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OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

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ON HIGHER AND POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

CHAPTER 1

*GENERAL PROVISIONS*

**Article 1. Subject matter of the Law**

This Law shall regulate legal, organisational and financial relations in the field of higher and postgraduate professional education in the Republic of Armenia.

## **Article 2. Legislation on higher and postgraduate professional education**

1. Relations in the field of higher and postgraduate professional education shall be regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Law of the Republic of Armenia “On education”, this Law and other legal acts.

2. Where international treaties of the Republic of Armenia provide for norms other than those envisaged by this Law, the norms of the international treaties shall apply.

## **Article 3. Main concepts used in this Law**

The following main concepts shall be used in this Law:

(1) **higher professional education** shall mean professional education provided on the basis of at least secondary education through programmes for Bachelor’s degree, degree of a certified specialist and Master’s degree;

(2) **higher education institution** shall mean an educational institution implementing educational programmes for Bachelor’s degree, Master’s degree and degree of a certified specialist;

(3) **postgraduate professional education** shall mean professional education provided on the basis of higher professional education (Master’s degree and degree of a certified specialist) by programmes for researchers of doctoral studies, as well as programmes for researchers and external researchers;

(4) **supplementary education** shall mean education, provided on the basis of professional education beyond the framework of basic education programmes, aimed at improving professional qualities, ensuring professional re-qualification, continually complementing the professional qualification of a person;

(5) **student** (trainee, attendee) shall mean a person admitted to relevant higher education institution, in a prescribed manner, and studying under certain educational programme of higher professional education;

(6) **lecturer** shall mean a scientific and pedagogical worker of higher professional education system, who teaches the students and learners theoretical, practical and professional knowledge and promotes the mastering thereof;

(7) **researcher of doctoral studies** shall mean a person with higher professional education (Master's degree, degree of a certified specialist), pursuing his or her study further within the framework of doctoral studies under postgraduate education programme and preparing a thesis to seek the scientific degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and who may be conferred a qualification degree of a researcher as a result of attestation under postgraduate professional education programme;

(8) **researcher of post-doctoral studies** shall mean a person holding the scientific degree of Doctor of Philosophy and registered, in a prescribed manner, as a person preparing a thesis to seek the scientific degree of Post-Doctor of Philosophy;

(9) **external researcher** shall mean a person with higher professional education (holding qualification of Master's degree or that of a certified specialist) preparing a thesis to seek the scientific degree of Doctor of Philosophy without attending doctoral studies, or a person holding the scientific degree of Doctor of Philosophy and preparing a thesis to seek the scientific degree of Post-Doctor of Philosophy and who is attached, in a prescribed manner, to the organisation providing postgraduate professional education;

(10) **distance learning** shall mean a systematic form of instruction, when the direct and indirect instruction process between the learner and the lecturer is conducted mainly by means of information technologies and telecommunication;

(11) **external studies** shall mean a form of education provided at the educational institution by self-education as well as by interim and final assessment of knowledge and capacities;

(12) **state accreditation** shall mean the recognition by the State of compliance of the higher education institution, educational programme and quality of preparation of specialists with state educational standards;

(13) **self-analysis** shall mean the examination of efficiency and quality of professions, educational programmes, staff and structure of higher education institution, which shall be carried out by the higher education institution in compliance with educational standards;

(14) **quality assessment of educational institution (attestation)** shall mean the assessment of efficiency of professions, educational programs, instruction methods, staff and structure of the higher education institution;

(15) **quality assurance** shall mean the continuous process of compliance of education quality with state educational standards and with accreditation criteria and the improvement thereof;

(16) **academic credit (standard)** shall mean a conventional unit of measurement for academic workload, expressed in the amount of hours;

(17) **credit (standards) system** shall mean a system for organising the academic process, for measuring, registering and transferring the outcomes of studies through academic credits, which shall involve the teaching, practical and individual classes, consultations, preparation of course papers and other papers, preparation of exams, assessment, etc.

(18) **European credit transfer and accumulation system (ECTS)** shall mean a pan-European credit system which ensures the compatibility and transferability of academic credits, facilitates mobility of students within common European higher education area;

(19) **student benefits** shall mean the refund of tuition fees of student through the State Budget financing, allocations from higher education institution, foundations and other organisations, as well as from natural persons.

(20) **medical internship (internatura)** shall mean preparation of specialists implementing general medical practice activities through the programme for medical intern, based on higher professional education (Master's degree, degree of a certified specialist);

(21) **residency medical training (ordinatura)** shall mean preparation of highly qualified specialists through the programme for residency medical practitioner, on the basis of higher professional education (Master's degree, degree of a certified specialist).

***(Article 3 supplemented by HO-209-N of 2 October 2007, HO-100-N of 30 September 2013, amended by HO-19-N of 19 May 2014, supplemented by HO-82-N of 21 June 2014)***

**Article 4. Principles of state policy in the field of higher and postgraduate professional education**

The principles of state policy in the field of higher and postgraduate professional education shall be as follows:

- (1) ensuring and protecting the right of a person and citizen to obtain higher and postgraduate professional education;
- (2) access to higher and postgraduate professional education;
- (3) uninterrupted, successive and continuous nature of the educational process;
- (4) competitiveness, transparency and publicity;
- (5) ensuring the comparability of qualification degrees of higher and postgraduate education of the Republic of Armenia in European and other foreign States and the recognition of diplomas and the supplements thereof;
- (6) promoting international mobility of students;
- (7) promoting and developing academic freedoms and autonomy of higher education institutions;
- (8) preparing specialists and raising the qualification thereof for the Armenian Diaspora, as well as for the purpose of development of Armenology.

***(Article 4 supplemented and edited by HO-209-N of 2 October 2007)***

**Article 5. Tasks of state policy in the field of higher and postgraduate professional education**

1. Tasks of state policy in the field of higher and postgraduate professional education in the Republic of Armenia shall be as follows:

- (1) Assuring the quality of higher and postgraduate education;
- (2) supporting the preparation of specialists in the priority fields and those of essential significance for the State, as well as in borderline or highland settlements;
- (3) contributing to the development of international scientific and educational cooperation and to the integration thereof;
- (4) developing the system of higher and postgraduate professional education and raising its competitiveness in international arena;
- (5) introducing international (European) standards for internal (within a higher education institution) and external assessment of instruction quality and accreditation in the system of higher and postgraduate professional education of the Republic of Armenia;
- (6) ensuring legal equality for the accredited higher educational institutions, irrespective of their form of ownership.

