



Medical Act 1983

1983 CHAPTER 54

PART III

REGISTRATION OF PERSONS QUALIFYING OVERSEAS

[^{F1}19 Full registration of EEA nationals etc. by virtue of overseas primary qualifications etc.

(1) Where an exempt person satisfies the Registrar—

(a) that he holds^[F2], or has passed all the qualifying examinations necessary for obtaining,] an acceptable overseas qualification other than a primary European qualification;

^[F3](aa) that, where—

(i) that qualification was, or would have been, granted otherwise than in a relevant European State, and

(ii) that qualification, or the person's having passed those examinations, has not previously been accepted by a relevant European State as qualifying the person to practise as a medical practitioner in that State,

the qualification is, or would have been, evidence of medical training which satisfies the requirements of article 24(1), (2) and (3)(a), (b) and (c) of the Directive (basic medical training);]

^[F4](b) that, in the course of or as an adjunct to practice in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, he has undergone medical training and acquired clinical experience, over a period acceptable to the General Council, which has provided him with a foundation for future practice as a fully registered medical practitioner which is at least as good as the foundation provided by an acceptable programme for provisionally registered doctors; and]

^[F5](c) that his fitness to practise is not impaired,]

that person shall, if the General Council think fit so to direct, be registered under this section as a fully registered medical practitioner.

^[F6](1A) Subsection (1) does not apply to persons entitled to be registered under section 14A or 19A.]

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Changes to legislation: Medical Act 1983, Part III is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- [^{F7}(2) In this Act “exempt person” means a person who—
- (a) is a national of a relevant European State other than the United Kingdom;
 - (b) is a national of the United Kingdom who is seeking access to, or is pursuing, the medical profession by virtue of an enforceable Community right; or
 - (c) is not a national of a relevant European State, but is, by virtue of an enforceable Community right, entitled to be treated, for the purposes of access to and pursuit of the medical profession, no less favourably than a national of a relevant European State.]
- (3) In determining an application by any person for registration under this section, the General Council shall take into account—
- [^{F8}(a) if the applicant holds a medical qualification which was granted otherwise than in a relevant European State, but has been accepted by a relevant European State, other than the United Kingdom, as qualifying him to practise as a medical practitioner in that State, the acceptance of that qualification; and]
 - (b) all medical qualifications, knowledge or experience, wherever acquired, which are relevant to the determination of his application.
- ^{F9}(4)]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 19 substituted (17.12.2002) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), [arts. 1\(2\)\(d\)](#), {6(2)} (with transitional provisions in Sch. 2)
- F2** Words in s. 19(1)(a) inserted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 1.8.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), [art. 1\(2\)\(b\)\(c\)\(3\)](#), [27\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- F3** S. 19(1)(aa) inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [13\(a\)](#)
- F4** S. 19(1)(b) substituted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 1.8.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), [art. 1\(2\)\(b\)\(c\)\(3\)](#), [27\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- F5** S. 19(1)(c) substituted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), [arts. 1\(2\)\(b\)\(c\)\(3\)](#), [47](#)
- F6** S. 19(1A) inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [13\(b\)](#)
- F7** S. 19(2) substituted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [13\(c\)](#)
- F8** S. 19(3)(a) substituted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [13\(d\)](#)
- F9** S. 19(4) omitted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 1.8.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by virtue of [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), [art. 1\(2\)\(b\)\(c\)\(3\)](#), [27\(b\)](#)

[^{F10}19A Full registration of EEA nationals etc by virtue of overseas qualifications accepted by a relevant European State other than the United Kingdom

An exempt person—

- (a) whose case falls within regulation 3(9)(e) of the General Systems Regulations,

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- (b) to whom regulations 20 to 26 of those Regulations apply by reason of the operation of regulation 3(4) of those Regulations,
 - (c) who is permitted to pursue the profession of medical practitioner in the United Kingdom by virtue of Part 3 of those Regulations (having, in particular, successfully completed any adaptation period, or passed any aptitude test, that he may be required to undertake pursuant to that Part of those Regulations), and
 - (d) whose fitness to practise is not impaired,
- is entitled to be registered under this section as a fully registered medical practitioner.]

Textual Amendments

- F10** S. 19A inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **14**

20 Experience required for full registration by virtue of recognised overseas qualifications.

F11

Textual Amendments

- F11** S. 20 omitted (17.12.2002) by virtue of [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(d), **6(3)** (with transitional provisions in [Sch. 2](#))

21 Provisional registration [^{F12} of EEA nationals etc. with certain overseas qualifications].

[^{F13}(1) The following provisions shall have effect for enabling persons wishing to satisfy the Registrar of the matters specified in section 19(1)(b) above to participate in an acceptable programme for provisionally registered doctors.]

- (2) A person who satisfies the Registrar of the matters specified in paragraphs (a) [^{F14}, (aa)]^{F15}. . . and (c) of section 19(1) above may apply to the General Council to be registered provisionally under this section and, if the Council think fit so to direct, that person shall be so registered.

[^{F16}(2A) Subsection (3) of section 19 above applies in relation to an application for registration under this section as it applies in relation to an application for registration under that section.]

[^{F17}(3) A person provisionally registered under this section shall be deemed to be registered under section 19 above as a fully registered medical practitioner so far as is necessary to enable him to participate in an acceptable programme for provisionally registered doctors but not further.]

