

**LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**ON PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES AND THEIR SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE REPUBLIC  
OF ARMENIA**

**CHAPTER I**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1 Scope and purpose of the present law**

1. The present law regulates the relations pertaining to the definition of disability, social, health and vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, contributes to provision of accessible environment for them, establishes social, legal and economic guarantees for their education, employment, health and equal participation in public life.
2. The goal of the present law is to protect and ensure the rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.
3. The rights and assurances that the citizens of the Republic of Armenia are endowed with shall extend by the present law to persons granted the status of refugee in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the law.

**Article 2 The legislation on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their social integration in the Republic of Armenia**

1. In the Republic of Armenia the legal relations pertaining to protection of rights of persons with disabilities and their social integration are regulated by the RA Constitution, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the present law, other legal acts and international treaties regulating the sphere.

**Article 3. Main concepts used in the present law**

The main concepts used in this law are mentioned below:

Person with disability: a person who is unable to enjoy his/her rights and fundamental freedoms and to fully participate in public life owing to the



absence of accessible environment and to his or her restricted ability to perform living activities because of health impairments.

Living activities: combination of the person's abilities (capacity) to do work, to care for oneself, to move independently, to orientate oneself, to communicate, to control one's own behavior and to learn (playing for children).

**Limitation of the ability/capacity to work:** limitation of the ability to do work

**Core program:** a rehabilitation program for persons with disabilities, which is implemented with funding allocated from the State budget and which secures the minimum rehabilitation interventions rendered, services provided and technical and assistive devices given to persons with disabilities.

**Communication:** within the scope of the present law, speech, gestures and sign languages, texts display, publications in Braille tactile system and in legible letters as well as other accessible information and communication technologies.

**Discrimination:** within the scope of the present law, any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which impedes the full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Relevant/adequate facilities (modifications/improvements):** conditions and facilities that ensure and encourage the participation of a person with disability in education, employment, communication, cultural, sports and other aspects of life and are created taking into account the individual needs of a person with a disability.

**Expert medical and social examination:** determination of the disability of a person as well as the rehabilitation potential, ways and types of social inclusion based on the evaluation of the living activities limitations, the level of the loss of the ability to work and the capacity to work because of the health impairment of the person.

**Individual rehabilitation plan:** a document, which is created for a person with a disability and which spells out a totality of medical, social and vocational rehabilitation activities.

**Environment:** the working, social and individual/personal life of a person with disability as well as conditions for his/her independent mobility, use of rendered

social services, acquisition of necessary information, socializing and opportunity to participate in all spheres of public life

**Environment factors:** external conditions with positive or negative impact on the life of person with a disability

**Universal design:** the design of products, environments, programs and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Universal design shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **STATE POLICY FOR PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

#### **Article 4 Major principles of the state policy for protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities**

1. The major principles of the state policy for protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities are

- 1) Exclusion of discrimination against persons with disabilities
- 2) Respect for dignity, individual autonomy and independence of person with a disability,
- 3) Accessibility within all aspects of public life
- 4) Targeted interventions aimed at social inclusion of persons with disabilities
- 5) Provision of social security based on the level of person's ability/capacity to work
- 6) Ensuring participation in public life
- 7) Priority assigned to the rights of children with disabilities within the scope of all the activities pertaining to persons with disabilities
- 8) Cooperation between the state bodies and non-governmental organizations in the field of protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities
- 9) Civil society engagement in and support to the process of protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities

2. The provisions stipulated by the law necessary to achieve de facto equality and to accelerate that process shall not be considered discrimination.