2. The State shall ensure the development of higher and postgraduate professional education in the following ways:

- (1) transition to two-level qualification system of higher education;
- (2) improvement of postgraduate education system;
- (3) elaboration and implementation of state programmes for the development of education;
- (4) bringing the educational programme in line with the labour market requirements;

(5) ensuring financial support to the educational institutions implementing programmes of higher and postgraduate professional education as well as to learners at the institutions concerned in accordance with the requirements of the State;

(6) state financial support (educational allowances, refund (full or partial (discount)) of tuition fees, educational grants, loans) to the students and researchers of doctoral studies of higher and postgraduate professional education system, as prescribed by law;

(7) introduction of new forms of knowledge testing and quality assessment, organisation of instruction, including introduction of credit systems within the system of higher and postgraduate professional education;

(8) introduction of new educational concepts and technologies in order to ensure development;

(9) ensuring the integration of science and education at higher education institutions, organisation of scientific and research subdivisions.

3. The State shall guarantee for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia the right to receive, on a competitive basis, free of charge higher and postgraduate professional education at state higher education institutions. The citizens of the Republic of Armenia holding dual citizenship shall, upon their choice, be admitted to higher education institutions of the Republic of Armenia, in accordance with the conditions defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia or foreigners.

Non-state higher education institutions providing educational programmes accredited as of professions, may, on a competitive basis, provide free of charge higher and postgraduate professional education through full refund of tuition fees in the form of student benefits paid by the State.

The State shall guarantee for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, being kept on records in borderline and highland settlements and having permanently resided in the Republic of Armenia for the last eight years, the right to receive, on a competitive basis, free of charge higher education at state higher education institutions. In this case, the

competition based admission shall be carried out through a procedure separated from general competition, which shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

***(Article 5 edited and amended by HO-209-N of 2 October 2007, supplemented by HO-112-N of 23 June 2010, HO-154-N of 28 October 2010, by HO-51-N of 8 February 2011, amended by HO-38-N of 30 April 2013)***

**Article 6.           Autonomy, competence and academic freedoms of higher education institutions**

1. The higher education institution shall:

- (1) implement its autonomy based on the principles of self-management and collegiality;
- (2) act independently in respect of matters concerning the choice of organisation of academic process, educational technologies, forms of, procedure for and frequency of interim attestation of learners;
- (3) independently determine the staff list for the workers of all categories, carry out the selection and distribution of workers, including the recruitment of scientific and pedagogical staff, the procedures for holding positions of academic and teaching staff and those of the heads of scientific and academic subdivisions;
- (4) be entitled to carry out other activities, not prohibited by law and its Statute.

2. The higher education institution shall have be competent to:

- (1) organise, as of educational programmes, the admission of applicants, including foreign citizens and stateless persons, as well as the academic process.
- (2) elaborate procedures for the election of the managerial staff as well as academic and teaching staff of the higher education institution, as well as hold elections;

- (3) elaborate and approve the curricula and syllabuses for professions and specialisations of higher and postgraduate professional education, as well as publish study materials and training and methodological manuals;
- (4) distribute the workers as of structural subdivisions of the educational institution;
- (5) organise courses on raising qualification and training of specialists;
- (6) participate in and implement local and international scientific and educational, as well as research programmes, carry out scientific research;
- (7) ensure the participation of learners in research activities;
- (8) provide paid educational services (fee-paid instruction, etc);
- (9) manage finances, including payment of salaries and educational allowances, refund of tuition fees, provision of student benefits, cover costs incurred in respect of scientific and research activities as well as maintenance and development of higher education institution;
- (10) provide postgraduate education as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

3. The higher education institution shall independently determine the directions of use of financial resources, including the procedure for and amount of remuneration and material incentives for its staff, as well as define educational allowances.

Application of an amount of tuition fee in respect of Armenian citizens learning, studying under fee-paid system of higher education institutions, registered and residing in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Qvemo-Qartli regions of Georgia, in respect of those of Armenian origin having been recognised as refugees and having been granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, as well as foreign citizens of Armenian origin in the country of permanent residence whereof the existing situation poses danger to the life and health of citizens, which is higher than that prescribed for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, learning under similar conditions of the given education institution, shall be prohibited.

4. The refund of tuition fees in the form of student benefits shall be provided to the students having been admitted to higher education institutions based on the results of competition held, those showing high academic performance on the basis of the results of the academic year, or those considered as socially disadvantaged, as well as to the students from borderline or highland settlements irrespective of the learning system (free of charge, fee-paid), as prescribed by the law of the Republic of Armenia, in accordance with the number of seats and procedure approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia shall approve the list and number of professions in the priority and important fields of the State and shall refund, in a prescribed manner, the benefits of these students.

The students showing excellent and good academic performance, engaged in active public affairs and showing proper conduct, as well as students from borderline or highland settlements shall be granted with state educational allowance. The procedure for granting state educational allowance and the amount thereof shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

4.1. The higher education institution shall, at its own expense and in the amount of at least seven per cent of the budget generated from the tuition fees of students, taking as a basis the high academic performance shown and the social group, partially refund, in the form of student benefits, the tuition fees of at least ten per cent of the students learning within fee-paid instruction system — those of students holding the following status:

(1) students considered as socially disadvantaged (those from families falling under the grade with one point higher than the marginal grade of socially disadvantaged condition of families) — in the amount of at least 30 per cent;

(2) students left without parental care after attaining the age of 18 — until they attain the age of 23, in the amount of at least 50 per cent;

(3) students having been deprived of one parent and having not attained the age of 23 — in the amount of at least 50 per cent;

- (4) students with a child under the age of 1 — in the amount of at least 50 per cent;
- (5) students from families with three or more minors or three or more students — in the amount of at least 30 per cent;
- (6) students with a parent with disability of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> group, including parents deemed as freedom fighters with disabilities — in the amount of at least 30 per cent;
- (7) students having passed mandatory military service at military units of combat duty — at least 30 per cent;
- (8) socially disadvantaged students (from families falling under any grade higher than the grade of 0 kept on records in the evaluation system of socially disadvantaged condition of families) — at least 20 per cent;
- (9) students holding other status, which may be defined by the higher education institution.

4.2. Partial refund of tuition fees in the form of student benefits shall be provided, in the amount of at least 50 per cent, to the students having not been included in the system of student benefits and having shown high academic performance for two consecutive semesters, those having been deprived of the right to benefit by a difference of up to 0.1 point as a result of the rotation competition held for the refund of tuition fees in the form of student benefits.

In case of seeking several privileges established by this Article as well as other legal acts, the student may benefit only from one of them, where the maximum amount of partial refund shall be applied.

4.3. A student may benefit from partial refund of tuition fees in the form of student benefits in case of crossing the threshold of the Average Quality Score (AQS) set for the Bachelor's and Master's degrees by higher education institutions.

First-year students may benefit from the right to partial refund of tuition fees only starting from the second semester of studies.

4.4. Higher education institutions shall submit to the authorised public administration body for education a report on the provision of partial refund of tuition fees in the form of student benefits in the given year prior to 1 April of the following year.

Supervision over the provision, by a higher education institution, of partial refund of tuition fees in the form of student benefits shall be exercised by the authorised public administration body for education.

