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INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 87[1]

ON GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY INITIATIVES THAT MAY AFFECT CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

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1. State Strategy for Countering the Financing of Criminal Activity and Money Laundering for 2026–2030 approved with targeted monitoring of NPOs

On September 29, by Resolution No. 653, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic approved the State Strategy for Countering the Financing of Criminal Activity and the Legalization (Laundering) of Criminal Proceeds for 2026–2030 and the Action Plan (Roadmap) for its implementation. The Strategy sets priorities for developing the national system for combating money laundering and terrorist financing, taking into account risk assessments and the international standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Priorities include stronger oversight of virtual asset transactions, greater transparency of financial flows, and the development of digital tools for financial monitoring and information exchange between government agencies.

An important provision for the nonprofit sector is the Strategy's commitment to a risk-based approach to the oversight of nonprofit organizations (NPOs). The document notes that, according to the 2022 sectoral risk assessment, the risk of abuse for terrorist financing is low for the vast majority of NPOs. Enhanced monitoring is therefore expected to focus on a limited group of organizations that are objectively vulnerable to such abuse. Significant risks identified include private donations and crowdfunding through social networks and messaging apps, including fundraising under the guise of charitable or social assistance. Implementation of the Strategy may therefore lead to more specific requirements concerning fundraising transparency, identification of organizers and recipients, internal controls, and NPOs' dealings with banks and government agencies.

The Strategy emphasizes that counterterrorism measures must not be extended to bona fide NPOs without justification or impede their lawful human rights, charitable, and social activities. This approach is consistent with FATF Recommendation 8, which calls for targeted and proportionate measures based on identified risks. Special measures for high-risk NPOs are already provided for in Article 16 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Countering the Financing of Criminal Activity and the Legalization (Laundering) of Criminal Proceeds. The Strategy sets out further directions for applying this mechanism rather than introducing uniform additional requirements for all NPOs.

The Roadmap provides for the approval of a special procedure for targeted monitoring of NPOs, with a deadline set for the third quarter of 2026. It also envisages guidance materials and consultations for NPOs and religious organizations on protection against abuse for terrorist financing. For civil society organizations (CSOs), particular importance will attach to how higher-risk groups are identified in practice and what safeguards are provided against unjustified increases in oversight.

2. Ministry of Finance proposes stronger penalties for AML/CFT violations

The Ministry of Finance has submitted for public consultation a draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Kyrgyz Republic (the Code of Offenses and the Law on Countering the Financing of Criminal Activity and the Legalization (Laundering) of Criminal Proceeds). The draft substantially revises Chapter 37 of the Code of Offenses. Proposed Articles 355^{1}–355^{7} would establish liability for violations of requirements concerning internal controls, customer due diligence, recordkeeping, transaction reporting, targeted financial sanctions, and the submission of beneficial ownership information.

For the purposes of these articles, the proposed definition of officials would include employees of financial institutions, designated categories of nonfinancial persons, and **high-risk NPOs** who are assigned organizational and managerial, administrative and economic, oversight and audit, or registration functions, as well as duties to comply with the internal control program. A legal entity and the official responsible for a violation could be held liable simultaneously.

For calculating most fines, organizations would be divided into categories based on aggregate revenue over the preceding 12 consecutive months: up to KGS 8 million, KGS 8,000,001 to KGS 50 million, and over KGS 50 million. A new organization with no previous turnover data would fall into the first category. How this category is determined is particularly important for NPOs. The Tax Code of the Kyrgyz Republic defines revenue as receipts from sales of goods, works, and services. Grants, donations, and other earmarked receipts unrelated to such sales generally do not constitute revenue. Without clarification, the new penalties could be applied inconsistently.

Proposed Article 355^{7}, concerning violations of requirements for information on the beneficial owners of legal entities, would establish fines for failure to submit such information or late submission, failure to identify, record, retain, and update it, and the submission of knowingly false information. Under the draft, fines for legal entities could range from KGS 40,000 to KGS 300,000, depending on the nature of the violation and the organization's financial category.

