 of this Article, the issue on election of the Prime Minister shall be discussed as prescribed by part 7 of Article 139 of the Rules of Procedure.
5. The Prime Minister shall be elected by roll-call voting, by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.
6. Where no Prime Minister is elected, a new election of the Prime Minister shall be held after seven days following the voting wherein the candidates for the Prime Minister nominated by at least one third of the total number of Deputies shall have the right to participate. In this case, candidates for the Prime Minister may be nominated within six days after the voting provided for by part 5 of this Article.
7. At least one third of Deputies shall nominate a candidate for the Prime Minister upon a written application wherein names, surnames of the candidate for the Prime Minister, as well as the Deputy having the competence to recommend him

or her shall be indicated. Documents certifying the compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Constitution shall be attached to the application. In case of incompliance with the requirements of the Constitution, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within six hours — return the application and the documents attached thereto to the representative of the Deputies, specifying the reasons thereon.

8. ***(part repealed by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)***

9. Where no Prime Minister is elected by roll-call voting, by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies, the National Assembly shall be dissolved by virtue of law.

10. The President of the Republic shall immediately appoint the candidate elected by the National Assembly as Prime Minister.

(Article 140 edited, supplemented, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 141. Election of the judges of the Constitutional Court

1. ***(part repealed by HO-4-N of 29 March 2019)***

2. The National Assembly shall elect three of the nine judges of the Constitutional Court upon recommendation of the President of the Republic, three — upon recommendation of the Government, and three — upon recommendation of the General Assembly of Judges.

3. ***(part repealed by HO-4-N of 29 March 2019)***

4. A candidate for a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be nominated upon a written application addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly wherein names, surnames of the candidate for a judge of the Constitutional Court, as well as the person having the competence to recommend him or her shall be indicated. Documents certifying the compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Constitution and law, as well as the questionnaire on integrity

filled in by the candidate shall be attached to the application. In case of incompliance with the requirements of the Constitution or law, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within two working days — return the application and the documents attached thereto to the body nominating the candidate, specifying the reasons thereon, which shall be obliged to nominate a new candidate within a period of one month. In case of compliance with the requirements of the Constitution and law, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within one working day — submit the filled in questionnaire on integrity to the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption for the purpose of obtaining an advisory opinion within a period of ten days.

5. ***(part repealed by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)***
6. The issue on election of a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by part 5 of Article 139 of the Rules of Procedure, within a period so that the provision of an advisory opinion on the candidate for a judge of the Constitutional Court by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption prescribed by part 4 of this Article is ensured.
7. A judge of the Constitutional Court shall be elected by secret ballot, by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies. ***(sentence deleted by HO-4-N of 29 March 2019)***
8. ***(part repealed by HO-4-N of 29 March 2019)***

(Article 141 supplemented, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, edited by HO-96-N of 7 February 2018, amended by HO-4-N of 29 March 2019, supplemented, edited by HO-201-N of 25 March 2020, amended, supplemented by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)

(the provision of the Article contradicting the Constitution as recognised by Decision SDVo-1434 of 6 November 2018 was brought into compliance with the Constitution through amendment of Article 1 of Law HO-4-N of 29 March 2019)

Article 142. Election of Chairperson of the Court of Cassation

1. The election of the Chairperson of the Court of Cassation shall be held in case the office thereof becomes vacant.
2. The National Assembly shall elect the Chairperson of the Court of Cassation upon recommendation of the Supreme Judicial Council, from among the members of the Court of Cassation.
3. The Supreme Judicial Council shall — within a period of ten days from the day of expiry of the term of office of the Chairperson of the Court of Cassation — propose a candidate for the Chairperson of the Court of Cassation upon a written application addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly as prescribed by the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia "Judicial Code of the Republic of Armenia", and in case the office becomes vacant on other grounds — within a period of one month. Documents certifying the compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Constitution and law, as well as the advisory opinion on integrity provided by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption shall be attached to the application. In case of incompliance with the requirements of the Constitution or law, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within two working days — return the application and the documents attached thereto to the Supreme Judicial Council, specifying the reasons thereon, which shall be obliged to propose a new candidate within a period of five days.
4. ***(part repealed by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)***
5. The issue on election of the Chairperson of the Court of Cassation shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by part 5 of Article 136 of the Rules of Procedure. The candidate shall be nominated by the Chairperson of the Supreme Judicial Council.

6. The Chairperson of the Court of Cassation shall be elected by secret ballot, by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.
7. Where the Chairperson of the Court of Cassation is not elected, the Supreme Judicial Council shall — within a period of ten days following the voting — nominate for the vacant office a new candidate for the Chairperson of the Court of Cassation.

(Article 142 edited, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, edited by HO-96-N of 7 February 2018, amended by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020, supplemented by HO-332-N of 14 April 2021)

Article 143. Election of candidates for judges of the Court of Cassation

1. The election of a candidate for a judge of the Court of Cassation shall be held in case the office of a judge of the Court of Cassation becomes vacant.
2. The National Assembly shall elect candidates for judges of the Court of Cassation from among the three candidates nominated by the Supreme Judicial Council for each seat of a judge.
3. The Supreme Judicial Council shall — within a period of ten days from the day of expiry of the term of office of a judge of the Court of Cassation — nominate candidates for judges of the Court of Cassation upon a written application addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly as prescribed by the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia "Judicial Code of the Republic of Armenia", and in case the office becomes vacant on other grounds — within a period of one month. Documents certifying the compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Constitution and law, as well as the advisory opinion on integrity provided by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption shall be attached to the application. In case of incompliance with the

requirements of the Constitution or law, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within two working days — return the application and the documents attached thereto to the Supreme Judicial Council, specifying the reasons thereon, which shall be obliged to nominate a new candidate within a period of five days.