**Article 5. The core directions of the state policy pertaining to protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disability**

1. The core directions of the state policy pertaining to protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities are:
  - 1) to ensure equal opportunities and legal grounds for persons with disabilities to exercise their rights regardless of the cause, nature and severity of disability
  - 2) to prevent any abuse and discrimination of persons with disabilities
  - 3) to promote the combat against the prejudices and stereotypes towards persons with disabilities
  - 4) to ensure involvement of persons with disabilities in consideration of any decisions on the issues related to their life and activities in the manner accessible/suitable to them
  - 5) to create conditions to ensure autonomy of, family or similar environment for persons with disabilities
  - 6) to ensure freedom of choice for accommodation, education, occupation, employment, social and medical assistance as well as environment for living or self-expression, the freedom to make choices for persons with disabilities
  - 7) to ensure accessible conditions for persons with disabilities through appropriate facilities (adaptation)
  - 8) to assist persons with disabilities in engaging in productive activities within the scope of their interests and capabilities taking into account their needs, capacity and skills
  - 9) to support the process of establishment and furtherance of operation of social rehabilitation centers for persons with disabilities
  - 10) to support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) dealing with issues of persons with disabilities
  - 11) to promote provision of services, products, equipment and buildings, assistive devices and technologies necessary for persons with disabilities, as well as provision of information and communication means and programs suitable for the persons with disabilities based on their specific needs
  - 12) to ensure accessibility and availability of rehabilitation services
  - 13) to ensure the training and requalification of the staff and professionals working with persons with disabilities, as well as to incorporate issues relating to disability and universal design in all curricula
  - 14) to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and to foster international cooperation in the area of social inclusion.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **THE SYSTEM FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

#### **Article 6. The system for social inclusion of persons with disabilities**

1. The system for social inclusion of persons with disabilities shall incorporate medical, vocational and social rehabilitation services, , development of inclusive education system, employment guarantees, involvement of a person with disability in active employment programs, targeted support for persons with disabilities, pensions and allowances, equal opportunities and rights in all the aspects of the social life.
2. The system of social inclusion of persons with disabilities shall be financed by the RA state budget and other means not prohibited by the law.

#### **Article 7. Administration of the system for social inclusion of persons with disabilities**

1. The administration of the system for social inclusion of persons with disabilities shall entail distribution and oversight of the authorities for planning, leading and organizing activities for social integration and accountability.
2. The key bodies promoting social inclusion of persons with disabilities shall be
  - 1) The Government of the Republic of Armenia (RA Government)
  - 2) The authorized state body of the RA Government
  - 3) The relevant ministries of the RA
  - 4) Territorial administration bodies
  - 5) Local self-governance bodies in accordance with procedures prescribed by the law
  - 6) The National Commission on Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter the Commission)
  - 7) NGOs dealing with issues of persons with disabilities.

#### **Article 8. Powers of the RA Government within the scope of protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities**

1. In the scope of protection of the rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities, the RA Government shall
  - Coordinate the State policy in the sector

- 1) approve strategic programs for social inclusion of persons with disabilities
- 2) submit the annual program for social inclusion of persons with disabilities (hereinafter the annual program) to the National Assembly as a component of the draft state budget
- 3) approve the core rehabilitation program for persons with disabilities and the procedure for its implementation
- 4) define the procedure for the conduct of the expert medical and social examination, development and implementation of individual rehabilitation plans for persons with disabilities as well as the regulations for the activities performed by the authorized state bodies for the field of the expert medical and social examination
- 5) set criteria for determination of disability through the expert medical and social examination
- 6) establish the regulations for the social services as well as the norms and procedures for the accessibility of life activity environment conducive to the social inclusion of persons with disabilities
- 7) define the procedures for provision of allowances and privileges or other support to persons with disabilities that are prescribed by the law
- 8) support the NGOs dealing with key issues of persons with disabilities
- 9) exercise other powers prescribed by the law.

**Article 9. The powers of the authorized state governance body in the field of the protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities**

1. The authorized state governance body of the RA Government in the sphere of the protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities, according to the procedure prescribed by law, shall
  - 1) develop and implement the state policy for the sphere
  - 2) develop strategic programs pertaining to persons with disabilities and ensure (coordinate) their implementation
  - 3) develop the annual program for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities and ensure (coordinate) its implementation
  - 4) develop the core rehabilitation program for persons with disabilities and ensure its implementation
  - 5) approve the structure of the authorized state bodies in the field of the expert medical and social examination, ensure and coordinate their activity
  - 6) coordinate the activities performed by the organizations rendering rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities
  - 7) organize the education and training of professionals in the field of the expert medical and social examination and rehabilitation
  - 8) promote scientific researches aimed to solve disability problems

- 9) cooperate with the NGOs dealing with the issues of persons with disabilities
- 10) create and maintain the database of persons with disabilities
- 11) perform other powers prescribed by the law and other legal acts.