More severe consequences are envisaged for breaches of targeted financial sanctions, transactions with shell banks, and a legal entity's involvement in money laundering or the financing of criminal activity. Depending on the offense, sanctions could include a fine of up to KGS 1,000,000, suspension of activities, termination of a license, temporary seizure of property, and liquidation of the legal entity. Additional measures involving suspension or liquidation would be imposed by a court.

3. Fines for violations of personal data protection requirements revised

On October 9, Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 150 on Amendments to the Code of Offenses of the Kyrgyz Republic was signed; it entered into force on October 23, 2026. The Law repealed Articles 413^{2}–413^{5} of the Code and added a new Article 228^{11}, establishing fines for violations of data processing and protection requirements, unauthorized disclosure, and unlawful cross-border transfers.

Violations of the established requirements for processing and protecting personal data, where the conduct does not constitute a criminal offense, carry fines of KGS 2,500 for individuals, KGS 10,000 for officials, and KGS 65,000 for legal entities. If a violation is repeated within one year after a penalty is imposed, the fines increase to KGS 7,500, KGS 30,000, and KGS 120,000, respectively.

Higher fines apply to similar violations involving children's personal data and special categories of data, including information about health, ethnic origin, political opinions, and religious beliefs. For legal entities, the fine is KGS 80,000, increasing to KGS 140,000 for a repeat violation. Separate liability is established for cross-border transfers of personal data in breach of the law: the fine for legal entities is KGS 65,000, increasing to KGS 120,000 for a repeat violation.

The new provisions also apply to NPOs that process the personal data of employees, event participants, beneficiaries, and other individuals. The main requirements for personal data processing are already set out in the Digital Code of the Kyrgyz Republic. NPOs must identify a lawful basis and specific purpose for processing, avoid collecting excessive data, restrict access, and ensure secure storage. Special requirements for cross-border transfers must be observed when data is transferred outside Kyrgyzstan. Where processing relies on an individual's consent, that consent must be freely given, specific, and informed.

Further information on compliance with personal data legislation is available in ICNL's guide "Kyrgyzstan's Digital Code: Understanding and Complying with Personal Data Provisions."

4. Procedures for sending judicial and other official notices changed

On October 6, Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 148 on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Kyrgyz Republic Concerning Notification of Persons by Government Agencies through the Guaranteed Message Delivery Service was signed; it entered into force on November 1. The Law changed the procedures for notifying participants in court proceedings, proceedings concerning offenses, criminal proceedings, and enforcement proceedings.

The guaranteed message delivery service, which records the sending and receipt of messages, becomes the primary means of sending notices and summonses. In the cases specified by law, a digital delivery record serves as proof of proper service. This may have legal consequences for the recipient, including with respect to procedural deadlines.

If sending a message through the service is technically impossible or the necessary information is unavailable, notification by SMS, email, or other means of communication that allow sending and receipt to be confirmed remains possible. Paper summonses and registered mail are also used in the cases specified by law.

The distinction between technical delivery and actually reading a notice is important. For example, a message may be delivered to a telephone number or account to which the recipient no longer has access. In enforcement proceedings, however, the Law expressly provides that a person who has failed to report a change in contact details is deemed duly notified, even if they no longer use the former means of communication. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic is to determine how the service operates, including the rules for sending, delivering, and recording notices.

5. Procedure established for crediting voting participation toward pension insurance periods

On October 7, Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 675 amended the procedure for confirming insurance contribution periods for pension entitlement. The Resolution entered into force on October 24 and implements Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 136 of July 28, 2026, which provides for the day of voting in presidential and Jogorku Kenesh elections to be included in citizens' insurance contribution periods.

Law No. 136 also established that the day of voting in these elections is a day off and that employees who confirm their participation in voting retain their average daily earnings. Crediting the voting day toward an insurance contribution period remains subject to the general conditions of pension legislation, including requirements concerning periods of insurance contribution payments.

Under the new procedure, the Social Fund will receive information confirming a citizen's participation in voting from the information system of the Central Commission for Elections and Referendums through the Tunduk interagency electronic interaction system. If the information cannot be obtained in this way, the Social Fund will request it directly from the electoral authority. Citizens will therefore not need to obtain a certificate of voting participation themselves.

The new mechanism involves the exchange of personal information about citizens' participation in voting. Information about whom a voter voted for must not be transmitted. The data collected must be used exclusively for the purposes specified by law and protected against unauthorized access.