4. ***(part repealed by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)***
5. The issue on election of a candidate for a judge of the Court of Cassation shall be discussed as prescribed by Article 135 of the Rules of Procedure. Candidates shall be nominated by the Chairperson of the Supreme Judicial Council. The candidate for a judge of the Court of Cassation, proposed to the President of the Republic, shall be elected by secret ballot, by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies.
6. Where none of the candidates is elected, a second round of elections shall be held wherein the two candidates having received a greater number of votes in the first round may participate. The issue shall be discussed as prescribed by part 9 of Article 139 of the Rules of Procedure.
7. Where a candidate for a judge of the Court of Cassation is not elected, the Supreme Judicial Council shall nominate new candidates within a period of ten days following the voting.
8. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall, within two working days, forward the decision of the National Assembly on proposing a candidate for a judge of the Court of Cassation to the President of the Republic, who shall — within a period of three days following the receipt thereof — :
 - (1) appoint a judge of the Court of Cassation; or
 - (2) return the decision of the National Assembly with his or her objections to the National Assembly.

9. The returned decision of the National Assembly shall be discussed at the forthcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly, under the following procedure:
 - (1) the President of the Republic or the representative thereof shall deliver a speech with a duration of up to twenty minutes, after which questions may be asked thereto;
 - (2) only representatives of the factions may deliver speeches with a duration of up to ten minutes during the exchange of ideas;
 - (3) the President of the Republic or the representative thereof may deliver a concluding speech of up to ten minutes;
 - (4) the issue of accepting the objection of the President of the Republic shall be put to vote following the concluding speeches.
10. Where the objection of the President of the Republic is not accepted by the National Assembly, the President of the Republic shall sign a decree on appointing the judge of the Court of Cassation or shall apply to the Constitutional Court. Where the President of the Republic fails to fulfil the requirements prescribed by this part, the decree of the President of the Republic on appointing the candidate proposed by the National Assembly as a judge of the Court of Cassation shall enter into force by virtue of law.
11. Where the objection of the President of the Republic is accepted by the National Assembly, the Supreme Judicial Council shall — within a period of ten days following the voting — nominate new candidates.

(Article 143 edited, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, edited by HO-96-N of 7 February 2018, amended by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020, supplemented by HO-332-N of 14 April 2021)

Article 144. Election of members of the Supreme Judicial Council

1. Election of a member of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be held:
 - (1) not earlier than three months and not later than one day prior to the expiry of the powers of the member of the Supreme Judicial Council, elected by the National Assembly;
 - (2) within a period of three months after the office of the member of the Supreme Judicial Council, elected by the National Assembly, becomes vacant.
2. Each faction shall have the right to nominate one candidate for the office of a member of the Supreme Judicial Council. The candidate shall be nominated upon the decision of the faction. Names, surnames of the candidate for the member of the Supreme Judicial Council and of the representative of the faction having the competence to nominate him or her shall be indicated in the decision. Documents certifying the compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Constitution and law, as well as the questionnaire on integrity filled in by the candidate shall be attached to the decision. In case of incompliance with the requirements of the Constitution or law, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within two working days — return the decision and the documents attached thereto to the faction, specifying the reasons thereon. In case of compliance with the requirements of the Constitution and law, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within one working day — submit the filled in questionnaire on integrity to the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption for the purpose of obtaining an advisory opinion thereon within a period of ten days.
3. Candidates may be nominated
 - (1) not earlier than three months and not later than eighty days prior to the expiry of the powers of the member of the Supreme Judicial Council;

- (2) within a period of ten days after the office of the member of the Supreme Judicial Council becomes vacant.
4. The Staff shall — at least one hundred days before the expiry of the powers of a member of the Supreme Judicial Council, as well as within twenty-four hours after the office thereof becomes vacant — inform in writing thereon the Chairperson of the National Assembly and factions.
 5. **(part repealed by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)**
 6. The issue on election of a member of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by Article 135 of the Rules of Procedure within such a period so that the provision of an advisory opinion on candidates for a member of the Supreme Judicial Council by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption prescribed by part 2 of this Article is ensured.
 7. The member of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be elected by secret ballot, by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies. In the case provided for by point 1 of part 1 of this Article, the newly-elected member of the Supreme Judicial Council shall assume his or her office on the day of expiry of the powers of the member of the Supreme Judicial Council.
 8. Where more than two candidates have participated in the voting and none of them has been elected, a second round of election shall be held, wherein the two candidates having received a greater number of votes in the first round may participate. The issue shall be discussed as prescribed by part 9 of Article 139 of the Rules of Procedure.
 9. Where a member of the Supreme Judicial Council is not elected, the factions may — within a period of ten days following the voting — nominate for the vacant office a new candidate for a member of Supreme Judicial Council.

(Article 144 edited, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, supplemented by HO-201-N of 25 March 2020, amended by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)

Article 145. Procedure for election of officials through nomination by competent standing committees

1. The election of the Prosecutor General, the Human Rights Defender, the Chairperson and other members of the Audit Chamber, the Chairperson of the Central Bank, deputies thereof and the other members of the Board, the Chairperson and other members of the Central Electoral Commission, members of the Television and Radio Commission shall be held:
 - (1) not earlier than three months and not later than one day prior to the expiry of the powers of the relevant official;
 - (2) within a period of three months after the office of the relevant official becomes vacant.
2. A candidate for the office referred to in part 1 of this Article shall be proposed to the National Assembly upon decision of a competent standing committee of the National Assembly, from among the nominated candidates — one candidate nominated by each faction.
3. Candidates may be nominated:
 - (1) not earlier than three months and not later than eighty days prior to the expiry of the powers of the official referred to in part 1 of this Article;
 - (2) within a period of ten days after the office of the official referred to in part 1 of this Article becomes vacant.
4. The Staff shall — at least one hundred days before the expiry of the powers of the official referred to in part 1 of this Article, as well as within twenty-four hours after the office thereof becomes vacant — inform in writing thereon the competent standing committee and factions.
 - 4.1. A candidate for the position referred to in part 1 of this Article shall be nominated to the competent standing committee of the National Assembly upon