## **CHAPTER IV.**

### **THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND CONDITIONS FOR THEIR SOCIAL INCLUSION**

#### **Article 10. The main rights of persons with disabilities**

Persons with disabilities shall have all the rights and duties vested in persons by the RA Constitution and laws.

#### **Article 11. Ensuring accessible environment for social inclusion of persons with disabilities**

1. The process of spatial planning, design of the social infrastructures, buildings, constructions, public transportation and their environment, adaptation of the information system shall take into account the requirements to ensure accessible environment for persons with disabilities in all the aspects of life. The RA Government shall define the standards for the accessible environment and the terms for their implementation.
2. The functioning infrastructures and buildings shall be adapted for needs of persons with disabilities in conformity with the standards and within the terms defined by RA Government.  
This provision shall be implemented in stages through a procedure set by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
3. Violation of the requirements for the accessibility of the social infrastructures, buildings, constructions, public transportation and their environment for the persons with disabilities shall entail liability prescribed by the law.
4. The authorized state body of the RA Government shall develop information technologies and programs suitable for persons with disabilities, provide them with technologies and rehabilitation appliances based on their individual needs.

#### **Article 12. Provision of information**

1. The authorized state body of the RA Government shall ensure the accessibility of information for the persons with disabilities in conformity with the procedure defined by the RA Government.
2. The persons with disabilities shall receive information provided in the way suitable/accessible to them.

### **Article 13. The right of persons with disabilities to education**

1. Persons with disabilities have the right to preschool, extracurricular, general, vocational, secondary technical, higher and postgraduate education at all levels, as well as to engage in scientific and scholarly research in conformity with the provisions of the present law and laws regulating the education sector in the Republic of Armenia.
2. Authorized state governance bodies of the RA Government shall ensure accessible and equal conditions for the education of persons with disabilities using appropriate technologies through introduction and development of the inclusive education system.
3. Persons with disabilities shall be provided with the conditions on the equal basis with others during examinations at institutions of higher or secondary technical education.
4. All other things being equal, persons with disabilities passing the unified examinations shall be given a priority right to admission to state and accredited private institutions of higher or secondary technical education.
5. The persons with 1 or 2 disability category and persons granted “a child with disability” status passing unified examinations shall be admitted to institutions of state higher and secondary technical institutions and granted a tuition fee exemption when having a minimum score qualifying for paid education.
6. The education of persons admitted to and studying at such educational institutions in conformity with Clause 5 of the present article shall be paid in full by the state through student allowances.
7. Persons with 1 or 2 category disability and “a child with disability” status studying at institutions of secondary technical and higher education on free basis in conformity with Clause 5 of the present article shall be transferred to paid education within the same institutions when the expert medical and social re-examination carried out during the period of study does not declare them persons with disabilities.



8. The persons studying at state institutions of higher or secondary technical education on paid basis are transferred to free education within the same educational institution when granted the status of a person with 1 or 2 category of disability or the status of “a child with disability”.
9. The state budget shall cover the expenses for the education of persons admitted to state educational institutions in conformity with Clause 5 of the present article.