6. President orders establishment of a Register of Noncompliant Taxpayers

On October 8, Presidential Decree No. 343 on Measures to Improve Legal Safeguards for the Protection of Bona Fide Taxpayers was signed; it entered into force on October 9. The Cabinet of Ministers was instructed to prepare, within three months, the legislative amendments needed to protect bona fide taxpayers and combat unlawful tax evasion schemes.

The Decree provides for the creation of a Register of Noncompliant Taxpayers, expected to be maintained by the State Tax Service. The register would include business entities with duly established tax arrears exceeding the threshold for criminal liability, those using fictitious electronic invoices, and those registering businesses in the names of front persons. Persons included in the register would face restrictions on participation in the state registration and re-registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs. The specific grounds and procedures for inclusion in the register and the application of restrictions must be set out in legislation.

The Decree also envisages a voluntary self-exclusion mechanism allowing citizens to prevent legal entities from being registered in their names, or themselves from being registered as individual entrepreneurs, without their consent. Stronger liability is also envisaged for persons who actually manage taxpayers' activities, including beneficiaries and persons acting under a power of attorney. The Prosecutor General's Office was instructed to oversee the prevention of unjustified interference by law enforcement agencies in business activities.

7. Law on Civic Unity and National Identity proposed

On October 14, the draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Civic Unity and National Identity, prepared by the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy, was submitted for public consultation. The consultation ended on October 24. The draft would establish a legal framework for state policy on civic unity and national identity, including civic education, development of the state language, preservation of cultural heritage, information literacy, and intercultural dialogue. Many of these areas are already regulated by existing legislation, however, and the explanatory note does not identify the specific legal gaps that a separate law would address.

Human rights and freedoms safeguards feature prominently in the draft. It would prohibit imposing an ethnic, linguistic, religious, political, or other identity on citizens, compelling them to disclose or change their identity, and using state policy to assess political loyalty or persecute people for criticizing the authorities. Separate safeguards are provided for freedom of scientific, educational, artistic, and journalistic activity. The draft does not permit a mandatory interpretation of historical events and does not create independent grounds for removing or blocking information.

CSOs would have opportunities to participate in government programs and public consultations and receive state support, including through grants and government

commissioning. Support must be provided on equal and nondiscriminatory terms, based on criteria published in advance. Political, religious, or ideological loyalty may not serve as a selection criterion. The specific mechanisms for providing support and conducting public consultations are, however, largely left to subsequent regulation.

Article 25 raises the most significant legal questions. It would authorize the designated government agency to issue binding warnings requiring violations to be remedied within 30 days. The draft does not specify the grounds for issuing warnings, their possible recipients, the procedure for establishing violations, or the consequences of noncompliance. Although it provides a right of appeal with suspension of enforcement of the warning, the lack of clear criteria creates a risk of inconsistent interpretation of the agency's powers.

8. New Kyrgyz Jarany civic unity program for 2027–2030 developed

On October 15, a draft Presidential Decree approving the National Program for the Development of Civic Unity "Kyrgyz Jarany" for 2027–2030 was submitted for public consultation. Prepared by the National Agency for Religious Affairs and Interethnic Relations, the document is intended to continue implementation of the Kyrgyz Jarany civic identity development concept and the state policy concept on religion, both of which remain in effect until the end of 2026.

The Program aims to strengthen civic unity, develop a shared civic identity, and preserve ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity. "Kyrgyz Jarany" refers to a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic who sees themselves as part of a unified civic community, regardless of ethnic, religious, linguistic, or other affiliation.

The draft sets out four main areas of state policy:

1. Developing civic identity: expanding civic education, improving information literacy, supporting national media content, countering hate speech, and strengthening trust in state institutions.
2. Strengthening the secular foundations of the state and freedom of religion: promoting interfaith dialogue, improving religious literacy and the regulation of religious organizations and education, and preventing extremism. Particular attention is given to preventing discrimination and gender-based violence and expanding the participation of women and young people in public life.
3. Ensuring equal opportunities for ethnic communities: expanding their participation in decision-making, preserving linguistic and cultural diversity, developing the state language as a unifying factor, and supporting the integration of foreign nationals and stateless persons.