the decision of the faction. Names, surnames of the candidate and of the representative of the faction having the competence to nominate him or her shall be indicated in the decision. Documents certifying the compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Constitution and law, and in case of a candidate for the Prosecutor General — also the questionnaire on integrity filled in by the candidate shall be attached to the decision. In case of incompliance with the requirements of the Constitution or law, the chairperson of the competent standing committee of the National Assembly shall — within two working days — return the decision and the documents attached thereto to the faction, specifying the reasons thereon. In case of compliance with the requirements of the Constitution and law, the chairperson of the competent standing committee of the National Assembly shall — within one working day — submit the filled in questionnaire on integrity of the candidate for the Prosecutor General to the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption for the purpose of obtaining an advisory opinion within a period of two weeks.

5. Within a period of two weeks following the expiry of the time limit for the nomination of candidates and the nomination of at least one candidate, and in case of a candidate for the Prosecutor General — within such a period so that the provision of an advisory opinion on the candidate by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption prescribed by part 4.1 of this Article is ensured, the issue on proposing a candidate for the National Assembly shall be discussed at the forthcoming regular sitting of the competent standing committee or may be discussed at the extraordinary sitting of the committee. The competent standing committee shall propose to the National Assembly one candidate for the official referred to in part 1 of this Article. The chairperson of the competent standing committee shall — within twenty-four hours following the conclusion of the discussion of the issue — forward to the Chairperson of the National Assembly the excerpt from the minutes of the sitting of the committee, and in case of a

candidate for the Prosecutor General — also the advisory opinion provided by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption.

6. **(sentence deleted by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)** Where the competent **standing** committee does not propose to the National Assembly a candidate within the period prescribed by part 5 of this Article, new candidates may — within a period of ten days thereafter — be nominated to the position having become vacant.
7. **(part repealed by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020)**
8. The issue on election of the official referred to in part 1 of this Article shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by Article 135 of the Rules of Procedure.
9. The Prosecutor General, the Human Rights Defender, the Chairperson and other members of the Audit Chamber, the Chairperson of the Central Bank, the Chairperson and other members of the Central Electoral Commission, members of the Television and Radio Commission shall be elected by secret ballot, by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies.
10. Deputy chairpersons of the Central Bank, as well as other members of the Board of the Central Bank, except for the Chairperson of the Central Bank, shall be elected by secret ballot, by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.
11. In the case provided for by point 1 of part 1 of this Article, the newly-elected Prosecutor General, the Human Rights Defender, the Chairperson and other members of the Audit Chamber, the Chairperson of the Central Bank, deputies thereof and other members of the Board, the Chairperson and other members of the Central Electoral Commission, members of the Television and Radio Commission shall assume their office on the day of expiry of powers of the relevant official.

12. Where the official referred to in part 1 of this Article is not elected, new candidates may — within a period of ten days following the voting — be nominated for the vacant office.

(Article 145 supplemented, amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, edited, amended by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020, supplemented by HO-332-N of 14 April 2021)

Article 146. Appointment of members of autonomous bodies

1. The bodies provided for by law shall have the right to nominate a candidate for the vacant position of a member of the autonomous body established by that law. A candidate shall be nominated upon a written application addressed to the Chairperson of the National Assembly. Documents certifying the compliance with the requirements prescribed by law shall be attached to the application. In case of non-compliance with the requirements of law, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within two working days — return the documents on nomination of the candidate to the competent body, specifying the reasons thereon.
2. Where the right to nominate a candidate for the vacant position of a member of the autonomous body is reserved by law to the ruling or opposition faction of the National Assembly, and there are more than one ruling or opposition faction of the National Assembly, the ruling or opposition factions of the National Assembly shall nominate a previously agreed joint candidate for the relevant vacant position of a member of the autonomous body.
 - 2.1. Where formation of the Competition Board for selection of candidates for the position of a member of an autonomous body is provided for by law, and the competence of appointing a member thereof is reserved to the factions of the National Assembly or the Council of the National Assembly, the factions of the

National Asseembly shall — within five working days after becoming informed about formation of the Competition Board as prescribed by law — appoint one candidate for the member of the Competition Board upon the decision adopted by consensus.

- 2.2. Where no member of the Competition Board formed for selection of candidates for the position of a member of an autonomous body is appointed by the factions of the National Asseembly within the period prescribed by part 2.1 of this Article, the Council of the National Asseembly shall — within five working days following expiry of that period — appoint the member of the Competition Board from among the candidates nominated by the factions of the National Asseembly.
3. Where no candidate is nominated for the vacant position of the member of the autonomous body reserved to the opposition faction of the National Assembly within the period prescribed by law, the right to nominate a candidate for that position shall pass to the ruling faction of the National Assembly.
4. The issue on appointment of a member of the autonomous body shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by Article 135 of the Rules of Procedure.
5. A member of the autonomous body shall be appointed by secret ballot, by majority of votes of the total number of the Deputies.

