

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 84

ON LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY INITIATIVES BY STATE BODIES THAT MAY AFFECT CIVIC RIGHTS AND THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

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1. Law Expanding the Powers of State Bodies in the Telecommunications Sector Signed

On 3 July of this year, the President signed the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Kyrgyz Republic in Connection with the Adoption of the Digital Code of the Kyrgyz Republic."

The Law significantly expands the powers of state bodies when conducting operational-search and counterintelligence activities using telecommunications networks. In particular, telecommunications operators must provide information about service users, ensure the organizational and software and technical capabilities necessary for conducting operational-search and counterintelligence activities, provide access to their databases, digital technology systems, and resources, and otherwise assist authorized state bodies.

In addition, operators are required to bear the costs of creating the technical infrastructure necessary to implement these requirements. The Law also allows the temporary suspension of telecommunications services for a specific mobile device during a state of emergency, mass unrest, or armed conflict, on the basis of a reasoned written decision by an authorized official. Services may be restored on the basis of a final court decision or a reasoned decision by the official who ordered the suspension.

At the same time, all mobile devices used in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic must be registered in the state digital identification system, while the organization and tactics of operational-search activities are expressly classified as state secrets.

The Law also expands the list of special measures used in counterintelligence activities, including digital object recognition through special software for the automatic identification of individuals and recognition of state registration license plate numbers of vehicles.

2. Constitutional Law "On the Referendum of the Kyrgyz Republic" Signed

On 14 July 2026, the President signed a new version of the Constitutional Law "On the Referendum of the Kyrgyz Republic."

The Law is intended to bring referendum legislation into conformity with the current Constitution, clarify the powers of state bodies, and improve the procedures for initiating, calling, conducting, and determining the results of a referendum. It updates the procedure for exercising citizens' right to participate in a referendum, including the procedures for proposing an initiative, collecting signatures, verifying signature sheets, calling a referendum, and organizing voting. As part of the digitalization of political participation, the document also provides for the use of electronic tools, including the electronic collection of signatures using electronic signatures and state information systems.

The new Law is important for CSOs because a referendum is one form of citizens' direct participation in the administration of state affairs. The practical ability to use this mechanism to advance issues of public importance depends on how accessible and understandable the procedures for initiating a referendum, collecting signatures, and participating in a referendum campaign will be.

At the same time, it will be important to monitor how digital participation mechanisms are implemented in practice. On the one hand, electronic signature collection may facilitate citizens' participation, particularly outside major cities, and reduce organizational barriers for initiative groups. On the other hand, the effectiveness of these mechanisms will depend on the accessibility of digital identification, the protection of personal data, the transparency of signature verification, and trust in state information systems.

3. Law on Gender Equality Signed

On 22 July 2026, the President signed the [Law "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Kyrgyz Republic on Gender Equality."](#)

The document introduces a number of amendments to existing legislation:

- Gender balance requirements are introduced in the state and municipal service. When appointments are made, representatives of one sex may not comprise more than 70 percent of appointees. State bodies and local self-government bodies must take equality principles into account when formulating personnel policy and ensuring citizens' access to public office.
- Measures to protect against gender discrimination, violence, and sexual harassment are strengthened.
- Legislation on protection from domestic violence is also being improved. The amendments provide for advanced training for specialists working on such cases and improvements to the system for recording and monitoring domestic violence.
- In addition, liability for violations of citizens' equality is clarified. Discrimination and restriction of human rights on the grounds of sex or other characteristics that cause substantial harm will incur criminal liability.

4. Law "On Services Provided by State Bodies and Local Self-Government Bodies" Signed

On 23 July 2026, the President signed [a new version of the Law "On Services Provided by State Bodies and Local Self-Government Bodies,"](#) which replaces the former Law "On State and Municipal Services".

One of the key innovations is a change in the approach to defining services. The Law proposes dividing services into two categories: state and municipal services, and civil-law

services. It also introduces criteria for determining which services qualify as state and municipal services and which may be provided on a market basis.