5. Higher education institutions shall independently determine their structure.

The status and functions of a structural subdivision of the higher education institution shall be defined as prescribed by the legislation in force of the Republic of Armenia.

The structural subdivisions of the higher education institution may, as prescribed by the legislation in force of the Republic of Armenia, implement education programmes of general education, secondary vocational as well as supplementary education programmes.

6. The higher education institution shall, on the basis of contracts, agreements signed with relevant public administration bodies for education of foreign States, carry out admission of foreign citizens, preparation, training of specialists and raising the qualifications thereof by all forms of instruction, as well as exchange of specialists, joint scientific works, programmes, and establish branches, subdivisions, etc in foreign States.

7. The higher education institution shall be responsible for its actions before the individual, society and the State.

The approximation of the activities of the higher education institution with the legislation in force of the Republic of Armenia and with the objectives envisaged by its Statute shall be supervised by the founder (founders) of the higher education institution, the authorised body and other bodies authorised as prescribed by law.

***(Article 6 supplemented by HO-209-N of 2 October 2007, HO-189-N of 7 October 2009, HO-51-N 8 February 2011, amended by HO-38-N of 30 April 2013, edited by HO-82-N of 21 June 2014, amended and supplemented by HO-23-N of 19 May 2014)***

## CHAPTER 2

### ***THE SYSTEM OF HIGHER AND POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA***

#### **Article 7. The system of higher and postgraduate professional education**

The system of higher and postgraduate professional education of the Republic of Armenia shall include:

- (1) State educational standards for higher and postgraduate professional education, basic and supplementary education programmes and state accreditation criteria;
- (2) Licensed higher education institutions and organisations providing relevant postgraduate and supplementary professional education;
- (3) Administration bodies for higher and postgraduate professional education, as well as organisations under their subordination.

#### **Article 8. State educational standards and educational programmes of higher and postgraduate professional education**

1. State educational standards shall be established for higher and postgraduate professional education in the Republic of Armenia, ensuring:

- (1) quality of higher and postgraduate professional education;
- (2) possibilities of compatibility with European educational standards and those of other foreign States;
- (3) grounds for evaluation of the activities of organisations providing higher and postgraduate professional education;
- (4) recognition of qualifications and documents of higher and postgraduate professional education of foreign States and approval of the equivalence thereof.

2. State educational standards for higher and postgraduate professional education shall include:

(1) general requirements concerning basic programmes of higher and postgraduate professional education;

(2) requirements concerning the mandatory minimum of the content of the programmes of higher and postgraduate professional education, the conditions for the implementation thereof, including forms of educational, practical and pre-graduation internships and those of final attestation of graduates, as well as the level of preparation of graduates for each profession;

2<sup>1</sup>) irrespective of the form of ownership and profession, the education programme of higher professional basic education for Bachelor's degree shall include the instruction of the Armenian language and literature and history of Armenia at least for two semesters, which shall be completed with mandatory testing of knowledge;

(3) the time periods for organisation of instruction through basic programmes of higher and postgraduate professional education or the number of necessary credit units;

(4) maximum volume of academic workload of learners.

3. The procedure for establishing state educational standards shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia as proposed by the authorised public administration body for education (hereinafter referred to as "the authorised body") (in cases of military (military and medical), police and medical higher and postgraduate professional education — as agreed with relevant authorised public administration bodies of the Republic of Armenia).

4. Higher and postgraduate professional education in the Republic of Armenia shall be provided through the following basic and supplementary programmes:

(1) through basic programmes of higher professional education for:

- Bachelor's degree;

- Master's degree;

- degree of a certified specialist;

(2) through basic programmes of postgraduate professional education for:

- researcher;

- residency medical practitioner;

(3) supplementary education programmes for:

- training;

- raising of qualification of specialists.

5. Educational programmes of higher and postgraduate professional education shall be elaborated and approved by the higher education institution as well as the organisation providing postgraduate professional education on the basis of state educational standards.

6. The curricula and courses offered as of professions and specialisations by the higher education institution and the organisation providing postgraduate professional education shall guarantee the learning process of learners at different stages of education (enrolment in the educational programme and withdrawal from the programme), ensuring the accumulation and transfer of educational credits, and granting of qualification degrees.

***(Article 8 supplemented by HO-47-N of 13 April 2006, HO-163-N of 10 September 2008, HO-100-N of 30 September 2013, amended and supplemented by HO-82-N of 21 June 2014)***

**Article 9. Qualification degrees, time periods and forms of instruction of higher and postgraduate professional education**

1. Basic programmes of higher professional education may be implemented on an uninterrupted basis and (or) with interruptions, as of levels.

2. Two-level qualification system of higher professional education shall be established within the Republic of Armenia.

The persons having passed the final attestation, shall be granted with:

- (1) the Bachelor's degree — in the first level;
- (2) the Master's degree — in the second level.

The qualification of a certified specialist shall also be retained in the Republic of Armenia.

3. The qualification degree of a researcher provided under postgraduate professional education shall be established in the Republic of Armenia.

4. The duration of instruction of basic education programmes of higher and postgraduate professional education shall constitute:

- (1) at least 4 years for obtaining a Bachelor's degree, whereas for police or military professions — at least 3 years;
- (2) at least 5 years for obtaining a qualification degree of a certified specialist, whereas for art and physical education professions — at least 4 years;
- (3) at least 1 year for obtaining Master's degree;
- (4) at least 3 years for obtaining qualification degree of a researcher.
- (5) at least 5 years for medical professions under uninterrupted and integrated educational programmes, the educational degree granted as a result thereof shall be equivalent to Master's degree;
- (6) one year of post-graduate study — medical internship (internatura), for graduates of higher military and medical education institutions or subdivisions of higher military and medical education institutions of the Republic of Armenia and other foreign States.

5. Persons having obtained a graduation document for relevant degree of higher professional education, shall have the right to pursue their studies further, in a prescribed manner, under the educational programme of the next level.

Receiving education, for the first time, under programmes of different levels of higher education shall not be deemed as second higher professional education.

6. Basic programmes of higher professional education may be implemented through different forms of instruction — on-site education, off-site education, distance learning and external studies. The combination of on-site form of receiving higher and postgraduate professional education with other forms shall not be prohibited.

The list of professions in respect of which receiving higher professional education by off-site education, distance learning or external studies is not permitted, shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia

The procedures for instruction in the form of distance learning and external studies shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Learners at higher education institutions (or specialised in professions offered by these institutions) with suspended and (or) withdrawn licences for the implementation of educational programmes, may participate in interim and (or) final attestation at state and non-state higher education institutions implementing accredited educational programmes of relevant professions, as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education.