(Article 146 supplemented by HO-175-N of 13 September 2019, edited, supplemented by HO-309-N of 22 June 2020, supplemented by HO-439-N of 18 September 2020)

CHAPTER 28

ISSUES ON DISCONTINUATING AND TERMINATING POWERS OF, RECALLING, SEEKING NON-CONFIDENCE AGAINST AND REMOVING OFFICIALS FROM OFFICE

Article 147. General procedure for discontinuation of powers of officials

1. Except for the Prime Minister and judges of the Court of Cassation, other officials elected or appointed by the National Assembly shall officially submit their written application on resignation to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, who shall make a statement thereon.
2. Where within a week following the promulgation of the resignation, the relevant official:
 - (1) withdraws, upon written application, his or her application on resignation, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall make a statement thereon;
 - (2) fails to withdraw, upon written application, his or her application on resignation, a protocol shall be drawn up on discontinuation of the powers thereof, which shall be signed and promulgated by the Chairperson of the National Assembly. The resignation shall be deemed to be accepted upon promulgation of the protocol.
3. In other cases provided for by the Constitution or law, the fact of early termination of powers of an official elected or appointed by the National Assembly shall be recorded by the Chairperson of the National Assembly within three days after being officially informed thereon.
4. Powers of an official elected or appointed by the National Assembly shall be deemed to be early discontinued after the fact is recorded and a statement thereon is made by the Chairperson of the National Assembly.

Article 148. Discontinuation of powers of Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons of the National Assembly

1. The powers of the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly shall discontinue, where:
 - (1) parliamentary powers thereof have discontinued or have been terminated;
 - (2) he or she has submitted a resignation;
 - (3) he or she has withdrawn or has been dismissed from the faction, where he or she has been elected to office by nomination of the given faction only.
2. The powers of the Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly, elected from among the Deputies included in the opposition factions shall also discontinue, when the faction thereof ceases to be deemed to be opposition.

Article 149. Procedure for recalling Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons of the National Assembly

1. A faction shall be entitled to submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on recalling the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly.
2. The issue of recalling the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly, under the following procedure:
 - (1) a speech with a duration of up to twenty minutes shall be delivered by the main rapporteur;
 - (2) a speech with a duration of up to twenty minutes may be delivered by the Chairperson of the National Assembly;
 - (3) following the speech, questions may be asked to the main rapporteur and the Chairperson of the National Assembly;

- (4) exchange of ideas;
 - (5) concluding speeches with a duration of up to fifteen minutes may be delivered by the main rapporteur and the Chairperson of the National Assembly in the same sequence.
3. The decision of the National Assembly on recalling the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly shall be adopted by secret ballot, by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.

Article 150. Discontinuation and termination of powers of chairperson or deputy chairperson of a standing committee

1. The powers of the chairperson or deputy chairperson of a standing committee shall discontinue, where:
 - (1) parliamentary powers thereof have discontinued or have been terminated;
 - (2) he or she has submitted a resignation;
 - (3) he or she has withdrawn or has been dismissed from the faction.
2. A faction shall be entitled to submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on termination of powers of the chairperson of a standing committee.
3. The issue of termination of powers of the chairperson of a standing committee shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by part 2 of Article 149 of the Rules of Procedure, with the following difference — the chairperson of a standing committee may deliver a speech, answer questions, as well deliver a concluding speech after the main rapporteur.
4. The decision of the National Assembly on termination of powers of the chairperson of a standing committee shall be adopted by secret ballot, by

majority of votes of the Deputies participating in the voting, provided that more than half of the total number of Deputies have participated in the voting.

5. Powers of the deputy chairperson of a standing committee may be terminated upon decision of the commission.

Article 151. Procedure for removing the President of the Republic from office

1. The President of the Republic may be removed from office for treason, another grave crime, or gross violation of the Constitution.
2. A faction shall be entitled to submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on removing the President of the Republic from office.
3. The issue shall be discussed at the National Assembly as prescribed by part 2 of Article 149 of the Rules of Procedure, with the following difference:
 - (1) the President of the Republic may deliver a speech and answer questions, as well deliver a concluding speech after the main rapporteur;
 - (2) for the purpose of obtaining an opinion on the existence of grounds for removing the President of the Republic from office, the National Assembly shall — upon recommendation of the main rapporteur in the concluding speech — apply to the Constitutional Court, upon a decision adopted by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies, and the discussion of the issue shall be recessed until the receipt of the opinion of the Constitutional Court. Where the decision of the National Assembly on applying to the Constitutional Court is not adopted, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation.
4. Where according to the opinion of the Constitutional Court, the grounds for removing the President of the Republic from office are missing, the discussion of

the issue of removing the President of the Republic from office shall be deemed to be concluded, the draft decision of the National Assembly shall be withdrawn from circulation, and the facts refuted upon the decision of the Constitutional Court may not serve as a ground for the draft of the National Assembly on removing the President of the Republic from office.

5. Where according to opinion of the Constitutional Court there are grounds for removing the President of the Republic from office, the discussion of the issue:
 - (1) shall, following the receipt of the opinion, be resumed at the forthcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly; or
 - (2) may, following the receipt of the opinion, be resumed at the extraordinary session or sitting of the National Assembly initiated for that purpose.
6. In case the discussion is resumed, representatives of factions and the President of the Republic may deliver speeches with a duration of up to ten minutes, after which voting shall be held.
7. Based on the opinion of the Constitutional Court, the decision of the National Assembly on removing the President of the Republic from office shall be adopted by secret ballot, by at least two thirds of votes of the total number of Deputies.
8. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall immediately sign and promulgate the decision of the National Assembly on removing the President of the Republic from office.
9. The application submitted to the Constitutional Court for removing the President of the Republic from office may be withdrawn upon the decision of the National Assembly, the draft of which a faction shall have the right to submit. The draft shall be submitted to the National Assembly for discussion and put into circulation under a general procedure.