#### **Article 14. Provision of employment to persons with disabilities**

1. Labor legislation, legislation on employment, the present law, as well as other legal acts shall regulate the guarantees for the employment rights and process to ensure employment for persons with disabilities.
2. Employers shall be assigned quotas for working persons with disabilities through a procedure set by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
3. An employment norm at 5 percent of the overall staff shall be set for organizations for hiring persons with disabilities. If the number of employees in the organization does not exceed twenty, the norm is set at 1 employee.
4. An employer failing to comply with the employment norm set in Clause 3 of the present article shall be fined at the rate of the minimum monthly wages set by Article 1 of the Republic of Armenia *Law on Minimum Monthly Wages*.
5. The amounts of fines set in Clause 4 of the present article and paid to the State budget shall be used for social, labor and vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities as well as for their job placement.
6. The procedure and the timeframe for the payment of fine amounts to the State budget set in Clause 4 of the present article as well as the procedure for accumulation, registration and targeted use of those amounts shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

#### **Article 15. Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities**

Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities shall incorporate medical, vocational and social interventions aimed to eliminate limitations in the life activity of a person with disability or reduction to the extent possible and social inclusion.

The rehabilitation interventions shall aim to restore health, work ability/capacity and social status of a person with disability conducting to his/her financial and

social autonomy, full participation in all aspects of public life and equality of rights.

The rehabilitation of a person with disability shall be carried out in conformity with the individual rehabilitation plan.

#### **Article 16. Medical rehabilitation of persons with disability**

Medical rehabilitation shall incorporate medical rehabilitation care, plastic reconstructive surgery, provision of prosthetic and orthopedic devices, rehabilitation and other technical appliances.

The medical care and services within the scope of the medical rehabilitation shall be provided in outpatient or inpatient facilities as well as in health resorts.

The medical rehabilitation shall be implemented by the bodies, departments, insurance and charity medical organizations of health and social security system in the Republic of Armenia.

#### **Article 17. Vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities**

1. Vocational rehabilitation shall aim to restore and develop the ability to work as well as to expand the employment opportunities of persons with disabilities.
2. Vocational rehabilitation shall incorporate vocational guidance, vocational training, vocational adaptation and recruitment process.
3. Vocational rehabilitation shall incorporate the following main services: vocational guidance, advice, assessment and rehabilitation of professional skills, and, when necessary, the development of new skills and training for a new occupation. The following main services are provided in the field of vocational rehabilitation: counseling, vocational orientation, evaluation of occupational capacity and skills, rehabilitation, and development of new capacity and skills through professional development, retraining and training for a new occupation, as well as job placement.
4. The authorized state body of the RA Government shall organize the process for rendering the vocational rehabilitation services.

#### **Article 18. Social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities**

1. Social rehabilitation shall incorporate social-environmental guidance, social and domestic adaptation, social and psychological counseling and adaptation, provision of technical appliances and training on their use.
2. Social and living rehabilitation services shall aim to restore social and independent living skills of persons with disabilities. The social rehabilitation services shall be conducive to their education, increase of the

competitiveness on the labor market as well as opportunities for participation in other spheres of social life.

3. Social and domestic rehabilitation services shall incorporate preservation and development of independent living skills, development of new capacities and skills, increase of motivation to learn and work, development of art, sports and other skills.
4. The territorial bodies rendering social services shall organize and implement the process of the provision of social rehabilitation services, and the authorized body of the RA Government shall coordinate the activities.

### **Article 19. The individual rehabilitation plan of a person with disability**

1. Medical, vocational and social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities shall be performed based on the individual rehabilitation plan developed in conformity with the core rehabilitation program for persons with disabilities approved by the authorized state body for the sphere of expert medical and social examination in line with the procedure prescribed by the RA Government.
2. The individual rehabilitation plan shall be referable for a person with disability.

A person with disability shall be entitled to reject any type, way and volume of intervention envisaged by the plan as well as the plan.

The individual rehabilitation plan for a person with disability shall be optional and shall be implemented following his or her written application.

The individual rehabilitation plan is subject to mandatory implementation by relevant bodies.

Implementation of the individual rehabilitation plan shall be coordinated by the authorized body.

### **Article 20. Core rehabilitation program for persons with disabilities**

1. The core rehabilitation program for persons with disabilities is a list of guaranteed minimum rehabilitation interventions rendered, services provided and technical and assistive devices given to persons with disabilities with funding allocated from the State budget.
2. The core rehabilitation program for the persons with disabilities and the procedure for its implementation shall be defined by the RA Government.