7. Postgraduate professional education shall be provided through on-site education, off-site education, distance learning and external studies, the procedure for which shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

***(Article 9 edited by HO-154-N of 28 October 2010, supplemented by HO-100-N of 30 September 2013, amended and supplemented by HO-82-N of 21 June 2014)***

**Article 10.            Graduation document for higher and postgraduate professional education**

1. Persons having completed their studies under higher and postgraduate professional education programmes and having passed the final attestation, shall be granted with a

graduation document of relevant higher education institution or that of the organisation providing postgraduate professional education, with relevant supplement of diploma:

- diploma of Bachelor's degree,
- diploma of Master's degree,
- diploma of a specialist with higher education,
- diploma of a researcher;
- diploma of a residency medical practitioner

2. Persons having not completed the basic programme of higher and postgraduate professional education, shall be granted with an academic statement of information of a prescribed sample issued by the higher education institution or organisation providing postgraduate professional education.

3. Persons having completed the educational programme of supplementary professional education and having passed the final attestation exam, shall be granted with a graduation document of a prescribed sample issued by higher education institution or the organisation providing postgraduate professional education (certificate, education certificate).

***(Article 10 supplemented by HO-82-N of 21 June 2014)***

#### **Article 11. The tasks of the higher education institution**

The main tasks of the higher education institution shall be as follows:

- (1) meeting the needs of mental, spiritual and moral development of a person through higher and (or) postgraduate professional education;
- (2) developing science, education, economy and art through scientific research and creative activities of scientific and pedagogical workers and learners, applying the acquired results in economy, research and educational process;

- (3) preparing and training the scientific and pedagogical workers with higher education;
- (4) assuring the quality of education and introducing relevant system of improvement;
- (5) ensuring the uninterrupted nature, transparency and publicity of educational process;
- (6) upbringing learners in the spirit of national, moral and universal values;
- (7) disseminating knowledge among the population and enhancing its educational and cultural level;
- (8) enrooting civic views, skills and responsibility for work among learners, within the framework of governance of democratic and civil society.

**Article 12. Types and names of higher education institutions**

The following types of higher education institutions shall be established within higher and postgraduate professional education system of the Republic of Armenia:

- (1) University,
- (2) Institute,
- (3) Academy,
- (4) Conservatory, etc.

The rules of procedure of military and police higher education institutions shall be defined by this Law and other laws.

**Article 13. Establishment, reorganisation, liquidation, licensing and accreditation of the higher education institution**

1. The higher education institution shall be established, reorganised or liquidated as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Licensing of higher and postgraduate educational activities:

- (1) higher and postgraduate education programmes may be implemented only in case of availability of a licence, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
- (2) the licence for educational activities of the educational institution shall be issued by the authorised body. Licensing of educational programmes shall be carried out in accordance with law and as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia;
- (3) the availability of the main pedagogical as well as academic and teaching staff, laboratory facilities and teaching area, facilities for educational and practical internship, library and information systems and teaching and methodical support shall be considered as a ground for licensing of an educational institution.

### 3. State accreditation

- (1) state accreditation shall be carried out as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, irrespective of departmental subordination as well as legal and organisational form of a professional educational institution;
- (2) state accreditation of higher education institutions, professions offered thereby and postgraduate education programmes shall be carried out in case of availability of a licence;
- (3) state accreditation with regard to higher professional education shall be carried out as of educational institutions and professions offered thereby;
- (4) the procedure, standards and the validity period of accreditation shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia;
- (5) state accreditation shall have its aim to recognise the compliance of instruction and quality of preparation of graduates of certain professions with state educational standards, as well as to contribute to raising of the efficiency of development programmes of the educational institution;
- (6) state accreditation certificate shall attest the compliance of the level of educational programmes implemented by the educational institution, that of the content thereof and quality of graduates with the requirements of state educational standards;

(7) accreditation of educational institutions and professions offered thereby shall be carried out through separate stages as of educational programmes;

(8) professional education programmes for Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, degree of a certified specialist and postgraduate professional education programmes shall be subject to accreditation within higher and postgraduate education system of the Republic of Armenia;

(9) state accreditation certificate shall be issued to the higher education institution on the basis of a positive opinion on the attestation of the higher education and 60% of its students and graduates of two years, as well as in case of availability of state accreditation of at least 75% of the professions offered by this institution;

(10) the branches of a higher education institution shall be accredited on general grounds, upon the application submitted by the educational institution with a branch — within the main higher education institution;

(11) the educational institutions and the branches thereof established in the Republic of Armenia with the participation of the Republic of Armenia, foreign States, higher education institutions, organisations, shall enjoy legal equality with state higher education institutions and shall be licensed, accredited in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Armenia and this Law, unless otherwise provided for by the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia;

(12) the graduation document (diploma) issued by the higher education institution shall indicate the fact that the educational institution and the professions offered thereby have been accredited.

4. The higher education institution may also receive public accreditation which is considered to be the recognition of compliance of the level of activities of the higher education institution with the standards and requirements of the organisations carrying out public accreditation.

***(Article 13 edited and amended by HO-152-N of 11 May 2011)***

**Article 13.1. Warning and fine imposed on the higher education institution, amounts of fine and withdrawal of the licence**

1. In case of violation of mandatory requirements and conditions of the licence established under the procedures for licensing during the activities of a higher education institution, the requirements of the legislation regulating the activities of a higher education institution, as well as in the cases provided for by this Law the authorised public administration body for education shall impose warning or fine on the higher education institution or shall withdraw the licence, as prescribed by law.

2. The authorised public administration body for education shall apply warning provided for by this Article for the purpose of eliminating, within specified time limit, the corresponding violation committed by a higher education institution and informing the authorised public administration body for education about elimination of this violation. The time limit prescribed for elimination of violation, which may not be less than 10 days, shall be determined by the authorised public administration body for education upon the proposal of the licensing commission, taking into account the danger posed by the consequences of the violation, the urgency of eliminating the violation and the possibilities of higher education institution eliminating the violation.

3. The authorised public administration body for education shall, as prescribed by law, warn the higher education institution in case of revealing the following violations:

(1) as provided for by the procedure for licensing:

a. in case of any violation with regard to the requirement on the main academic and teaching staff;

b. in case of any violation with regard to the requirement on the provision of teaching area and laboratory facilities;

c. in case of any violation with regard to the requirement on teaching and methodical support;

d. in case of violation with regard to the requirements on the library and information system;

e. in case of violation with regard to facilities for educational and practical internship;

(2) in case of revealing factually inappropriate data in documents submitted by the higher education institution to the authorised public administration body for education during the validity period of the licence;

(3) in case the higher education institution fails to timely inform the authorised public administration body for education about changes, in the cases provided for by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Licensing”;

(4) in case of failing to pay the annual state duty;

(5) in other cases provided for by the procedure for licensing.