(Article 151 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 152. Procedure for seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister

1. Non-confidence may be sought against the Prime Minister not earlier than one year after his or her appointment.
2. A draft decision of the National Assembly on seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister may not be submitted or discussed during state of emergency or martial law.
3. A draft decision of the National Assembly on seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister may be submitted by at least one third of the total number of Deputies only in the case when a candidate for a new Prime Minister is simultaneously proposed by the draft decision.
4. A draft decision of the National Assembly on seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister shall be submitted upon written application of at least one third of the total number of Deputies, wherein the names, surnames of a candidate for a new Prime Minister, as well as of the Deputies entitled to nominate him or her shall be specified. Documents certifying the compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Constitution and law shall be attached to the application.
5. The issue of seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister shall be discussed at the forthcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly not earlier than forty-eight and not later than fifty hours upon the submission thereof to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, and in case no regular sittings are held within the given time periods — at a special sitting of the National Assembly immediately convened by virtue of law.
6. The issue shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly under the following procedure:

- (1) a speech with a duration of up to twenty minutes may be delivered by the main rapporteur, who shall introduce the draft on seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister and the candidate for a new Prime Minister;
 - (2) a speech with a duration of up to one hour shall be delivered by the Prime Minister;
 - (3) a speech with a duration of up to one hour shall be delivered by the candidate for a new Prime Minister;
 - (4) following the speech, questions may be asked to the main rapporteur, Prime Minister and the candidate for a new Prime Minister;
 - (5) exchange of ideas;
 - (6) a concluding speech with a duration of up to fifteen minutes may be delivered by the main rapporteur;
 - (7) up to thirty minutes shall be allocated to the Prime Minister and the candidate for a new Prime Minister for concluding speeches.
7. The draft decision of the National Assembly on seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister shall be put to vote not earlier than forty-eight and not later than seventy-two hours upon the submission thereof. The decision shall be adopted by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies, by roll-call voting.
 8. In case state of emergency or martial law is declared during the discussion of the issue on seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister, the discussion of the issue shall be interrupted, and shall be resumed at the forthcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly not earlier than forty-eight and not later than fifty hours after the end of state of emergency or martial law, and in case no regular sittings are held within the given time periods — at a special sitting of the National Assembly immediately convened by virtue of law. The draft decision of the National Assembly on seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister

shall be put to vote within twenty-four hours after resuming the discussion of the issue.

9. Where the decision on seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister:
 - (1) is adopted within the time limit prescribed by part 2 of Article 115 of the Constitution, it shall be deemed that the Prime Minister has submitted a resignation and the new Prime Minister has been elected;
 - (2) is not accepted within the time limit prescribed by part 2 of Article 115 of the Constitution, the discussion of the issue shall be deemed to be concluded, the draft shall be withdrawn from circulation, and a similar draft may be submitted not earlier than in six month.
10. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall immediately sign and promulgate the decision of the National Assembly on seeking non-confidence against the Prime Minister.

(Article 152 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 153. Procedure for termination of powers of officials, elected by the National Assembly, in case of violation of conditions prescribed by the Constitution

1. In case of violation of one of the incompatibility requirements prescribed for Deputies by Article 95 of the Constitution, powers of the members of the Central Electoral Commission, Television and Radio Commission, Audit Chamber, Board of the Central Bank may be terminated based on the opinion of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, as prescribed by this Article.
2. Except for the cases of removing the Prosecutor General from office in the cases prescribed by law, as well as the cases referred to in part 1 of this Article, a faction shall — in case of violation of any other condition prescribed by the

Constitution or law — have the right to submit a draft decision of the National Assembly on termination of powers of a member of the Central Electoral Commission, Television and Radio Commission, Audit Chamber or Board of the Central Bank. The draft shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by part 2 of Article 149 of the Rules of Procedure, with the following difference — the official referred to in the draft may deliver a speech and answer questions, as well as deliver a concluding speech after the main rapporteur.

3. The Commission for the Prevention of Corruption shall submit to the National Assembly the opinion on violation of one of the conditions of the Constitution, as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On public service".
4. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within twenty-four hours following the receipt of the opinion — ensure provision thereof to Deputies, and the issue of termination of powers of the official referred to in the opinion shall be discussed at the forthcoming sittings of the National Assembly.
5. The official referred to in the opinion shall, at least one week earlier, be informed in writing about the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly. In case of absence thereof, the discussion of the issue shall be postponed two times for two weeks each time, whereafter it shall be discussed at the subsequent regular sittings, irrespective of the presence thereof.
6. The issue of termination of powers of the official referred to in the opinion shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by part 2 of Article 149 of the Rules of Procedure, with the following difference — the Chairperson of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption shall deliver a speech as a main rapporteur, whereafter the official referred to in the opinion may deliver a speech and answer the questions.

7. At the end of the discussion of the issue, the issue of termination of powers of the official referred to in the opinion shall — based on the opinion of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption — be put to vote.
8. A decision of the National Assembly on removing the Prosecutor General from office, as well as on termination of powers of a member of the Central Electoral Commission, a member of the Television and Radio Commission, the Chairperson of the Central Bank, a member of the Audit Chamber shall be adopted by secret ballot, by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies, and a decision on termination of powers of the other members of the Board of the Central Bank shall be adopted by secret ballot, by majority of votes of the total number of Deputies.

(Article 153 amended by HO-175-N of 13 September 2019)

**Article 153.1. Procedure for termination of powers of a member of the
autonomous body**

(title edited by HO-175-N of 13 September 2019)

1. Powers of a member of the autonomous body appointed by the National Assembly may — in case of existence of the grounds prescribed by law — be terminated upon the opinion of that autonomous body, as prescribed by this Article.
2. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within twenty-four hours after receiving the opinion as prescribed by law — ensure the provision thereof to the Deputies, and the issue on termination of the powers of the member of the autonomous body shall be discussed at the forthcoming regular sittings of the National Assembly.