### **Article 21. Health care and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities**

1. Persons with disabilities shall be entitled to free or privileged health services.
2. The relevant authorized body of the RA Government shall
  - 1) ensure accessibility of the health services to persons with disabilities
  - 2) guarantee the right of the persons with disabilities to free or privileged health care, rehabilitation and medical care and services
  - 3) ensure that health care services, including early identification and intervention services, are rendered based on the persons' needs and expert assessment of their potential.
3. Persons with disabilities shall be entitled to receive medication for free or on privileged basis in conformity with the procedure prescribed by the law.
4. A person with disability shall not be transferred to or kept at specialized institutions or in any other venue for health rehabilitation without his/her or his/her legal representative's consent, with the exceptions of cases prescribed by the law.

#### **Article 22. The social protection of persons with disabilities**

1. The social protection of persons with the disabilities shall be implemented through the following:
  - 1) cash payments: Pensions, Allowances, Targeted payments and Compensations
  - 2) privileges
  - 3) rehabilitation services
  - 4) care and social services
  - 5) legal or vocational counseling
  - 6) free prosthetic, orthopedic, rehabilitation and other assistive devices and technologies
  - 7) improvement of accommodation through involvement of persons with disabilities in state programs or allocation of a share from the state accommodation fund.
2. The caregivers of persons granted "a child with disability" status or persons, who are unable to work and need permanent care shall be assigned a care allowance unless they work or receive pension.
3. The provision of types of social protection spelled out in Sub-clauses 1, 2, 4 and 7 of Clause 1 of the present article shall be dependent on the extent to which the person has retained the ability to work, as ascertained through the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

#### **Article 23. Conditions provided to persons with disabilities when sentenced to imprisonment**

1. Persons with disabilities in the place of detention shall be provided with accessible and adapted conditions.
2. Person with disability in the place of detention shall
  - 1) enjoy humane attitude and respect for inherent dignity taking into consideration disability-related needs
  - 2) receive free and accessible information on the reasons for and conditions of the arrest, detention or imprisonment
  - 3) receive free and accessible legal, medical, social and psychological and other necessary assistance.
3. The RA Government shall define the procedure to determine disability of persons at the place of detention.

#### **Article 24. The social services and care of persons with disabilities at population social security institutions and domiciliary**

1. The social services for the persons with disabilities and “child with disability” status requiring care and social services shall be rendered in public social protection institutions, and for those with disability, who are above 18 years of age – also at the place of their residence.
2. Persons with disabilities in public social security institutions as well as those who receive the services at home shall be provided with personal assistance services, first aid, psychosocial and legal counseling.
3. The procedure for social services and care rendered to persons with disabilities as well as their conditions shall be set by the RA Government.

#### **Article 25. Transportation service for persons with disabilities**

1. In conformity with the procurement procedure prescribed by the RA legislation, the procedure for the tender to select organizations providing general automobile transportation shall envisage the minimum quantity of the transportation means adapted for the persons with disabilities as an integral part of the procedure.
2. Persons with first and second category disability and those, who are granted “a child with disability” status are entitled to free transportation within local transportation system (except for taxi services).

#### **Article 26. Participation in cultural life and sport**

1. Persons with disabilities shall be guaranteed the right to participate in cultural life and sport.
2. Adequate conditions shall be created for persons with disabilities to access cultural, sports, tourism or leisure venues on an equal basis with others,

adequate furniture and activities organized within those facilities. The organizers of cultural and sports events shall plan to have adapted seats of certain quantity for persons with disabilities in conformity with the criteria and terms defined by the RA Government.

3. The state shall
  - 1) ensure and promote the participation of persons with disabilities in sporting activities at all levels, including special Olympic, Paralympic and Surdolympic activities.
  - 2) support the use of cultural services by persons with disabilities and all the activities organized with their involvement.

