REG 2006-03-16 no. 321: Regulations on certain aspects relating to the political parties (The Political Parties Act Regulations).

DATE: FOR-2006-03-16-321
MINISTRY: FAD (The Ministry of Government Administration and Reform)
DEPT/DIRECT.: The Administration Department.
PUBLISHED: In 2006 booklet 4
ENTRY INTO FORCE: 2006-04-01
MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: FOR-2005-11-24-1433
APPLIES TO: Norway
LEGAL BASIS: ACT-2005-06-17-102-Section 9, ACT-2005-06-17-102-Section 22, ACT-2005-06-17-102-Section 27

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

Established by the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform on 16 March 2006 pursuant to Act no. 102 of 17 June 2005 on certain aspects relating to the political parties (The Political Parties Act) Section 9, Section 22 subsection 3 and Section 27.

Chapter 1. Registration of political parties

§1. Concerning submittal of the application. Requirements relating to signatures

(1) The registrar is the Brønnøysund Register Centre.

(2) Applications for registration of political party names shall be made on a form prepared by the registrar.

(3) The registrar shall issue a form for the purpose of collecting declarations supporting the registration of party names. The name of the party shall be stated on the form containing the declarations of support. The form shall also have spaces for name, date of birth, postal address, signature and date. Signatures shall be written on paper. Prior to submittal of the form, the declarations must be consecutively numbered. The forms with declarations of support are exempt from public disclosure, cf. Freedom of Information Act and Section 13 of the Public Administration Act subsection 1 no. 1.

(4) When submitting applications or reports to the Register of Political Parties, a written declaration is required from a contact person or similar that the submitted information is correct, cf. requirements in Section 8 of the Act on the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities, subsection 1.

§2. Information to be registered in the Register of Political Parties. Public disclosure

(1) The Register of Political Parties shall contain information concerning the party's name, organisation number, address and the contact person who is registered in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities. For persons who are registered as members of the executive body and as contact persons, the registry shall contain information concerning the person’s name, address, date of birth and ID number or D number.

(2) All information in the Register of Political Parties is public with the exception of date of birth and ID number and D-number and addresses of members of the party's executive body.

§3. The party's executive body – notification of changes

When changes occur in the composition of the party's executive body, notification to that effect shall be sent to the registrar. Minutes of the meeting at which the election of the new executive body was held shall be attached as documentation.

§4. Notification of registered changes
The person submitting the notification shall be informed of the information that is registered on the unit in the Register of Political Parties. Notification of decisions related to the party's name or changes to the composition of the party's executive body, shall also be sent to those persons who were registered as members of the party's executive body at the time when application or notification of change was recorded by the registrar.

§5. Information to be used as a basis for elections
(1) By 15 October in the year before an election year, the registrar shall notify the parties of the information registered on the party in the Register of Political Parties. At the same time the registrar shall inform the parties that the time limit for reporting new information concerning the composition of the party's executive bodies with effect for the election is 2 January in the election year. Notification of changes in the party's executive bodies that are received after 2 January in the election year, may form the basis for updating the Register of Political Parties with effect for the election, if the time limit for appeals pursuant to Section 8 of the Political Parties Act has expired by 31 March and the decision has not been appealed.

(2) The election authorities base their preparations of elections on the information that is registered in the Register of Political Parties as of 31 March in the election year.

§6. Conflicting information
The registrar decides what information on which the registration shall be based. The registrar shall ensure that he has as much information as possible regarding the case before making a decision.

§7. Publication of decisions. Notification to the other registered parties
(1) The registrar shall publish decisions concerning the registration of new party names, amalgamation of parties and deregistration of party names. Also decisions made by the Political Parties Act Committee in cases pursuant to the first sentence shall be published. The decisions shall be published on the Brønnøysund Register Centre's Internet site.

(2) The other registered parties and the Sami political entities shall be notified separately of decisions on registration of party names. The notification shall contain information about the right to appeal.

§8. Appeals
(1) Decisions made by the registration authority may be appealed within three weeks to the Political Parties Act Committee, appointed by the King in Council, cf. Chapter 5 of the Political Parties Act.

(2) Appeals against decisions of the registrar shall be lodged with the registrar.

(3) The appeal shall be in writing and the grounds for the appeal shall be stated.

(4) The Political Parties Act Committee notifies the registrar of decisions in appeal cases.

(5) Entries in the Register of Political Parties shall be based on the decision of the Political Parties Act Committee until a final and legally enforceable judgment is available.