4. The authorised public administration body for education shall, as prescribed by legislation, impose a fine on the higher education institution in the following cases and amounts:

(1) in case the higher education institution impedes the inspections carried out, in accordance with legislation, by persons supervising the activities subject to licensing, or fails to submit the required documents — in the amount of one-thousand-fold of the minimum salary defined;

(2) in case the higher education institution violates the time limit for submitting reports, deriving from the activities subject to licensing and provided for by law, by more than 10 days — in the amount of one-thousand-fold of the minimum salary defined;

(3) in case of violation of the envisaged marginal number of learners (as of years) allocated to the higher education institution on the basis of the application submitted thereby — in the amount of one-thousand-fold of the minimum salary defined;

(4) in case of warning imposed not less than twice on the grounds defined by part 3 of this Article within one academic year — in the amount of one-thousand-five-hundred-fold of the minimum salary defined;

(5) in case of failing to eliminate any violation provided for by part 3 of this Article within the time limit defined upon the warning imposed — in the amount of one-thousand-fold of the minimum salary defined.

5. The authorised public administration body for education shall withdraw the licence of a higher education institution:

(1) in case of revealing simultaneously at least two violations committed by the higher education institution provided for by parts 3 and 4 of this Article;

(2) in case of violation by the higher education institution with regard to the requirement on the availability of a cash register at the site of implementation of educational programmes, provided for by the procedure for licensing;

(3) in case of failing to pay the fine provided for by point 5 of part 4 of this Article, whereas if paid — in case of failing to eliminate the violation having served as a ground for warning;

(4) in case of hand over, pledge or alienation by the higher education institution of the licence to another person in cases not provided for by law;

(5) in case of depriving the higher education institution of the right to engage in the activities subject to licensing;

(6) in accordance with the application submitted by the higher education institution;

(7) in case of revealing false or distorted information — considered as essential for granting a licence — in the documents submitted for obtaining a licence;

(8) in case of liquidation of a legal person carrying out licensed activities or termination of the activities of an individual entrepreneur;

(9) in case of expiry of the validity period of the licence.

6. The licence shall be withdrawn by way of recognising the licence as invalid upon the decision of the authorised public administration body for education.

7. The decision on withdrawal of the licence due to violation of the requirements of legislation shall be taken not later than within one year following the day of committal of the violation, whereas in case of continuous and continuing violation — within one year following the day of revealing it, whereas in cases provided for by point 7 of part 5 of this Article — within a period of 15 days following the day of revealing false or distorted information.

8. In case of withdrawal of the licence on the ground provided for by point 7 of part 5 of this Article the person shall have the right to apply for a new licence only after one year following the withdrawal of the licence.

9. Licence shall be deemed as withdrawn on the grounds provided for by points 6, 8 and 9 of part 5 of this Article on the day following the day of entry into force of the relevant decision of the authorised public administration body for education unless a later time limit is provided for by this decision.

The authorised public administration body for education shall duly inform the licensed person about the withdrawal of the licence by forwarding the carbon copy of the decision on withdrawal of the licence attached to the notification.

10. The higher education institution shall be entitled to appeal, by judicial procedure, against the decision of the authorised public administration body for education on withdrawal of the licence.

***(Article 13.1 supplemented by HO-348-N of 8 December 2011)***

**Article 14. Admission to organisations providing higher and postgraduate professional education**

1. Admission to state and non-state higher education institutions under the programme for Bachelor's degree shall be carried out upon the applications submitted by persons with at least secondary education, as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The higher education institution shall be entitled to announce admissions in case of availability of a licence.

The higher education institution shall be obliged to familiarise the applicant with its licence, Statute and internal regulations, as well as with state accreditation certificate (if available), and the information whereon shall be recorded in the applicant's admission documents.

3. The higher education institution shall conclude a contract with the student, the text whereof shall be promulgated together with the announcement of the higher education institution on admissions and shall be priorly provided to the applicants.

The contract concluded between the higher education institution and the student shall mandatorily specify the years of studies and the general amount of tuition fee, provided for each educational level at the higher education institution, distributed as of academic years.

The contract concluded with the student, including the general amount of tuition fees and the amounts distributed as of the years, as referred to in the contract, shall not be subject to any change during the whole period of studies. The tuition fee for the student having been reinstated after dismissal, shall be calculated in the amount of the tuition fee defined for the given year, and a new contract shall be concluded therewith.

The following condition shall also be mandatorily fixed in the contract concluded with a student from borderline and highland settlement: after graduation, the student shall be seconded for employment, for a period of at least five years, in the settlements defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. In case of failure to meet this condition, the student shall be obliged to reimburse his or her education expenses. The procedure, amount and time limits for reimbursement shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

3.1. A contract shall be concluded with a person admitted to a higher education institution under the procedure established by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On undergoing military service”.

4. Admission, on a competitive basis, to the second level (Master's degree) in the two-level system of the higher education shall be carried out by taking account of the grades of the first level (Bachelor's degree), in accordance with the procedure established by the authorised public administration body for education.

5. The procedure for admission to state and non-state higher education institutions, according to the educational programme for Bachelor's degree, shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Admission to higher education institutions shall be carried out in accordance with the list of professions defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, through application of the principles of accessibility, publicity, justice, credibility, transparency and equality.

6. Admission to doctoral studies shall be carried out through programmes for Master's degree and degree of certified specialist, on the basis of the results admission examinations of the applicants, held on a competitive basis, the procedure and list of professions whereof shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The higher education institution shall, along with the application on admission to doctoral studies, conclude a contract with the applicant, the text whereof shall be promulgated together with the announcement on admission and shall be priorly provided to the applicant. The form of the model contract shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

7. The documentation for post-doctoral studies shall be carried out upon availability of a scientific degree of the Doctor of Philosophy and a scientific topic for post-doctoral thesis.

***(Article 14 supplemented by HO-45-N of 13 April 2006, edited by HO-163-N of 7 July 2006, supplemented by HO-209-N of 2 October 2007, edited and supplemented by HO-154-N of 28 October 2010, supplemented by HO-51-N of 8 February 2011, amended by HO-38-N of 30 April 2013, supplemented by HO-100-N of 30 September 2013, amended by HO-19-N of 19 May 2014)***

## **Article 15. Management of the higher education institution**

1. Management of the higher education institution shall be carried out in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the Statute of the higher education institution, on the basis of self-management through considering the principle of individual management in conjunction with the principle of collegiality, with the performance of functions of the Board, academic council and those of rector's office of the higher education institution.

2. The Board of the higher education institution shall be deemed as a collegial management body, which shall be established for a period of 5 years, in accordance with the Statute of the higher education institution. The competences of the Chairperson and members of the Board shall be defined by the Statute.

The Board shall be formed from academic and teaching staff, student representatives of the higher education institution, as well as representatives of the founder and authorised body.

The procedure for the formation of the Board shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as proposed by the authorised body. The number of members of the Board shall be defined by the Statute of the given higher education institution — at least 20 members.

