

ACT 2005-06-17 no. 102: Act on certain aspects relating to the political parties (The Political Parties Act).

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Act on certain aspects relating to the political parties (The Political Parties Act).

The Act came into force on 1 January 2006, with the exception of Chapter 4, which came into force on 1 July 2005. The amended Act came into force on 1 March 2013 with the exception of the Sections 18a, 18b, 20a and 20b, which will enter into force on 1 January 2014.

Chapter 1. General provisions

§ 1. *Purpose and scope of the Act*

(1) The purpose of the Act is:

- to facilitate elections pursuant to Act no. 57 of 28 June 2002 on general, county council and municipal elections (The Election Act) through an arrangement for public registration of political parties,
- to establish a framework for the parties' financial structure that will help secure them a financial basis through public grants and otherwise to help increase the parties' independence and ability to finance themselves, and
- to ensure the authorities' right of inspection and to counteract corruption and undesired connections by ensuring transparency concerning the financing of political parties' activities.

(2) The King may issue regulations concerning the application of the Act on Svalbard (*Spitsbergen*) and may establish separate rules concerning conditions there.

(3) The Act applies to the head organisations of all political parties, their central youth organisation, county organisation, county youth organisation and municipal organisation. The groups in the Storting, county councils and municipal councils are not included in the Act. Chapters 3 and 4 apply to parties that are registered in accordance with Chapter 2.

Chapter 2. Registration of political parties

§ 2. *The registration authority. Effect of the registration*

(1) A political party that satisfies the conditions in Section 3 may apply to register the party's name in the Register of Political Parties at the Brønnøysund Register Centre.

(2) Before the party can be registered in the Register of Political Parties, it must be registered in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities and be allocated its own organisation number, cf. Section 5 of Act on the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities. When the party has been registered in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities, the entry in the Register of Political Parties will be based on the information registered there.

(3) Registration in the Register of Political Parties gives the party the exclusive right to field candidates for election under the registered name.

§ 3. *Conditions for registering a party name in the Register of Political Parties*

(1) In order for a party name to be registered in the Register of Political Parties, it must not be possible to confuse it with the name of

- a) another party registered in the Register of Political Parties or
- b) a Sami political entity registered with the Sami Parliament

When special grounds exist, the registration authority can refuse to register the name of a political party.

(2) The party shall present the following documentation along with the application:

- a) The party's formation document,
- b) information as to which persons have been elected members of the party's executive bodies, and which persons have been authorised to act as the official representatives of the party in cases pursuant to this Act,
- c) statutes determining which party body elects the party's executive bodies, and
- d) declarations from at least 5,000 persons who are eligible to vote in a general election, that they wish the party's name to be registered. The individuals making the declarations must

have reached voting age by the end of the calendar year in which the application is made. If the application is submitted less than one year before an election, it is sufficient to have reached voting age by the end of the election year. Each declaration shall include the name, date of birth and address of the person making the declaration. The declaration shall be signed in person and dated by the person who has made it. No declaration shall be more than one year older than the application.

(3) The application shall be registered with the registration authority by 2 January of the election year if the registration is to have any effect at the election.

§4. *Change of registered party name. Amalgamation of parties under a new name*

(1) A registered political party may apply to change its registered party name. The provisions in Section 3 apply correspondingly. Instead of the formation document, the minutes of the meeting at which it was decided to change the party name shall be attached. If the party received at least 500 votes in one county or at least 5,000 votes in the whole country at the last general election, the conditions in Section 3 (2) litra d) do not apply.

(2) If two or more registered parties amalgamate and apply for registration under a new name, this is considered to be an application to change the name. Instead of the formation document, the minutes of the meeting at which it was decided to amalgamate the parties and apply for registration under a new name shall be attached. If one of the parties received at least 500 votes in one county or at least 5,000 votes in the whole country at the last general election, the conditions in Section 3(2) litra d) do not apply.

§5. *Deregistration. When a party name becomes freely available*

(1) The effect of the registration shall cease and the party's name shall become freely available when the party has not issued a list of election candidates in any constituency at two consecutive general elections. The name of the party shall then be deleted from the Register of Political Parties.

(2) This also applies four years after the party was dissolved or changed its name.

§6. *Information concerning the members of the party's executive bodies*

(1) In the event that a registered party wishes to change previously registered information, the party shall submit notification to the Brønnøysund Register Centre and name the persons serving on the party's executive bodies.

(2) By 2 January in the election year, the party shall submit updated information or confirmation of the information registered in the Register of Political Parties giving the names of members of the party's executive bodies with effect for the election. The registration authority shall, well before the time limit, inform the parties of the information registered in the Register of Political Parties.

§7. *Announcement of decisions*

The registration authority shall announce decisions concerning registration of new names of political parties or deletion of names from the Register of Political Parties.

§8. *Appeals*

(1) The registration authority's decisions under this Chapter may be appealed to the Political Parties Act Committee, cf. Chapter 5. An appeal must be submitted within three weeks. Appeals shall be submitted to the registrar in writing stating the grounds for the appeal. The Committee notifies the registrar of decisions in appeal cases. The Committee's decisions in appeal cases shall be made public.

(2) The decisions of the Political Parties Act Committee may be brought before the courts of law. In that event, any action must be brought within two weeks after the party in question received notification of the Committee's decision, complete with information about the time limit for bringing an action. A court decision on the registration of a party is only effective for a pending election if it is finally and legally enforceable no later than 31 March in the election year. Until a final and legally enforceable decision is available, the Committee's decision forms the basis for the registration in the Register of Political Parties.

§9. Regulations

The Ministry may in regulations provide more detailed provisions for the registration scheme and the activities of the registration authorities.

Chapter 3. Financing of political parties' organisations and elected groups

§10. Overarching principles for grants from public funds

(1) Government grants to political parties' organisations at national, regional and municipal levels are paid in the amounts determined by the Storting.

(2) The Storting finances the elected groups in the Storting. The county administrations finance the elected groups in the county councils. The municipalities finance the elected groups in the municipal councils. The grant paid to the elected groups in the county councils and the municipal councils shall be paid proportionally according to the votes the party won at the election.

(3) No conditions shall be attached to the grants from the government, county administrations or municipalities that may be in conflict with the political parties' independence.

(4) The authorities shall not keep control of how the parties or groups dispose of their grants.

§11. Government grants to political parties' organisations and youth organisations at national level

(1) Political parties may apply to the Ministry for government grants to the party's organisation at national level. The grants are provided as vote support and basic support.

(2) The vote support is paid as an equal amount in kroner (NOK) to each vote received at the last general election. The basic support is paid as an equal amount in kroner to parties that at the last general election received at least 2.5% of the votes on a national basis or that had at least one representative elected to the Storting. Of the total support, 9/10 is distributed as vote support and 1/10 as basic support.

(3) A political party's central youth organisation which is entitled to vote support may apply to the Ministry for a grant. The grant is paid as an equal amount in kroner to each vote received by the party at the last general election.

(4) Applications for grants during the first year after an election are regarded as applicable to the entire election period as long as the applicant does not provide other information during the period.

(5) Before a public grant can be paid, the applicant must provide the Ministry with information about which bank account the payment is to be made to and who are authorised to access the account. A confirmation must be submitted at least once a year.