Chapter 2. Reporting of party income

§9. The central register for reporting party income and sources of income
Statistics Norway (SSB) is the registrar for reporting of party income and sources of income, cf. Section 22, subsections 1 and 2.

§10. Form of reporting
(1) All registered political parties, including organisational party units that are comprised by the Political Parties Act (units obliged to report), shall when reporting in accordance with the Act use the electronic reporting tools established by SSB, cf. subsection 3.

(2) When it is not possible to make electronic reports, or when it is not possible to use approved standards for electronic signatures, a signed, paper-based report shall be submitted to SSB before the expiry of the time limit, cf. Section 18(2) and Section 21(3).

(3) SSB shall prepare standardised forms for reporting and make these available in electronic format for entities that are obliged to report.

§11. Publication

(1) Pursuant to Section 22(2) of the Act, SSB shall make the compared information concerning the parties' income and sources of income electronically available to the general public. SSB shall also publish the name of reported donors pursuant to Section 20 of the Act.

(2) Information concerning income, sources of income and the names of donors in relation to donations for individual years, shall be electronically available for five years from the reporting date.

§12. List of entities that are obliged to report

(1) The Ministry of Government Administration and Reform and the County Governors send SSB an overview of the entities with an obligation to report that have been granted their application for party support pursuant to the Political Parties Act Chapter 3. The overview shall be sent before 1 April in the election year, or as soon as the applications have been presented.

(2) The registration data shall comprise the party organisation's name, postal address and telephone number, including those of the organisation's leader, plus the party's number in the Register of Political Parties or the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities, if relevant.

(3) The units shall be separated according to central, regional and local levels, and a special registration shall be made of the youth organisations.

§13. Notification of breach of duty to report

SSB shall report any breach of the duty to report, cf. Section 22, 2nd subsection, 2nd sentence of the Act, by 1 October.

§14. Archives, guidelines, etc.

(1) SSB establishes an archive for the scheme in accordance with Chapter II of the Archives Act.

(2) SSB may determine more detailed guidelines concerning the reporting system, including the comparison of the information and presentation.

Chapter 3. Withholding of party support

§15. Decisions concerning withholding of support

(1) The Political Parties Act Committee can decide to withhold government party support on the recommendation of the Ministry or on its own initiative, when.

   a) the party or the party unit has failed to comply with the regulations for reporting of income under the Political Parties Act Chapter 4, or

   b) when there is doubt as to whether the party or the party unit exists.
(2) Decisions to withhold support shall apply for one year at a time.

§16. Temporary withholding of support

The Ministry can withhold support in individual cases pending the decision of the committee, cf. Section 14 of the Political Parties Act.

§17. Appeal and reversal

(1) Decisions to withhold support may not be appealed, cf. Section 24(1) of the Political Parties Act.

(2) The Political Parties Act Committee can reverse a decision to withhold support if the grounds for withholding no longer apply, and otherwise when the competence to reverse the decision follows from Section 35 of the Public Administration Act, subsections 1 and 5.

§18. Notification of decision

The party or the party unit and the Ministry shall be informed of decisions of the Political Parties Act Committee under Section 15 and Section 17(2).

§19. Payment of withheld support

(1) Any payment of previously withheld support under Section 15 and Section 16 is limited to the calculated amount for the current budget period, cf. also Section 7(1), first sentence of the Grants Regulations.

(2) Interest shall not be added to payments of previously withheld support, cf. Section 2(2) of Act on interest on overdue payments.

(3) The limitations in subsections 1 and 2 do not apply if the withholding is due to an administrative error.

Chapter 4. The Political Parties Act Committee

§20. The composition of the Political Parties Act Committee

(1) At least two members of the Political Parties Act Committee shall have previous experience of political work and have different party political backgrounds.

(2) Committee members may be reappointed.

§21. Quorum, form of meeting, etc.

(1) The Committee's decisions are by simple majority. The chairman has the casting vote in the event of a tie. The Committee has a quorum when at least two thirds of the members, including the chairman, are present.

(2) It shall be stated in the decisions whether or not they are unanimous. It shall also be stated whether or not all members were present when the decision was made, cf. subsection 1.

(3) The Committee decides its own form of meeting and frequency of meeting.

§22. Entry into force

The Regulations come into force from 1 April 2006 inclusive. Regulations no. 1433 of 24 November 2005 on registration of political parties are repealed as of the same date.

Last updated 7 August 2006