4. Improving public administration: strengthening cooperation between government agencies and civil society, improving mechanisms for conflict prevention and monitoring social tensions, and enhancing the skills of state and municipal employees in managing diversity.

The Cabinet of Ministers is to develop a separate action plan to implement the Program. An interagency commission and annual monitoring of implementation are envisaged. Ongoing CSO involvement in monitoring is contingent on the availability of funding. Financing is expected to come from allocated budget funds and other lawful sources, including support from development partners.

9. Penalties for bullying and cyberbullying proposed

On September 29, a bill establishing separate liability for bullying and cyberbullying was submitted for public consultation by Jogorku Kenesh member Burul Amanova. The draft proposes amendments to the Code of Offenses and the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic.

A proposed new Article 102^5 of the Code of Offenses would establish liability for systematic, intentional psychological or physical harassment, abuse, intimidation, and degradation of human dignity expressed in an indecent manner, where the conduct does not constitute a crime. The proposed fine for individuals is KGS 5,500 for bullying and KGS 7,500 for similar conduct using the internet, social networks, messaging apps, or other digital means of communication (cyberbullying).

The draft would also add Article 138^1 to the Criminal Code, establishing liability for systematic, intentional bullying involving repeated humiliation, intimidation, harassment, social isolation, dissemination of knowingly false or degrading information, public ridicule, and other forms of psychological pressure. Criminal liability would require a substantial violation of the victim's rights and legitimate interests. The proposed penalty is a fine of KGS 50,000 to KGS 100,000 or correctional labor for one to three years.

More severe penalties are proposed for bullying a child, acts committed by a group, cyberbullying, disclosure of a victim's personal data without consent for the purpose of harassment, intimidation, or humiliation, exploitation of the victim's dependence on the perpetrator, or bullying two or more people. In these cases, the penalty would be a fine of KGS 100,000 to KGS 200,000 or imprisonment for up to three years. Bullying that causes moderately serious or serious bodily harm would carry imprisonment for three to seven years.

The draft also proposes criminal liability from the age of 14 for driving a person to suicide or inducing suicide through systematic bullying or cyberbullying under the aggravated offenses in Articles 128 and 129 of the Criminal Code. General rules on the age of criminal responsibility would continue to apply to other offenses.

Liability would not require all the listed forms of bullying to occur together. From a freedom of expression perspective, the insufficient clarity of terms such as "systematic bullying," "humiliation," "public ridicule," and "substantial violation of rights and legitimate interests" raises concerns. This creates a risk of inconsistent application, particularly when a person perceives repeated critical statements as humiliating.

10. Registration requirements for religious preachers clarified

On October 5, the National Agency for Religious Affairs and Interethnic Relations under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic clarified when people disseminating religious content online must register as religious preachers. The relevant requirements are set out in Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 18 of January 21, 2025, on Freedom of Religion and Religious Associations, which entered into force on February 1, 2025.

Under Article 13 of the Law, citizens of Kyrgyzstan who engage in religious preaching within the country or abroad must undergo registration for recordkeeping purposes. Only persons with specialized higher or secondary religious education may be religious preachers. The requirement also applies to preaching through the media, the internet, social networks, and mobile applications.

According to the Agency's clarification, registration is required for people who regularly maintain blogs and create content aimed at disseminating religion and encouraging adherence to a particular faith. An isolated post, comment, or personal statement on a religious topic does not in itself require registration. A journalist or podcast host likewise need not register simply because they invite a religious figure for an interview. The Law does not, however, establish clear criteria distinguishing religious preaching from ordinary public discussion of religious matters. This creates a risk of inconsistent application to bloggers, journalists, and others expressing views on religion.

Registration requires submission to the National Agency of an application, a completed questionnaire, a passport copy, a diploma in religious education, and a letter of consent from the relevant religious organization's central governing body. Registration authorizes preaching for up to one year and may be renewed. A preacher may operate only within the territory specified in the certificate and must notify the local self-government body of their registration and contact details. Persons with a criminal conviction that has not been expunged or spent are prohibited from preaching.