3. The member of the autonomous body referred to in the opinion shall — at least one week earlier — be informed in writing about the discussion of the issue at the sitting of the National Assembly. In case of absence thereof, the discussion of the issue shall be postponed two times for two weeks each time, whereafter it shall be discussed at the subsequent regular sittings, irrespective of the presence thereof.
4. The issue of termination of powers of the member of the autonomous body shall be discussed at the sitting of the National Assembly as prescribed by part 2 of Article 149 of the Rules of Procedure, with the following difference — the chairperson of the autonomous body or the person substituting him or her as prescribed by law shall deliver a speech as a main rapporteur, whereafter the member of the autonomous body referred to in the opinion may deliver a speech and answer the questions.
5. At the end of the discussion of the issue, the issue of termination of powers of the member of the autonomous body shall — based on the opinion of the autonomous body — be put to vote.
6. The decision of the National Assembly on termination of powers of the member of the autonomous body shall be adopted by secret ballot, by majority of votes of the total number of the Deputies.

(Article 153.1 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, edited by HO-175-N of 13 September 2019)

SECTION 7

DISCONTINUATION AND TERMINATION OF POWERS OF A DEPUTY

CHAPTER 29

DISCONTINUATION OF POWERS OF A DEPUTY

Article 154. Procedure for discontinuation of powers of a Deputy

1. The powers of a Deputy shall discontinue, where:
 - (1) the term of powers of the National Assembly has expired;
 - (2) he or she has lost citizenship of the Republic of Armenia;
 - (3) he or she has acquired citizenship of another State;
 - (4) a criminal judgment on sentencing him or her to imprisonment has entered into legal force;
 - (5) a civil judgment of the court on declaring him or her as having no active legal capacity, as missing or dead has entered into legal force;
 - (6) he or she has submitted a resignation.
2. A Deputy shall submit the resignation thereof as prescribed by Article 155 of the Rules of Procedure.
3. In the cases provided for by points 2-6 of part 1 of this Article, a protocol on discontinuation of the powers of a Deputy shall, based on the relevant documents, be drawn up, which shall be signed and forwarded, within a week, to the Central Electoral Commission by the Chairperson of the National Assembly.

Article 155. Procedure for submission of a resignation of a Deputy

1. A Deputy shall officially submit his or her written application on resignation to the Chairperson of the National Assembly, who shall make a statement thereon.
2. Where within a week following the promulgation of the resignation, a Deputy:
 - (1) withdraws, upon written application, his or her application on resignation, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall make a statement thereon;
 - (2) fails to withdraw, upon written application, his or her application on resignation, a protocol shall be drawn up on discontinuation of the powers thereof, which shall be signed and promulgated by the Chairperson of the National Assembly. The resignation shall be deemed to be accepted upon promulgation of the protocol.

CHAPTER 30

TERMINATION OF POWERS OF A DEPUTY

Article 156. Applying to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy in case of unexcused absence from at least half of the votings held during one half of the calendar year

1. The Council shall, as well as at least one fifth of the total number of Deputies may, as prescribed by this Article, apply to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy in case of unexcused absence from at least half of the votings held during each half of the calendar year.

2. Participation of a Deputy in the votings shall be record-registered by the Staff, as prescribed by the Operations Procedure.
3. Absence of a Deputy shall be deemed to be excused, where:
 - (1) ***(point repealed by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)***
 - (2) a relevant document is submitted to the Head of the Staff within one week following the excused absence thereof, provided for by the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia;
 - (3) he or she has been sent on a business trip by the National Assembly;
 - (4) he or she has been arrested, or detention has been imposed on him or her as a measure of restraint, he or she has not been sentenced to imprisonment, or a decision on terminating criminal prosecution against him or her has been rendered;
 - (5) he or she holds an office by virtue of his or her status of a Deputy, and the absence is conditioned by carrying out the official duties thereof;
 - (6) he or she has — in case of emergence of conflict of interests — delivered a speech on refusal to participate in the given voting, as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On guarantees of activities of a Deputy of the Republic of Armenia";
 - (7) before the voting, the head or secretary of a faction has made a statement at the sitting of the National Assembly on refusal by the faction to participate in the voting. A faction may refuse to participate in the votings only during one session of the given convocation of the National Assembly;
 - (8) he or she has been deprived of the right to be present at the session hall of the National Assembly.
4. Where pursuant to the statement of information, a Deputy has been absent with unexcused absence from at least half of the votings held during the previous half

of the calendar year, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within one week following the receipt of the statement of information — convene a sitting of the Council in respect of applying to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy, and shall immediately inform in writing the Deputy thereon.

5. In case of absence of a Deputy, the discussion of the issue shall be postponed for one week and resumed at the sitting of the Council convened on the day following the day of expiry of the prescribed time period, irrespective of the presence thereof.
6. The issue of absences of each Deputy shall be discussed separately. During the discussion of the issue, the Deputy or another Deputy authorised thereby may deliver a speech, answer questions, deliver a concluding speech.
7. Where within a period of two weeks following the beginning of the discussion of the issue, the Council:
 - (1) adopts a decision on applying to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall, within twenty-four hours, forward it to the Constitutional Court, specifying the name, surname of the person entitled to act as a representative during the consideration of the issue at the Constitutional Court;
 - (2) fails to adopt a decision on applying to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy, at least one fifth of the total number of Deputies may, not later than within one month, apply to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy, in compliance with point 2 of part 1 of Article 169 of the Constitution.

(Article 156 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

Article 157. Applying to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy in case of violation of conditions of Article 95 of the Constitution

1. In case of violation of the requirements of Article 95 of the Constitution, the Council shall, as well as at least one fifth of the total number of Deputies may apply to the Constitutional Court as prescribed by this Article, where:
 - (1) the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption has submitted to the National Assembly an opinion on violation by the Deputy of the requirements of Article 95 of the Constitution;
 - (2) penalty has been imposed on the Deputy for engaging in illegal entrepreneurial activity, in the case provided for by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia;
 - (3) the Deputy has been deprived of the right to hold certain offices or to engage in certain activities for engaging in illegal entrepreneurial activity, in the case provided for by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia;
 - (4) the Deputy has been subjected to administrative liability for engaging in illegal entrepreneurial activity.
2. In the cases provided for by points 2 and 3 of part 1 of this Article, the competent court shall — within one week following the day of entry into legal force of the relevant criminal judgment — forward the carbon copy of the criminal judgment to the Chairperson of the National Assembly.
3. In the case provided for by point 4 of part 1 of this Article, the competent body shall — within a week following the adoption of the relevant decision — forward the carbon copy of the decision to the Chairperson of the National Assembly.
4. In the cases provided for by part 1 of this Article, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall — within a week following the receipt of the relevant document —

convene a sitting of the Council for applying to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy referred to in the document, and inform in writing the Deputy thereon.