Key innovations include:

- State bodies and local self-government bodies may not require applicants to submit documents or information that can be obtained through interagency information-sharing systems.
- Alternative means of obtaining services are retained for citizens who lack access to digital technologies or have difficulty using them.
- Proactive services are introduced and may be provided automatically when certain life circumstances or legally significant events occur, without an application from the citizen. The service recipient must retain the right to decline such a service or appeal its outcome.
- Certain service delivery processes may be outsourced to private organizations and individual entrepreneurs. Responsibility for the quality, timeliness, and safety of the service will remain with the state body, local self-government body, or other service administrator.
- Service recipients will be able to conduct public monitoring and assess the accessibility, quality, and timeliness of service delivery. Based on the results of such monitoring, state bodies and other service administrators will be required to take measures to address identified problems.

5. Amendments to the Labor Code and the Law "On State Pension Social Insurance" Signed

On 29 July 2026, the President signed the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Kyrgyz Republic (the [Labor Code](#) of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic '[On State Pension Social Insurance](#)')."

The Law was adopted in connection with moving the voting day for elections of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh to a working day (Wednesday) and is intended to ensure that citizens can exercise their right to vote.

Under the amendments, voting day is included among the types of rest periods provided for by the Labor Code. An employee who confirms participation in voting will retain their average daily earnings, and the day on which they participate in the elections will count toward their insurance record.

The procedure for confirming citizens' participation in voting will be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

6. Presidential Decree "On the Introduction of a Temporary Moratorium on Increases in Certain Tariffs, Fees, the Cost of Services (Works), and Other Payments Payable by the Public" Signed

On 10 July 2026, the President signed the Decree "On the Introduction of a Temporary Moratorium on Increases in Certain Tariffs, Fees, the Cost of Services (Works), and Other Payments Payable by the Public."

The Decree introduces a one-year moratorium on increases in certain tariffs, fees, the cost of state and municipal services, and other mandatory payments payable by the public. During the moratorium, state bodies, local self-government bodies, and state and municipal institutions and enterprises may not increase payments covered by the moratorium.

Exceptions are permitted only in cases related to national security, the uninterrupted operation of strategically important sectors and critical infrastructure, and the fulfillment of the Kyrgyz Republic's international obligations.

7. Ministry of Justice Proposes Approving the Procedure for Holding a Mandatory Pre-Trial Mediation Information Meeting

In July 2026, the Ministry of Justice held a public discussion of the draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers "On Approval of the Procedure for Holding a Mandatory Pre-Trial Mediation Information Meeting and for Interaction Between State Bodies and the Chamber of Mediators of the Kyrgyz Republic." The draft was developed to implement Article 27 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Mediation." Under that provision, a mandatory mediation information meeting is envisaged in civil, family, and labor disputes.

The main purpose of such a meeting is to provide the parties with complete information about the possibility of resolving the conflict without litigation. The mediator must explain the nature of mediation, the procedure for conducting it, and its core principles, including voluntariness, neutrality, confidentiality, and equality of the parties. The mediator also assesses whether the particular conflict is suitable for resolution through negotiations.

It is important to distinguish the information meeting from the mediation procedure itself. Only the meeting with a mediator is mandatory. Participation in subsequent mediation and conclusion of a mediation settlement agreement must remain voluntary. Neither the mediator, the court, nor a law enforcement body may compel the parties to settle or accept the proposed terms.

According to the drafters, the new mechanism should help resolve conflicts at an early stage, reduce the parties' expenses, and ease the burden on courts and law enforcement bodies.

The draft also establishes a procedure for interaction among courts, law enforcement bodies, the Ministry of Justice, and the Chamber of Mediators of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The draft resolution proposes approving:

- the procedure for holding a mandatory pre-trial mediation information meeting and for interaction between state bodies and the Chamber of Mediators of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- a list of categories of civil-law disputes for which a mandatory pre-trial mediation information meeting is required;
- a list of minor and less serious crimes for which a mandatory mediation information meeting is held at the pre-trial stage of criminal proceedings.

The text of the draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers and its background statement are available [here](#).

8. Draft Code of the Kyrgyz Republic on Administrative Activity and Procedure Submitted for Public Discussion

On 15 July 2026, the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic submitted the draft Code of the Kyrgyz Republic on Administrative Activity and Procedure for public discussion.

According to the background statement, the current rules in this area are dispersed across various legislative acts. This results in duplicative requirements, inconsistent procedures, and differences in the practices of state bodies. The draft Code is intended to consolidate these rules and establish uniform rules for administrative activity.