Separate requirements apply to the content of religious sermons online. Under Article 13, religious figures must obtain approval for such sermons from the central governing body of their respective religious organizations. Article 11, however, gives religious organizations the right, rather than the obligation, to establish such a body. The Law does not specify how sermons are to be approved or preachers registered where no such body exists. This may impede the activities of religious communities without a centralized structure.

11. Jogorku Kenesh continues work on the bill on creative unions

On October 6, a Jogorku Kenesh working group continued discussing the draft Law on Creative Unions of the Kyrgyz Republic, initiated by member of parliament Kamila Talieva. The draft defines the legal status of creative professionals and the specific rules for establishing, operating, reorganizing, and liquidating creative unions. It also envisages state support for the unions and social protection for their members.

A creative union would be defined as a voluntary public association of professionals working in the same field, including literature, cinema, music, theater, visual arts, architecture, and journalism. Such a union must have a defined membership and operate under a charter. Membership would be open to citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The draft would allow creative unions to obtain republic-wide status if they operate throughout the country and have local branches in the regions. The Cabinet of Ministers could also grant republic-wide creative unions "national" status. The specific conditions and legal consequences of this status require clarification.

Creative unions would be able to represent and defend their members' interests, participate in developing legislation and state policy, and carry out economic activities to achieve their statutory objectives. State support measures are also envisaged, including earmarked budget funding, grants, state social contracting, and assistance in organizing cultural events. The draft would separately establish a priority right to renew leases of premises used for creative work. It would also allow unions to provide members with financial assistance, pension supplements, and other social benefits, depending on the respective union's charter, assets, and financial capacity.

Since existing legislation already guarantees freedom to establish public associations, their self-governance, and eligibility for state support, the new rules should ensure equal conditions for different creative organizations and avoid unjustified advantages for particular unions. Membership in a creative union should not become a prerequisite for professional activity or access to state social guarantees provided by law.

12. Training procedure for legal representatives proposed

On October 9, the Ministry of Justice submitted for public consultation a draft Order approving the Procedure for Training Citizens Seeking Inclusion in the Register of Legal Representatives. The draft implements Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 141 of August 3, 2026, which introduced new requirements for persons providing representation in court. Inclusion in the Register of Legal Representatives requires a higher education degree in law, at least one year of professional experience, and at least 80 academic hours of professional training.

The draft Procedure regulates applications, the formation of training groups, classes, and final assessment. Training could be delivered in person, remotely, or in a blended format. Those

who fail the assessment would have two opportunities to retake it without repeating the course, as well as the right to challenge the results before an appeals commission and in court. Successful participants would receive a certificate with no expiry date. Once included in the Register, legal representatives would be required to undertake continuing professional development at least once every three years.

Training would be organized by the Lawyers' Training Center, with the curriculum approved by the Council of Lawyers. The published materials do not specify the costs of training, retakes, or subsequent professional development. Payment terms need to be established in advance, as mandatory training is a condition for obtaining legal representative status.

For NPOs providing free legal aid, access to training and the continued ability to represent vulnerable groups in court are particularly important. The new requirements for inclusion in the Register do not automatically apply to in-house lawyers representing their own organizations in the cases provided by law. The Law also allows temporary exceptions to the qualification requirements in certain regions to ensure access to legal assistance.

13. Procedure for mandatory pretrial mediation information meetings approved

On October 16, Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 704 approved the Procedure for Conducting Mandatory Pretrial Mediation Information Meetings, which will apply from January 1, 2027. Adopted to implement the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Mediation, the Resolution sets out the meeting procedure, cooperation between government agencies and the Chamber of Mediators, and the categories of disputes covered by the new rules.

The information meeting with a mediator is mandatory; mediation itself is voluntary. At the meeting, the mediator explains the nature and principles of mediation, the procedure, payment terms, and confidentiality safeguards. Mediation may proceed only with the parties' voluntary consent. The meeting may be held jointly, separately, or remotely and must not exceed two hours.

A mandatory pretrial meeting is required for specified categories of family, inheritance, contractual, property, corporate, and labor disputes that may be mediated. It also applies at the pretrial stage of criminal proceedings for certain minor and less serious crimes where the suspect and victim have been identified and the parties have not reconciled independently. The new rules do not apply to public-law disputes arising from government agencies' exercise of public authority or to cases involving deprivation or restriction of parental rights.