### **Article 27. Disability statistics and database development**

1. The authorized state body of the RA Government shall collect, analyze and correlate the statistical data on persons with disabilities to formulate and implement the policy aimed to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.
  - 1) The process of collecting and application of this information shall ensure observance of ethical principles and confidentiality;
  - 2) The collected information shall be consistent, as necessary be applied to regulate the issues pertaining to the persons with disabilities, to plan and implement targeted programs.
2. The information mentioned in clause 1 of the present article shall be processed in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the RA legislation.

## CHAPTER V.

### DETERMINATION OF THE STATUS OF A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY

#### **Article 28. Implementation of the medical and social expert examination**

1. The expert medical and social examination shall be implemented by the authorized state bodies in the sphere of the expert medical and social examination. The RA Government shall define the procedure for establishment and operation as well as the authorities of the aforementioned bodies.
2. The authorized state bodies in the sphere of the expert medical and social examination make the below mentioned decisions in conformity with the procedure prescribed by the RA Government.
  - 1) On recognition of a person disabled (“child with disability” status or disability category) or non-recognition based on the level of the limitation of the living activities of the person
  - 2) On the cause and term of disability
  - 3) On the causative relation to death
  - 4) On the level of the loss of the ability to work
  - 5) On the need for extension of the validity period of a temporary disability certificate.
3. The authorized state bodies for the sphere of expert medical and social examination shall make a decision on the types, ways and volume of social intervention for a person with disability and (or) develop and approve the individual rehabilitation plan for the person with disability with his/her and (or) his/her legal representative’s involvement based on his/her individual needs.
4. The authorized state bodies for the sphere of expert medical and social examination shall determine the level of ability/capacity to work (percentage) of persons from 18 to 63 years of age and of working children from 16 to 18 years of age.
5. The RA Government shall establish the procedure and criteria for determination of disability.
6. The authorized state bodies for the sphere of the expert medical and social examination shall be funded from the RA state budget.

#### **Article 29. Declaring a person disabled**

1. The authorized state body for the sphere of the expert medical and social examination shall declare a person disabled in conformity with the requirements

of the present law, as well as the criteria for determination of the disability prescribed by the RA Government.

2. The RA Government shall define the list of the disability causative relations, criteria, terms for determination of the disability and other norms.

3. Re-examination of a person with a disability shall be performed in cases when the term fixed for his/her disability status is complete, or when the health state deteriorates and in cases of falsification indentified in the documents validating the decision of expert medical and social examination or violation of the procedure for implementation of the medical social examination or criteria for determination of the disability category or inappropriate assessment of the loss of the work ability/capacity or on the basis of the application filed by a person with disability and (or) his legal representative or a judicial act.

4. Re-examination of a person with disability fixed for unlimited time is realized in cases of falsification indentified in the documents validating the decision of the expert medical and social examination or violation of the procedure for expert medical and social examination or of the criteria for determination of disability categories or inappropriate assessment of the loss of the work ability/capacity of the person or based on the application filed by the person and (or) his/her legal representative or a judicial act.

5. The decisions made by the authorized state bodies for the sphere of expert medical and social examination might be appealed in conformity with administrative or judicial procedure.

6. The administrative complaint shall be filed within three months after the date the administrative act goes into effect.

7. The decisions of the authorized state bodies for the sphere of the expert medical and social examination shall go into effect the day following the submission of the statement-excerpt from the administrative act to the person.



**CHAPTER VI.**  
**NATIONAL COMMISSION**  
**ON ISSUES AFFECTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Article 30. The National Commission on issues affecting persons with disabilities and its operational goals**

- 1 The National Commission on issues affecting persons with disabilities (hereinafter the Commission) shall be established by the Republic of Armenia Prime Minister's decree.
- 2 The Commission is a coordinating body, which shall abide by the present law and by its rules of procedure in its operation.
- 3 The goal of the Commission is:
  - 1) to assist in securing equal rights and equal opportunities to persons with disabilities and in monitoring of their enjoyment,
  - 2) to study the applicability and the degree of impact of relevant legal Acts,
  - 3) to make recommendations about persons with disabilities' social inclusion strategies, annual programs, reports and other documents ensuring their implementation,
  - 4) to conduct monitoring of implementation of provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Article 31. The National Commission's objectives and functions**