The document regulates the entire cycle of an administrative procedure: its initiation, consideration, and completion, as well as the procedure for adopting, executing, amending, and revoking administrative acts. These are decisions by state bodies that directly affect the rights and legitimate interests of citizens and organizations (for example, the issuance of permits, registration, the provision of state services, or the denial of an application).

One important requirement of the draft is that decisions of administrative bodies must be not only lawful but also reasoned. A citizen or organization must understand the facts and legal rules on which a decision is based and know how and within what time limits it may be appealed. If this requirement is observed in practice, it may make the activities of state bodies more transparent and predictable.

A significant part of the draft is devoted to the digitalization of administrative procedures. It provides for the use of state information systems and electronic documents, as well as interagency data exchange.

The "one-stop shop" principle is introduced at the same time. Citizens and organizations are not expected to submit documents and information already held by state bodies. The administrative body must obtain such data independently through the interagency information-sharing system. This may reduce the number of certificates and other documents that applicants currently have to collect themselves.

The draft also provides for the creation of a Unified Register of Administrative Procedures. It must contain information on the procedure for conducting each administrative procedure, the documents required, applicable time limits, and other requirements. Such a register may become an important tool for legal certainty: citizens will be able to learn in advance what actions a state body must take and what it is entitled to require from an applicant.

The draft also provides for the possibility of pre-trial appeals against decisions, actions, and omissions of administrative bodies. An accessible and effective appeal mechanism is especially important because it allows an unlawful decision to be reviewed without going to court. The draft also contains provisions on compensation for harm caused by unlawful decisions, actions, or omissions of administrative bodies and establishes the principle that state bodies must not only possess powers but also bear responsibility for the consequences of exercising them unlawfully.

If the Code is adopted, the laws "[On the Procedure for Considering Citizens' Appeals](#)" and "[On the Right of Access to Information](#)" are expected to cease to have effect because the matters they regulate are incorporated into the draft new Code. During the discussion of the draft, its provisions should be compared with existing safeguards to ensure that codification does not weaken the right of citizens and journalists to obtain information of public interest.

The text of the draft Code and its background statement are available [here](#).

9. Draft Law Establishing Criminal Liability for Femicide (Killing of Women) Submitted for Public Discussion

On 3 July 2026, the draft Law "On Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic," which would establish separate criminal liability for the killing of women (femicide), was submitted for public discussion. The initiator of the draft Law was Burul Amanova, a deputy of the Jogorku Kenesh.

The draft proposes adding a new Article 122¹ to the Criminal Code, establishing liability for the killing of a woman motivated by gender discrimination; the killing of a pregnant woman; a killing involving sexual violence; or causing or inducing a woman to commit suicide where death results.

For such crimes, the proposed punishment is life imprisonment with confiscation of property.

The text of the draft Law and its background statement are available [here](#).

10. Draft Law "On the Protection of Persons Reporting Corruption Offenses" Submitted for Public Discussion

The Ministry of Internal Affairs held a public discussion of the draft Law "On the Protection of Persons Reporting Corruption Offenses." The main purpose of the draft Law is to create conditions in which a person can safely report corruption without fear of dismissal, pressure, discrimination, or other adverse consequences.

The draft provides for the creation of a secure system for reporting corruption offenses. Citizens will be able to submit information through special internal and external channels, including a digital Portal for reporting corruption offenses. The confidentiality of the reporting person's identity, registration of each report, and the ability to track the outcome of its consideration are guaranteed.

Protection extends to employees, former employees, trainees, service providers, representatives of organizations, and other persons who become aware of corruption offenses. Protection is provided if the reporting person acted in good faith and had reasonable grounds to believe that the reported information was accurate. Reporting persons are entitled to confidentiality, information about the consideration of their report, the submission of additional materials, legal and psychological assistance, and compensation for harm in the event of unlawful persecution. The draft Law prohibits any retaliatory measures against reporting persons, including dismissal, pressure, deterioration of working conditions, discrimination, or other actions intended to punish a person for reporting corruption.

The draft Law provides for possible financial rewards for persons whose reports help uncover corruption offenses, prevent damage to state interests, or recover unlawfully obtained funds. A reward may be granted regardless of whether the responsible persons are held liable.

The text of the draft Law and its background statement are available [here](#).