For civil disputes, the information meeting must take place within 30 days of contacting a mediator; for criminal cases, within 10 days. A mediator may notify the other party of the meeting no more than three times, including through messaging apps if ownership of the contact details is confirmed. If the other party does not respond or cannot be duly notified, this

does not prevent issuance of a certificate confirming that a mediator was contacted and that the mandatory pretrial step has been completed.

Payment for the mandatory meeting raises a separate issue. Under the Law on Mediation, a meeting is free when ordered by a court, while both parties pay when it is ordered by another authorized body. Payment arrangements where a person independently contacts a mediator before filing a claim are not expressly defined. A separate mechanism for funding mediation assistance is to be developed for persons entitled to state-guaranteed legal aid. By December 20, 2026, the Ministry of Justice must submit to the Cabinet of Ministers a draft decision specifying eligibility, how assistance is provided, mediators' remuneration, and the sources of funding.

14. Jogorku Kenesh adopts changes to the procedure for handling citizens' appeals

On October 15, the Jogorku Kenesh adopted in its third reading the bill on Amendments to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Procedure for Considering Citizens' Appeals. The amendments clarify how responses are provided to appeals submitted electronically.

Under the adopted bill, an electronic appeal will receive an electronic response unless the citizen requests a written response sent to a postal address. Government agencies and local self-government bodies must inform applicants of the outcome in a form corresponding to the method of submission, unless the appeal specifies otherwise.

Compared with the current Law, the proposed amendments remove uncertainty in the handling of electronic appeals. The bill establishes a uniform approach under which the form of the response must reflect the applicant's wishes, preserving the option of receiving an official paper response where needed. The amendments therefore clarify the rule for choosing the form of a response rather than introducing a new means of communicating with government agencies.

15. Changes to the employment mechanism for persons with disabilities proposed

On October 12, Jogorku Kenesh member Dastan Bekeshev submitted for public consultation a bill changing the system of employment quotas for persons with disabilities. The new rules would take effect on January 1, 2028.

Under existing legislation, employers with 25 or more employees must reserve at least 4% of jobs for persons with disabilities. The bill would clarify the quota calculation as one job for every full 25 employees and allow employers to make a compensatory payment for unfilled quota positions.

The proposed compensation would be paid monthly for each unfilled quota position, based on the subsistence minimum for the previous year. Government agencies, local self-

government bodies, and publicly funded institutions would not be allowed to replace employment with compensatory payments and would have to meet the quota directly.

Stronger liability for employers is also envisaged. Unjustified refusal to hire a person with a disability, failure to make compensatory payments, and other violations would carry fines, including up to KGS 65,000 for legal entities. Late payment charges are proposed for overdue compensation. Making a compensatory payment would not exempt an employer from the prohibition on disability discrimination or the obligation to provide working conditions required by law.

Compensatory payments would go to the republican budget. A separate budget program is also proposed to support the employment of persons with disabilities, including vocational training, workplace adaptation, assistance in obtaining a first job, and job retention. Mechanisms for public oversight of the use of funds are also envisaged.

16. Jogorku Kenesh adopts bill on wage indexation

On October 15, the Jogorku Kenesh adopted in its third reading a bill amending the Labor Code of the Kyrgyz Republic to provide for wage indexation in response to rising consumer prices. The amendments aim to preserve the purchasing power of employees' wages. A corresponding provision existed in the previous Labor Code but was not included in the Code adopted in 2025.

Under the bill, wage indexation procedures in organizations financed from the republican budget would be determined by legislation. For other employers, including NPOs, the procedure, conditions, and frequency of indexation would have to be established by a collective bargaining agreement, an agreement, or an internal regulatory act of the organization.

The bill does not establish a uniform indexation rate or frequency for all employers. These matters would need to be regulated at the organizational level. Indexation should be distinguished from individual pay increases linked to qualifications, position, or performance.

For organizations, adoption of the amendments would mean having to establish wage indexation procedures and account for possible increases in payroll costs when planning organizational budgets and grant projects.

17. New version of the Unified Register of Services proposed

On October 9, the Ministry of Economy and Commerce submitted for public consultation a draft Order approving the Unified Register of Services. The document implements Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 113 of July 17, 2026, on Services Provided by Government Agencies and Local Self-Government Bodies, which entered into force on October 22, 2026.