The activities of the Board shall include the approval of the budget and strategic plans of the institution, hearing and evaluating the annual report (submitted by the rector) on the activities of higher education institution, election of the rector, as well as submission to the founder of proposals on the Statute of the higher education institution and on the amendments and supplements to the Statute.

3. The academic council of the higher education institution shall be formed in accordance with the Statute of the higher education institution and shall settle issues on organisation, planning and management of teaching and methodical as well as scientific and research activities.

The academic council shall be *ex officio* composed of the rector (head of military education institution) deemed as the Chairperson of the academic council, vice-rectors (deputy heads of military education institution) and the heads of relevant subdivision of the higher education institution, as well as elected members, in accordance with the Statute of the higher education institution.

The powers and the rules of procedure of the academic council shall be defined by the Statute of the higher education institution.

4. The management of current activities of a higher education institution shall be carried out by the executive body of the higher education institution — the rector.

The rector of state higher education institution shall be elected through an open competition, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and Statute of the higher education institution, within the Board of the educational institution, by secret ballot, for a period of 5 years. The same person may not be elected to the position of a rector for more than two consecutive terms.

The results of election of the rector shall be approved by the founder. In case of declaring the results as invalid, new elections of a rector shall be called.

If the same candidate receives at least two third of the votes of the Board members, the founder shall approve the decision of the Board.

4.1. The position of the head of a military education institution (Head of Faculty of Military Medicine of Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi) shall be considered as a military position whereto appointments shall be made as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On undergoing military service”. The head of the military education institution shall carry out the management of current activities of the military education institution.

5. The rector’s office shall be deemed as an advisory body adjacent to the rector, the procedure for the formation and powers whereof shall be defined in accordance with the Statute of the higher education institution.

6. The director of a branch of the higher education institution shall be elected at the meeting of the Board of the educational institution, by secret ballot, for a period of 5 years, on the basis of an open competition. The same person may not be elected to the position of a director of the branch for more than two consecutive terms.

7. The vice-rectors (deputies of the director of the branch) of the higher education institution shall be appointed upon the rector's (director of the branch) order, and an employment contract shall be concluded with them.

8. The positions of the dean of faculty, head of faculty of a military education institution (head of the academic subdivision) and head of the Chair (head of Chair, head of cycle, head of group of a military education institution) shall be deemed as elective and the procedure for the election thereof shall be defined in accordance with the Statute of the higher education institution. The activities of the dean, head of faculty of military education institution (head of the academic subdivision) shall be deemed as administrative as well as scientific and pedagogical activities, whereas the activities of the head of the Chair (head of Chair, head of cycle, head of group of a military education institution) shall be deemed as scientific and pedagogical activities.

9. Prior to the formation of the Board at newly established or reorganised higher education institutions the founder of the higher education institution shall appoint a temporary substitute of the rector for a period of not more than one year.

10 The higher education institutions shall draw up and approve five-year educational strategic plans. The strategic plans shall define the main objectives of the higher education institution and the list of measures for attaining these objectives. The strategic plan shall be approved by the Board.

The strategic plan shall be deemed as the main programme document for the evaluation by the authorised body of the efficiency of activities of higher education institutions.

***(Article 15 amended by HO-209-N of 2 October 2007, edited by HO-15-N of 4 February 2010, supplemented by HO-100-N of 30 September 2013)***

**Article 16. Non-governmental organisations and associations within the system of higher and postgraduate professional education**

Non-governmental political, non-governmental and religious organisations and associations shall not operate within the system of higher and postgraduate professional education, except for trade, professional, cultural, sports organisations and unions and those of graduates.

**CHAPTER 3**

***ENTITIES OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SYSTEM OF HIGHER AND POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION***

**Article 17. Learners at higher education institutions**

1. The learner at a higher education institution shall be considered as a subject of higher (postgraduate) education.
2. The students (trainees, attendees), researchers of doctoral studies (hereinafter referred to as “learners”) may, upon their discretion, as of inclinations and needs, choose a profession, the type of higher education institution and the form of instruction, be transferred to another higher education institution (including those of foreign States), engage in researches, terminate or continue higher and postgraduate professional education within any degree of education, have full participation in the activities of collegial management bodies of the higher education institution in accordance with the Statute of the higher education institution.
3. The learner at the higher education institution shall be entitled to:
  - (1) choose mandatory and non-mandatory courses for the instruction of the given profession or specialisation, which are provided by relevant faculty (academic subdivision) and Chair;

- (2) participate in the formation of the content of his or her education (in the choice of academic courses and specialisation), meeting the requirements of state educational standards for higher professional education;
- (3) in addition to the academic courses of his or her chosen profession, master any other academic course taught at the given or any other higher education institution, as prescribed by the Statute of this higher education institution;
- (4) take part in the activities of relevant management bodies of the higher education institution, provided for by law or the Statute of the higher education institution;
- (5) have free access to the libraries, laboratories, information databases, services of academic, scientific, medical and other subdivisions of the higher education institution, take part in scientific and research activities, conferences, seminars and symposiums;
- (6) appeal against the orders and instructions of the administration of the higher education institution, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
- (7) avail of the right to partial or complete refund of the annual tuition fee, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
- (8) receive, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the Statute of the higher education institution, educational allowance of a prescribed amount, including nominal educational allowance, educational allowance granted by legal and natural persons, grants as well as student loans;
- (9) get familiarised with the Statute and other regulatory documents of the higher education institution, conclude contracts with the higher education institution in respect of the conditions of study;
- (10) be granted, where necessary and as prescribed by the authorised body, an academic leave for a period of up to one year, except for the cases prescribed by legislation;
- (11) be on leave not less than twice and for a total duration of not less than seven weeks within given academic year — in case of on-site education;

(12) be provided with, in case of availability of a residence hall and a need for accommodation, relevant space in the residence hall as prescribed by the higher education institution;

(13) be transferred to another higher education institution, including higher education institution of a foreign State, under the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia;

(14) receive moral and (or) material incentives for showing high academic performance and for participating in scientific and research activities, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and by the higher education institution.

4. The former learner having previously terminated education shall, irrespective of the reason of termination, be entitled to restore his or her student rights, except for the termination of education in the first semester of the first year.

5. The learner at a higher education institution shall be obliged to perform the obligations defined by the Statute and internal disciplinary rules of the higher education institution.

6. In case of violation of obligations provided for by the Statute and internal disciplinary rules of the higher education institution, the disciplinary penalty may be imposed on learners, up to dismissal from the higher education institution, in the cases and under the procedure provided for by internal acts.

Dismissal of learners while they are sick, on leave, on academic leave or on pregnancy and maternity leave, shall be prohibited.

