37, Vardanants 7, Yerevan, 0010, RA
(374 12) 880 330, (374 41) 088 033
info@wiselaw.am

WISE LAW FIRM

The amendments under consideration are envisaged by the draft Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On Making Amendments and Additions to Decision No. 1268-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia dated 4 October 2007" and "On Making an Addition to Decision No. 610-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia dated 22 May 2025" and mainly concern the introduction of a new work entry visa and the procedure for its issuance.

It is proposed to establish a separate category of work entry visa, while employment activities will no longer be considered a purpose for obtaining an ordinary visitor entry visa.

No invitation will be required to obtain a work entry visa.

A foreign national will be required to submit an undertaking issued by an employer operating in Armenia regarding the performance of short-term work for a period of up to 120 days. This requirement will not apply to persons who already hold temporary residence status on the basis of employment.

The work entry visa will be issued by the Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia through a dedicated electronic system.

Another important amendment is that nationals of countries who, as a general rule, may obtain an entry visa to Armenia only on the basis of an invitation and through a diplomatic mission or consular office will not be subject to this restriction when applying for a work entry visa.

The code of the work entry visa will be G/W-1. It may be issued for single or multiple entry and will allow the foreign national to stay in Armenia for up to 120 days. The validity period of the visa may not be extended.

It is also envisaged that persons who have obtained temporary residence status on the basis of employment will be automatically redirected from the unified electronic platform to the work entry visa system in order to submit an application. In such cases, the conformity of the data entered by the applicant will be verified, while the substance of the submitted documents and the justification of the purpose of the visit will not be reassessed.

The draft further provides that a foreign national staying in the Republic of Armenia on the basis of another type of visa may change the type and purpose of his or her visa exclusively for the purpose of obtaining a work entry visa, provided that the person applies for temporary residence status on the basis of employment pursuant to Article 15(1)(b) of the Law "On Foreigners".

The visa change procedure will be carried out electronically. The existing visa will cease to be valid, while the new work entry visa will be issued for the remaining validity period of the previous visa, but in any event for no more than 120 days.

During this process, the applicant's passport details will be verified automatically, while the substance of the submitted documents and the justification of the employment-related purpose will not be subject to additional assessment.

At the same time, it is proposed to clarify that the visa-free regime established by Decision No. 610-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia will not apply to relations concerning the issuance of a work entry visa.

Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Making Amendments and Additions to the Law on Foreigners"

The draft proposes to supplement the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Foreigners" with a new Article 29.4, which will establish the conditions for granting temporary or permanent residence status on the basis of carrying out entrepreneurial activity.

It is envisaged that a foreign national may obtain temporary or permanent residence status in the Republic of Armenia on the basis of carrying out entrepreneurial activity.

In order to obtain residence status on this basis, the foreign national must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- be a participant, shareholder or owner of securities of a commercial organisation registered in the Republic of Armenia and have invested at least AMD 2,000,000 in the charter capital of that organisation, or have acquired shares or securities with a value of at least AMD 2,000,000;
- be an individual entrepreneur and either hold funds in different currencies in his or her accounts in an amount equivalent to at least AMD 1,000,000, or have generated turnover from entrepreneurial activity in the amount of at least AMD 1,000,000 or its equivalent in foreign currency during the 60 days preceding the submission of the application.

In the case of a legal entity, the application for residence status will be submitted by the head of the executive body of the organisation through the unified electronic platform. In the case of an individual entrepreneur, the application will be submitted by the foreign national personally by registering on the same unified electronic platform.

For the granting of a new residence status on the same basis, a corresponding application will be required, together with information obtained through the unified electronic platform confirming the continuity of the entrepreneurial activity in accordance with the procedure established by a decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. In the absence of such information, the continuity of the activity may be confirmed by documents submitted by the foreign national.

Residence status granted on the basis of entrepreneurial activity will be declared invalid if:

- the capital invested in the charter capital of the commercial organisation has been withdrawn or its amount has fallen below AMD 1,000,000;
- the value of the shares or securities has fallen below AMD 1,000,000;
- within 180 days after obtaining residence status, the database of the State Revenue Committee contains no information regarding taxes assessed as a result of entrepreneurial activity.

At the same time, it is envisaged that residence status will not be declared invalid solely on the ground that the invested capital has been withdrawn if:

- at the time of withdrawal of the capital, the foreign national has an investment of an equivalent amount in another commercial organisation operating in the Republic of Armenia; or
- within one month after withdrawing the capital, the foreign national invests the corresponding amount in the charter capital of another commercial organisation operating in the Republic of Armenia.

Amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On State Duty"

In parallel, amendments are also envisaged to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On State Duty".

In particular, it is envisaged that where an application for residence status is rejected, the state duty paid for the application will no longer be refundable.

The amounts of state duties payable for obtaining residence status will also be revised. The state duty for temporary residence status will be set at AMD 150,000 instead of the current AMD 105,000, while the state duty for permanent residence status will be set at AMD 250,000 instead of the current AMD 140,000.

It is also envisaged to introduce a state duty of AMD 30,000 for obtaining a certificate confirming the legality of residence in the Republic of Armenia, for which no separate state duty is currently prescribed.

In addition, starting from 1 January 2027, a state duty of AMD 15,000 is envisaged for the issuance of a work entry visa.