The draft register brings together information on paid state and municipal services and services provided under civil law. It contains three corresponding sections and covers, among

other things, registration and document processing, expert examinations, provision of archival and information materials, and educational, medical, and other services. Each entry specifies the administrator, provider, form and conditions of provision, payment conditions, and final result. Free state and municipal services are not included in the register. Information about them must be published separately on the official websites of the relevant bodies and institutions and at service access points.

According to the explanatory note, the drafters excluded entries relating to licensing and permits because these are governed by separate legislation. They also excluded certain certificates, extracts, copies, and duplicate documents where their provision essentially constitutes the exercise of the right of access to information already held by a government agency.

The draft register nevertheless includes certain paid services involving certificates for legal entities, archival information, extracts, and document copies. Under the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Right of Access to Information, preparing a response to an information request is free. If a request requires copying documents or materials exceeding 15 pages, a fee no higher than the actual copying cost may be charged. Providing information held by a government agency should not automatically be treated as a separate paid service.

The draft Order does not establish new tariffs. Under Law No. 113, paid services must be included in the Unified Register or in additional lists provided for by law. Inclusion in the register does not, however, itself create an independent basis for charging a fee. Once approved, the register must be published on the Ministry of Economy and Commerce website. Within 10 working days of the Order's entry into force, service administrators and providers must align the information on their websites and at service points with the register.

18. Regulation of endowment funds in education and science proposed

On October 20, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Kyrgyz Republic submitted for public consultation a draft Law on Endowment Funds (Capital Endowment Funds) of the Kyrgyz Republic. The initiative envisages a special mechanism for long-term financing of higher education, scientific research, and innovation through income from investing donations.

An endowment fund would be established as a nonprofit foundation. Its endowment capital could be formed from voluntary donations by individuals and legal entities, grants, bequests, investment income, and other lawful sources. The principal would not be available for spending. Educational and scientific initiatives would be financed from investment income. The Cabinet of Ministers would set the minimum endowment amount, which would have to be accumulated within one year of the fund's state registration.

The fund's highest governing body would be a board of trustees with at least five members, at least one-third of whom must be independent. The board would approve the investment policy statement, determine how income is used, select an asset management company, and oversee its activities. The draft also requires disclosure of conflicts of interest and recusal of interested persons from the relevant decisions.

Management of the endowment would be entrusted to a professional asset management company selected through a competitive process. Investments would have to meet requirements for capital preservation, asset diversification, and risk management. Investment in gambling-related activities and certain prohibited or restricted financial instruments would be banned, as would financing political parties and election campaigns. The Cabinet of Ministers would establish additional requirements for permitted instruments and the composition of investment portfolios.

Investment income could be used for educational programs, scientific research, scholarships and grants, support for young researchers, academic mobility, international projects, and the development of educational and research infrastructure. Endowment funds would have to publish annual activity reports, information on asset composition and the use of investment income, and an auditor's opinion. On liquidation, assets remaining after creditors have been paid would have to be used for similar purposes.

19. Jogorku Kenesh adopts a package of tax amendments

On October 28, the Jogorku Kenesh adopted in its second and third readings the bill on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Field of Taxation. The bill contains numerous amendments to the Tax Code and other legislative acts. Most concern business activities, tax incentives, debt collection, and tax oversight. Some provisions, however, are relevant to NPOs as employers, tax withholding agents, and recipients of grants and humanitarian assistance.

The current Tax Code already requires employers, subject to specified exceptions, to maintain a tax withholding agent's employee register in their online taxpayer account. The amendments provide for the authorized tax authority to approve the procedure for completing this register. They would also expressly require tax withholding agents to report income paid, including tax-exempt income.

The amendments would also restrict the removal of individuals from previously submitted personal income tax and state social insurance reports. Such corrections would be permitted in cases of technical errors or duplicate information, or on the basis of a final court ruling or a decision of the authorized tax authority. This increases the importance of accurate personnel and accounting records for NPOs. When maintaining the register, organizations must distinguish between employees under employment contracts, service providers under civil-law contracts, and volunteers.