7. The learners at a higher education institution may unite within student councils, student scientific societies and other student organisations. The procedure for the establishment and of the rules of procedure of student councils and scientific student societies shall be approved by the authorised public administration body for education. The activities of student councils and student scientific societies shall be financed through extra-budgetary means of the higher education institution. The amount of financing shall be defined by the management board of the higher education institution.

*(Article 17 edited, supplemented and amended by HO-209-N of 2 October 2007, amended by HO-163-N of 10 September 2008, edited by HO-14-N of 4 February 2010 and by HO-154-N of 28 October 2010, supplemented by HO-100-N of 30 September 2013)*

**Article 18.            Researchers of doctoral studies, researchers of post-doctoral studies and external researchers**

1. The procedure for the admission to and instruction within doctoral studies, as well as the procedure for registration for post-doctoral studies and external research, shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Professionals having attended and completed doctoral studies within the framework of state-funded scholarship, shall be obliged to work for at least three years at the educational or scientific organisation providing higher and postgraduate education, having regard to the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On conscription".

The procedure for recruitment of professionals shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. For the purpose of carrying out the activities related to the selected scientific topics and scientific researches, the researchers of doctoral studies, external researchers and researchers of post-doctoral studies shall have equal access — together with the scientific and pedagogical workers as well as scientific workers of higher education institutions and organisations providing postgraduate professional education — to laboratories, equipment, teaching and methodical rooms, libraries, as well as the right to secondment.

*(Article 18 supplemented by HO-45-N of 13 April 2006)*

**Article 19. Workers of higher education institutions and organisations providing postgraduate professional education**

1. The academic and teaching staff and scientific workers of the higher education institution shall have the right, upon their discretion, within the framework of the programme, to set out the learning subject, select topics for scientific research and implement them with the methods selected thereby.

2. Administrative, scientific and pedagogical staff as well as academic and teaching staff (dean, head of the Chair, professor, assistant professor, senior lecturer, lecturer, assistant, whereas at a military education institution — head of faculty, head of Chair, head of cycle, head of group, professor, assistant professor, senior lecturer, lecturer, assistant), scientific workers, workers of engineering and technical staff, administrative and economic staff, production, education related and other workers, shall be defined at higher education institutions and organisations providing postgraduate professional education.

3. Within higher education institutions and organisations providing postgraduate professional education all vacant positions for academic and teaching staff, for scientific workers shall be occupied in accordance with the Statute and regulations of the higher education institution and the organisation providing postgraduate professional education.

4. Replacements in all vacant positions for scientific and pedagogical staff within the higher education institution and the organisation providing postgraduate professional education shall be carried out in accordance with an employment contract which shall be concluded for a period of up to 5 years. The conclusion of an employment contract shall be preceded by competition based elections. After the expiry of the time period of the employment contract, a new employment contract may be concluded with the scientific and pedagogical worker for a period of up to 5 years, without competition based elections and based on the evaluation of outcomes of his or her scientific and pedagogical activities within contractual time period. The procedure for replacements in the mentioned positions shall be established by the scientific council of the higher education

institution and the organisation providing postgraduate professional education, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

5. The worker of the higher education institution and the organisation providing postgraduate professional education shall be entitled to:

(1) elect and be elected, as prescribed by the Statute of the higher education institution and the organisation providing postgraduate professional education, to the relevant positions of the higher education institution or the organisation providing postgraduate professional education as well as in relevant management bodies;

(2) take part in the consideration and settlement of issues concerning the activities of the higher education institution or the organisation providing postgraduate professional education;

(3) have access to libraries, information databases, services of academic and scientific subdivisions, as well as those of social, medical and other structural subdivisions of the higher education institution or the organisation providing postgraduate professional education in accordance with the Statute of the higher education institution and the organisation providing postgraduate professional education and (or) in accordance with collective contract;

(4) choose teaching methods and means which will ensure the high quality of the academic process;

(5) appeal against orders and executive orders of the head of relevant subdivision of the higher education institution or the organisation providing postgraduate professional education, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;

(6) be provided with organisational conditions and those of logistics support for the professional activities.

6. The workers of the higher education institution and the organisation providing postgraduate professional education shall be obliged to:

(1) ensure the efficiency of educational and scientific processes;

- (2) observe the requirements prescribed by the Statute and internal disciplinary rules of the higher education institution and the organisation providing postgraduate professional education;
- (3) build professional qualities, proper conduct and manner, civic views and patriotism among learners;
- (4) develop independence, initiative and creative abilities among learners;
- (5) undergo training or raising of qualification not less than once in five years.

7. Rights and obligations of the workers of administrative and economic staff, engineering and technical staff, production, education related and other workers of the higher education institution or the organisation providing postgraduate professional education shall be defined by this Law, labour legislation of the Republic of Armenia, the Statute of the higher education institution or the organisation providing postgraduate professional education and the internal disciplinary rules.

***(Article 19 amended by HO-209-N of 2 October 2007, supplemented by HO-15-N of 4 February 2010, HO-154-N of 28 October 2010, by HO-100-N of 30 September 2013)***

**Article 20. Recognition and confirmation of equivalence of documents of foreign States on scientific degrees and scientific titles of higher and postgraduate professional education**

Recognition and confirmation of equivalence of documents of foreign States on scientific degrees and scientific titles of higher and postgraduate professional education shall be carried out in accordance with laws of the Republic of Armenia as well as interstate and intergovernmental treaties and agreements covering this field and concluded between the Republic of Armenia and foreign States.

## CHAPTER 4

### ***MANAGEMENT OF HIGHER AND POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM***

#### **Article 21. Competence of the authorities of state power in the field of higher and postgraduate professional education**

1. The competence of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the field of higher and postgraduate professional education shall be as follows:

- (1) establishment, reorganisation and liquidation of state higher education institutions, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
- (2) approval of the procedure for establishing state educational standards for higher and postgraduate professional education;
- (3) approval of the procedure for state accreditation of higher education institutions and organisations providing postgraduate education;
- (4) approval of the procedure for licensing of educational programmes;
- (5) approval, as of basic education programmes, of the professions of higher and postgraduate professional education, the forms of instruction thereof and the list of qualifications awarded in accordance with them;
- (6) approval of the list of professions instructed by the educational programme for the degree of a certified specialist;
- (7) approval of the procedure for admission of applicants to higher education institutions and uniform knowledge evaluation system;
- (8) approval of the procedure for mobility of learners at higher education institutions;
- (9) approval of the procedure for admission to doctoral studies and instruction within doctoral studies, that for registration of post-doctoral researchers and external researchers;

(9<sup>1</sup>) approval of the model contract concluded with the applicants seeking doctoral studies;

(9<sup>2</sup>) approval of the procedure for recruitment of professionals having attended and completed doctoral studies at academic or scientific organisations providing higher and postgraduate education within the framework of state-funded scholarship;

(10) approval of the professions of higher and postgraduate professional education, the forms of instruction thereof as well as the generalised descriptions and the lists of qualifications granted in accordance with them, making amendments and supplements;

(11) approval of the lists of professions not permitted to be instructed by off-site education, distance learning and external studies;

(12) approval of the procedure for providing financial means, including the procedures for refunding tuition fees, providing for educational allowances, receiving student loans, financing of educational foundations;

(13) registration of the Statutes of state non-commercial organisations, making amendments and supplements thereto.