5. In case of absence of a Deputy, the discussion of the issue shall be postponed for one week and resumed at the sitting of the Council convened on the day following the day of expiry of the prescribed time period, irrespective of the presence thereof.
6. The opinion of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption shall be introduced by the Chairperson of the Commission at the sitting of the Council, and other grounds provided for by part 1 of this Article — by the Chairperson of the National Assembly. During the discussion of the issue, the Deputy referred to in the relevant document or another person authorised thereby may deliver a speech, answer questions, deliver a concluding speech.
7. At the end of the discussion of the issue, the issue of applying to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of the Deputy shall be put to vote.
8. Where within a period of two weeks following the beginning of the discussion of the issue, the Council:
 - (1) adopts a decision on applying to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy, the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall, within twenty-four hours, forward it to the Constitutional Court, specifying the name, surname of the Deputy entitled to act as a representative during the consideration of the issue at the Constitutional Court;
 - (2) fails to adopt a decision on applying to the Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy, at least one fifth of the total number of Deputies may, not later than within one month, apply to the

Constitutional Court with regard to the issue of termination of powers of a Deputy, in accordance with point 2 of part 1 of Article 169 of the Constitution.

(Article 157 amended by HO-175-N of 13 September 2019)

SECTION 8

ORGANISATION OF ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

CHAPTER 31

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY TIES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 158. Inter-parliamentary agreements and friendship groups

1. The National Assembly may conclude with legislative or highest representation body of another country inter-parliamentary agreements, which regulate the relations pertaining to friendship and co-operation, exchange of experience, mutual assistance, formation of parliamentary friendship groups, exchange of delegations etc.
2. Any written agreement formulated in the form of an agreement, memorandum, protocol or in the form of a document that has another name recognised on international level, shall be deemed to be an inter-parliamentary agreement.
3. An inter-parliamentary agreement shall, upon the consent of the Council, be signed by the Chairperson of the National Assembly.

4. The Chairperson of the National Assembly, deputies thereof, factions, standing committee may take the initiative of concluding an inter-parliamentary agreement or forming a parliamentary friendship group. The initiative shall be discussed at the competent standing committee and submitted to the Chairperson of the National Assembly within a period of ten days.

CHAPTER 32

ENSURING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND BODIES THEREOF

Article 159. Expenditures of the National Assembly

1. The expenditures of the National Assembly shall constitute a part of budget expenditures and must ensure normal operation of the National Assembly.
2. The activities related to drawing up a budget financing request (draft estimate of expenditures) of the National Assembly for the forthcoming year shall be coordinated by the Chairperson of the National Assembly.
3. The Staff shall — as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the budget system of the Republic of Armenia" and within the time limit prescribed by the Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia on initiating the budgetary process for the forthcoming year — annually draft and submit to the Government the budget financing request (hereinafter referred to as "budget request") for the forthcoming year of the National Assembly for the purpose of including it in the draft State Budget for the forthcoming year.

4. In case the budget request is approved by the Government, it shall be included in the draft State Budget without amendments, and in case of objections — with amendments. The Government shall submit to the National Assembly the budget request together with the draft State Budget, as well as the substantiation with regard to the amendments thereof to the budget request.
5. The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall dispose of the budgetary means of the National Assembly, as prescribed by law. Where necessary, the Chairperson of the National Assembly may, in the manner prescribed by the Government, carry out internal redistribution among the items of economic classification of budget expenditures, not exceeding the amount of 15% of the total amount of the allocations, prescribed by the Law "On state budget" with regard to each programme implemented by the National Assembly.

Article 160. Staff

1. The Staff shall ensure support aimed at the exercise of the powers and functions of the National Assembly and the bodies thereof, including professional support aimed at the formulation of drafts or other documents submitted for the consideration of the National Assembly, as well as shall carry out the participation thereof in the civil legal relations, settlement of organisational issues and personnel management.
2. Peculiarities of the administrative legal relations within the Staff, the civil service, as well as other peculiarities of organisation and activities of the Staff shall be prescribed by law.

(Article 160 edited by HO-46-N of 21 January 2020)

Article 161. Ensuring the activities of factions

1. The Staff shall provide the factions, at the seat of the National Assembly, with the means necessary for the working activities thereof.
2. The professional service related to the activities of the faction shall be carried out by the secretary and experts of the factions, that are recruited on a term contract, upon submission of the head of the relevant faction, fulfil the assignments thereof, as well as assist in the activities of the faction, upon the assignment thereof.
3. A faction comprising up to fourteen members shall have one secretary and three experts prescribed by the staff list of the Staff, and in case of factions having more than fourteen members — one secretary and four experts.

Article 162. Ensuring the activities of commissions

1. The Staff shall provide the commissions of the National Assembly with the means necessary for the activities thereof.
2. The professional service related to the activities of a standing committee shall be carried out by the secretariat of the commission, which is a sub-division of the Staff, operates according to the procedure prescribed by the operations procedure of the standing committee and the Charter of the Staff, under the supervision of the chairperson of the standing committee.
3. Each of the standing committees has one co-ordinating expert, at least two experts (specialists) and one secretary (assistant) prescribed by the staff list of the Staff. The secretary (assistant) of a standing committee shall be recruited and dismissed upon the consent of the chairperson of the relevant commission, and the co-ordinating expert and the other experts (specialists) shall be civil servants. The number of experts of a standing committee may be increased upon

recommendation of the chairperson of the commission — upon decision of the Council.