In conformity with the law and its rules of procedure the Commission shall:

- 1) analyze the problems that arose for persons with disabilities in the enjoyment of their rights and make recommendations concerning their solution,
- 2) discuss an annual National Disability Report,
- 3) coordinate cooperation between public administration and local self-government bodies in charge of protection of equal rights and interests of persons with disabilities and non-governmental, research and other organizations operating in the disability sphere,
- 4) discuss the draft annual program for social inclusion of persons with disabilities as well as a report on implementation of an annual program for a previous year and make recommendations,
- 5) submit recommendations to the RA Government concerning the improvement of the legislation that regulates issues of persons with disabilities,

- 6) collaborate with public administration and local self-government bodies and with non-governmental, research, international and other organizations,
- 7) exercise other powers stipulated by the rules of procedure.

### **Article 32. The National Commission's establishment procedure**

1. The Commission's composition and rules of procedure shall be approved by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.
2. The Commission shall be composed of a Chairperson, Secretary and of an equal number of representatives of public administration bodies in charge of the disability sphere and of concerned non-governmental organizations.
3. The authorized body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia shall establish the Commission's Office with a view to ensuring the Commission's operation.
4. The Commission shall have territorial units (Regional Commissions on issues affecting persons with disabilities).
5. The Commission and its territorial units shall operate on a *pro bono* basis.
6. The Commission shall approve the rules of procedure for regional and Yerevan city commissions on issues affecting persons with disabilities as well as for Experts' Working Group.

**CHAPTER VII.**  
**SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMS FOR PERSONS WITH**  
**DISABILITES (PROGRAM PROVISION)**

**Article 33. Strategy for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities**  
**Comprehensive program**

1. The state policy in the social sphere of the persons with disabilities shall be carried out in accordance with the directions and terms set out by the strategy for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities(hereinafter the strategy).
2. The strategy is aimed at social integration of persons with disabilities to ensure their full participation in all the aspects of social life.  
The strategy shall incorporate health, medical, social and psychosocial rehabilitation, public education and accessibility, transportation, communication, education, employment, human resource development, social security and other spheres.
3. The strategy shall be approved by the RA Government.
4. The activities envisaged by the strategy, by annual proportions, shall be reflected in the annual program of social inclusion for persons with disabilities.
5. The strategy shall be developed and implemented by the authorized state governance body for the sphere of the social inclusion of the persons with disabilities.

**Article 34. Annual program of the social inclusion of persons with disability**

1. The activities aimed at social inclusion of persons with disabilities shall be undertaken within the terms and according to the procedure defined by the annual program.
2. The annual program shall aim to incorporate all measures taken by different departments and organizations in the sphere of the disability into one general document to ensure implementation of mutually agreed activities.
3. The Government shall submit the annual program to the National Assembly as a component of the draft state budget.  
The report on the annual program execution shall be a component of the annual state budget execution report.

**CHAPTER VIII.**

**LIABILITY INCURED FOR VIOLATION OF THE PRESENT LAW**

**Article 35. The liability incurred for violation of provisions of the present law**

Violation of the provisions of the present law shall entail liability defined by the law.

**CHAPTER IX**

**FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 36. Final provisions**

1. The present law shall take effect on the tenth day following its official publication, except for Clause 4, Article 28 and Clause 6 Article 30, which shall take effect in 2014, and Clauses 2-6, Article 14 and Clauses 2 and 3, Article 22, which shall take effect from 2015. The possibility of implementation of the measures specified in Sub-clause 13, Clause 1 of Article 5 shall be considered when the draft annual state budget of the Republic of Armenia is drawn up.

2. The Republic of Armenia Law “On Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Armenia” (H.N-0800-I adopted on 14 April 1993) shall be recognized as null and void upon the present law taking effect.