(14) setting the maximum amount of tuition fee, as of educational degrees and results of accreditation.

In the field of higher and postgraduate professional education the Government of the Republic of Armenia shall exercise other powers referred to in the laws of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The authorised body shall be competent to:

(1) elaborate and approve, as of professions and educational degrees, state educational standards and descriptions of qualifications for higher and postgraduate professional education;

(2) exercise supervision over the quality of higher and postgraduate professional education;

- (3) draw up the procedure for admission to doctoral studies and instruction within doctoral studies and registration for post-doctoral studies and external research;
- (4) carry out the analysis of labour market with relevant bodies and submit proposals to the Government of the Republic of Armenia on admission to higher education institutions;
- (5) submit proposals on preparation of professionals, raising the qualification and training of workers as well as scientific and pedagogical workers, on the volumes of funding from the State Budget aimed at the development of science;
- (6) approve the procedure for quality assurance process within higher education institutions and the organisations providing higher professional education;
- (7) approve the procedure for receiving a second profession;
- (8) approve the procedures for on-site education, off-site education;
- (9) elaborate a uniform knowledge evaluation system and principles for admission of applicants to higher education institutions;
- (10) approve the procedure for dismissing (removing) and reinstating students of higher education institutions;
- (11) approve the procedure for admission to off-site education and that for admission to and instruction within studies of Master's degree at higher education institutions.
- (12) develop the methodology for calculating the Average Qualitative Score.

The authorised body shall carry out other competences referred to in the laws of the Republic of Armenia and decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

***(Article 21 supplemented by HO-45-N of 13 April 2006, supplemented and amended by HO-21-N of 4 February 2010, edited, amended and supplemented by HO-154-N of 28 October 2010, supplemented by HO-23-N of 19 May 2014)***

**Article 22. Quality assurance of higher and postgraduate professional education and state supervision over it**

1. State supervision over the quality of higher and postgraduate professional education shall be aimed at ensuring uniform state policy in the field of higher and postgraduate professional education, improving the quality of preparation of the professionals, efficient use of resources allocated from the State Budget and other resources for financing the system of higher and postgraduate professional education.

2. State supervision over the quality of higher and postgraduate professional education shall be carried out by the authorised body by organising the processes of licensing and accreditation as well as those of quality assurance, through the organisations carrying out quality assessment and (or) accreditation of educational institutions.

3. For the purpose of quality assurance of higher and postgraduate professional education, the higher education institution and the organisation providing postgraduate professional education shall be obliged to promulgate the criteria of quality assessment and (or) accreditation, opinions delivered by the organisation carrying out quality assessment and (or) accreditation, as well as current results of quality assessment.

4. The procedure for implementing the process of quality assurance by the organisation carrying out quality assessment and (or) accreditation of educational institutions within higher education institutions and organisations providing postgraduate professional education shall be approved by the authorised body.

5. The principles for quality assurance processes within higher and postgraduate education system shall be deemed to be the objective nature, uninterrupted nature, transparency and publicity of assessment.

***(Article 22 supplemented by HO-209-N of 2 October 2007)***

## CHAPTER 5

### ***ECONOMIC GROUNDS FOR THE HIGHER AND POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM***

#### **Article 23. Relations pertaining to ownership within the system of higher and postgraduate professional education**

1. For the purpose of ensuring the activities envisaged by the Statute, the founder (founders) shall provide the higher education institution, under the right of ownership or use (gratuitous or non-gratuitous), buildings, premises, transportation, land plots, equipment, as well as other necessary property of consumer, social, cultural and other significance.

The founder (founders) of state higher education institutions shall provide the property for an unlimited time period and under the right to gratuitous use.

2. The higher education institution shall have the right of ownership over the monetary funds, property and other objects of ownership transferred to the higher education institution by natural and legal persons in the form of gift, charitable gift or will, over outcomes of intellectual or other creative work considered as a result of the activities of the higher education institution, other sources not prohibited by law, as well as over the income derived from its own activities and the property obtained at the expense of this income.

3. State and local self-government bodies may transfer teaching areas and land plots to the accredited higher education institutions for gratuitous or non-gratuitous use.

#### **Article 24. Financing of higher education institutions and that of the organisations providing postgraduate professional education**

Financing of higher education institutions and that of the organisations providing postgraduate professional education shall be carried out in accordance with the existing legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 25. Remuneration of the employees of higher education institutions**

1. The higher education institution shall, to the extent of the resources in its possession and those envisaged for the remuneration of employees, independently determine the form and system of remuneration for work, the amounts of supplements, additional payments, bonuses and other material incentives, as well as the salary rates of remuneration of the employees of all categories, without defining maximum salary rates of remuneration.

2. The salary rate shall be paid to the employee of the higher education institution for the fulfilment of operational obligations and performance of the works envisaged by the employment contract.

3. In order to ensure the educational activities of the higher education institution, state higher education institutions as well as higher education institutions established with the participation of foreign States, shall independently establish a remuneration fund for employees at the expense of the resources allocated from the State Budget as well as other resources derived from the sources not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**CHAPTER 6**

***TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS***

**Article 26. Transitional provisions**

1. After the entry into force of this Law, with regard to introduction of two-level higher education system, admission to higher education institutions shall be carried out only through the educational programme for Bachelor's degree. At higher education institutions for arts, instruction regarding individual professions may be carried out by the educational programme for the degree of a certified specialist.

2. A one-level qualification system with the qualification of a certified specialist shall operate up to 2009/2010 academic year inclusive.
  3. The educational degree of a certified specialist, granted up to 2011 inclusive, shall be equivalent to the Master's education degree.
  4. The student, having commenced studies through the programme of a certified specialist at the higher education institution and having been drafted to army or having terminated studies for a valid reason, shall be given an opportunity to attend studies under Master's degree, in case of being reinstated in the two-level education system. Where the studies under Master's degree are designed for two years, he or she shall be exempt from tuition fees for one year at the expense of financing by the higher education institution.
  5. The mandatory introduction of credit system within the higher education system shall commence from 2007/2008 academic year.
  6. Point 4 of Article 6 of this Law shall enter into force from 2005/2006 academic year.
- (Article 26 amended by HO-163-N of 7 July 2006, by HO-209-N of 2 October 2007, by HO-154-N of 28 October 2010).***

**Article 27. Final provision**

This Law shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the official promulgation.

**President**  
**of the Republic of Armenia**

**R. Kocharyan**

18 January 2005

Yerevan

HO-62-N