Tax oversight procedures would change. In particular, the draft would permit tax penalties following a desk audit where invoices are found invalid because no goods, works, or services were actually supplied. The current general rule precludes tax penalties based on such audits. Organizations making purchases under grant projects should retain documents confirming both the formal recording of transactions and the actual receipt of goods, works, and services.

The amendments also clarify electronic communications with tax authorities. The Tax Code's five-day period after which an electronic document is deemed served is already in effect. Organizations should therefore regularly check their online taxpayer accounts to avoid missing deadlines for objections and appeals.

A separate set of amendments provides tax incentives for educational organizations. Organizations included in a Cabinet of Ministers list would be eligible for the proposed exemptions from profit tax, land tax, sales tax, and VAT on imports of certain equipment and supplies not manufactured in Kyrgyzstan. Personal income tax and insurance contribution exemptions are also proposed for foreign teachers and specialists working in the relevant educational organizations. Offering educational programs would not in itself be sufficient to qualify; the established criteria would have to be met.

NPOs implementing grant-funded and humanitarian programs should note that the current Tax Code already provides, until January 1, 2030, a VAT exemption for goods imported as humanitarian assistance or grants in accordance with the established procedure. An exemption also already applies to NPOs' imports of specialized goods for persons with disabilities. The bill affects certain provisions concerning the application of these rules but does not introduce these exemptions anew.

Once the Law has been signed and officially published, its final text and the effective dates of the relevant provisions will need to be checked.

20. Jogorku Kenesh adopts amendments on the use of digital evidence

On October 28, the Jogorku Kenesh adopted in its second and third readings a bill amending the Criminal Code, the Code of Offenses, and the Criminal Procedure Code of the Kyrgyz Republic. The amendments provide specific rules for digital evidence and clarify law enforcement powers to obtain, examine, and preserve digital data.

Under the bill, digital evidence may include user information, connection and data transmission records, the contents of correspondence, images, audio and video recordings, and other digital data relevant to establishing the circumstances of a case. Investigative bodies and courts must ensure the integrity of such evidence and prevent its alteration, destruction, or unauthorized access. Digital data obtained in breach of the procedures for recording, seizing, preserving, and examining it would be classified as inadmissible evidence.

To prevent the loss or alteration of digital evidence, an investigator, prosecutor, or court could issue a preservation order to individuals or legal entities possessing or controlling the relevant data. The initial preservation period must not exceed 90 days, although the draft allows extensions. A preservation order does not in itself authorize disclosure of the contents of protected correspondence.

Separate rules would govern the examination of data involving the confidentiality of correspondence, private life, and other information protected by law. Such examination must take place with the data owner's consent and in their presence. If the owner objects, a ruling by an investigating judge would be required, identifying the device or digital resource and the categories of data to be examined.

In exceptional urgent circumstances, an investigator could conduct an examination without a prior judicial ruling. The investigator would have to justify the need for urgent intervention and notify the prosecutor and investigating judge within 24 hours. The investigating judge must review the lawfulness of the action within 24 hours of receiving notification. Such urgent examination would not be permitted for digital data covered by lawyer–client confidentiality.

During a search or seizure, the persons concerned would have to provide access to digital devices, storage media, and systems containing data that may be relevant to the case. At the same time, the bill would require investigators to limit seizure to materials relevant to the case and return devices that have no bearing on the investigation. Covert interception of information would be extended to computers, servers, and other devices, subject to a ruling by an investigating judge.

21. Powers of two ministries to classify information as state secrets clarified

On October 5, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 662, expanding the list of categories of information that the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry and the Ministry of Energy are authorized to classify as state secrets. The Resolution entered into force on October 16, 2026.

The Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry was added to the bodies authorized to classify as state secrets information on the results of geodetic, topographic, cartographic, and gravimetric activities of significant defense or economic importance.

The Ministry of Energy received corresponding powers regarding information relating to the preparation of decisions on Kyrgyzstan's water relations with neighboring states made in the interests of national security.

Both ministries were already on the list of bodies authorized to classify information as state secrets. The Resolution clarifies their powers with respect to specific categories of information and does not expand the categories themselves under the existing list. Nor does it mean that all

information in these fields becomes secret. Restrictions on access to particular information must comply with legislation on the protection of state secrets and the established lists.