4. The legal condition of the experts (specialists) of reorganised or renamed standing committees shall be determined as prescribed by the Law "On civil service".
5. The professional service with regard to the activities of an ad hoc commission on matters pertaining to a separate draft law, as well as with regard to the activities of an inquiry commission shall be carried out by the assistants of the relevant commission working on paid basis or by the relevant specialists of the Staff.
6. Before establishing an ad hoc commission on Deputy ethics, applications on Deputy ethics shall be studied and an opinion shall be submitted to the factions within a period of two weeks by the competent expert (specialist) of the Staff, who following the establishment of the commission shall carry out the professional service with regard to the activities of the commission. The competent expert (specialist) of the Staff shall be a civil servant.

(Article 162 amended by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018, HO-46-N of 21 January 2020)

Article 163. Budget office

1. In order to promote effective exercise of supervisory powers vested in the National Assembly by part 1 of Article 111 of the Constitution, as well as of the provisions prescribed by Chapter 20, Articles 114-118 of the Rules of Procedure, to provide the Deputies, standing committees, factions with professional support and information, Budget Office shall be formed, which shall be vested with functional independence.

2. General co-ordination and monitoring of the activities of the Budget Office shall be carried out by the competent standing committee.
3. Budget Office shall operate in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the Operations Procedure and operations procedure thereof.

Article 164. Office work of the National Assembly and bodies thereof

1. Drafts and other documents submitted for the discussion of the National Assembly, as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, shall be subject to compulsory registration.
2. Draft amendments to the Constitution, other draft laws, as well as draft decisions, statements and addresses of the National Assembly put into circulation shall be registered in the register of issues put into circulation in the National Assembly.
3. The registration of drafts and other documents, as well as the maintenance of the register of issues put into circulation in the National Assembly and of the official website of the National Assembly shall be carried out by the Staff as prescribed by the Operations Procedure.

Article 165. Coverage of activities of the National Assembly

1. The National Assembly may have print media thereof.
2. Public sittings of the National Assembly and standing committees thereof, as well as parliamentary hearings shall be broadcast on-line on the official website of the National Assembly.
3. The video recordings of the sittings, referred to in points 3 and 5 of part 3 of Article 40 of the Rules of Procedure shall be fully shown on television on the following day, as prescribed by the Operations Procedure.

SECTION 9

FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 33

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 166. Entry into force of this Law

1. This Law shall enter into force on the opening day of the first session of subsequent convocation of the National Assembly, except for point 4.1 of part 2 of Article 5, point 7 of part 1 of Article 8, points 5 and 13-15 of part 3 of Article 38, Articles 47, 48, 50, point 4 of part 2 of Article 64, Article 74, part 2 of Article 76, part 4 of Article 83, Article 93, Articles 103-107, Articles 109, 115, parts 11, 13 and 14 of Article 121, Articles 127, 130, 131, 133, Articles 139-143, parts of Article 145 with regard to election of the Prosecutor General, the Chairperson and other members of the Audit Chamber, the Chairperson of the Central Bank, deputies thereof and other members of the Board, members of the Television and Radio Commission, Article 146, 151, 152, parts of Article 153 with regard to removal of the Prosecutor General from office, termination of powers of the Chairperson and other members of the Audit Chamber, the Chairperson of the Central Bank, deputies thereof and other members of the Board, members of the Television and Radio Commission, Chapters 7 and 19, as well as other provisions related to Article 108, part 2 of Article 113, Articles 115, 117-120, 122 and Chapters 5-8, 12-15 of the Constitution, which shall enter into force on the day the newly-elected President of the Republic assumes office. Therefore, the relevant provisions prescribed by Law HO-308 of 20 February

2002 "Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly" shall continue having effect pursuant to the Constitution with the amendments of 2005.

2. The Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-308 of 20 February 2002 "Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly" shall be repealed upon entry into force of this Law, except for point 4.1 of part 2 of Article 5:
 - (1) the provisions, which pursuant to part 1 of this Article shall continue having effect until the day the newly-elected President of the Republic assumes office;
 - (2) Chapters 3 and 4 of Annex 1, as well as Chapters 2 and 3 of Annex 2, which shall continue having effect until the adoption of relevant acts pertaining to the activities of the Budget Office.

(Article 166 supplemented by HO-50-N of 17 January 2018)

CHAPTER 34

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 167. Transitional provisions

1. The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On referendum" shall be brought into compliance with part 3 of Article 209 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and part 4 of Article 65 of this Law, and shall enter into force with regard thereto prior to the opening day of the first session of subsequent convocation of the National Assembly.
2. The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On public service" shall be brought into compliance with part 1 of Article 153 and point 1 of part 1 of Article 157 of this

Law, and shall enter into force prior to the opening day of the first session of subsequent convocation of the National Assembly.

3. Under the procedure prescribed by Article 125 of the Constitution and Article 139 of this Law, the first elections of the President of the Republic shall be held not earlier than forty and not later than thirty days prior to expiry of the powers of the President of the Republic. Candidates for the President of the Republic may be nominated not earlier than fifty and not later than forty days prior to expiry of the powers of the President of the Republic. The candidate having received a greater number of votes in the third round of election of the President of the Republic shall be elected as President of the Republic. In case of the necessity to ensure the time limits prescribed by this part, the issue of first elections of the President of the Republic shall be discussed at the special sitting of the National Assembly convened as prescribed by parts 2 and 4-6 of Article 50 of this Law.

**President
of the Republic of Armenia**

S. Sargsyan

14 January 2017

Yerevan

HO-9-N