Textual Amendments

- F12** Words in s. 21 heading added (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 1.8.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), art. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **28**

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- F13** S. 21(1) substituted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 1.8.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), art. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **28(a)**
- F14** Word in s. 21(2) inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **15**
- F15** Words in s. 21(2) omitted (17.12.2002) by virtue of [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(d), **6(4)(b)** (with transitional provisions in Sch. 2)
- F16** S. 21(2A) substituted (17.12.2002) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(d), **6(4)(c)** (with transitional provisions in Sch. 2)
- F17** S. 21(3) substituted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 1.8.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), art. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **28(b)**

^{F18}21A Full registration for eligible specialists and qualified general practitioners

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Textual Amendments

- F18** S. 21A omitted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by virtue of [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **35(1)**

[^{F19}21B Full registration of persons with an overseas qualification

- (1) Where a person satisfies the Registrar—
- (a) that he holds, or has passed all the qualifying examinations necessary for obtaining, an acceptable overseas qualification;
 - (b) that he possesses the knowledge, skills and experience necessary for practising as a fully registered medical practitioner in the United Kingdom;
 - (c) that his fitness to practise is not impaired; ^{F20} ...
 - (d) unless he is an exempt person, that he has the necessary knowledge of English, [^{F21}and
 - (e) that, where—
 - (i) the person is an exempt person,
 - (ii) his acceptable overseas qualification was, or would have been, granted otherwise than in a relevant European State, and
 - (iii) that qualification, or the person's having passed those examinations, has not previously been accepted by a relevant European State as qualifying the person to practise as a medical practitioner in that State, that qualification is, or would have been, evidence of medical training which satisfies the requirements of article 24(1), (2) and (3)(a), (b) and (c) of the Directive (basic medical training),]
 that person shall, if the General Council think fit so to direct, be registered under this section as a fully registered medical practitioner.
- (2) In this Act, an “acceptable overseas qualification” means any qualification granted outside the United Kingdom, where that qualification is for the time being accepted by the General Council as qualifying a person to practise as a medical practitioner in the United Kingdom.

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Textual Amendments

- F19** Ss. 21B, 21C inserted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **35(2)** (with art. 86)
- F20** Word in s. 21B(1)(c) omitted (3.12.2007) by virtue of [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **16(a)**
- F21** S. 21B(1)(e) and preceding word inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **16(b)**

21C Provisional registration of persons with an overseas qualification

- (1) The following provisions shall have effect for enabling persons wishing to participate in programmes for provisionally registered doctors in order to be able to satisfy the Registrar, in accordance with section 21B(1)(b), that they possess the knowledge, skills and experience necessary for practising as fully registered medical practitioners in the United Kingdom.
- (2) A person who satisfies the Registrar—
- [^{F22}(a) of the matters specified in paragraphs (a), (c), (d) and (e) of subsection (1) of section 21B above so far as they are matters of which the Registrar would in the person's case have to be satisfied in order for the person to be eligible to benefit from a direction under that subsection; and]
- (b) that he possesses the knowledge and skill requisite for embarking upon an acceptable programme for provisionally registered doctors,
- may apply to the General Council to be provisionally registered under this section and, if the Council think fit so to direct, that person shall be so registered.
- (3) A person provisionally registered under this section shall be deemed to be registered under section 21B above as a fully registered medical practitioner so far as is necessary to enable him to participate in an acceptable programme for provisionally registered doctors but not further.]

Textual Amendments

- F19** Ss. 21B, 21C inserted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **35(2)** (with art. 86)
- F22** S. 21C(2)(a) substituted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **17**

^{F23}22 Limited registration of persons by virtue of overseas qualifications.

Textual Amendments

- F23** S. 22 repealed (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **5**

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F24 23 Limited registration: supplementary provisions.

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Textual Amendments
F24 S. 23 repealed (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), 5

F25 24 Limited registration: erasure.

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Textual Amendments
F25 S. 24 repealed (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), 5

F26 25 Full registration of persons with limited registration.

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Textual Amendments
F26 S. 25 repealed (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), 5

26 Registration of qualifications.

(1) A person registered under section [^{F27}19, [^{F28}19A,][^{F29}21, 21B or 21C]] above shall be entitled to have registered the [^{F30}acceptable overseas qualification] which he holds when he is so registered and also—

- ^{F31}(a)
- (b) [^{F32}subject to subsection (3) below, any overseas qualification] which the General Council determine ought to be registrable by virtue of this paragraph which he holds when he is registered or obtains thereafter;
- (c) subject to subsection (3) below, any additional qualification which the General Council determine ought to be registrable by virtue of this paragraph which he holds when he is registered or obtains thereafter; and
- (d) any primary United Kingdom qualification or primary European qualification which he holds when he is registered or obtains thereafter.

^{F33}(2)

(3) If the General Council determine that any such qualification as is mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection (1) above ought not to be registrable by virtue of that paragraph if granted before or after a particular date, a person holding that qualification

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shall not be entitled to have it registered if it was granted to him before or, as the case may be, after that date.

Textual Amendments

- F27** Words in s. 26(1) substituted (17.12.2002) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(d), **6(9)(a)(i)** (with transitional provisions in Sch. 2)
- F28** Word in s. 26(1) inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **18**
- F29** Words in s. 26(1) substituted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **36**
- F30** Words in s. 26(1) substituted (17.12.2002) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(d), **6(9)(a)(ii)** (with transitional provisions in Sch. 2)
- F31** S. 26(1)(a) omitted (17.12.2002) by virtue of [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(d), **6(9)(a)(iii)** (with transitional provisions in Sch. 2)
- F32** Words in s. 26(1)(b) substituted (17.12.2002) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(d), **6(9)(a)(iv)** (with transitional provisions in Sch. 2)
- F33** S. 26(2) omitted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by virtue of [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **6**

[^{F34}27A Temporary registration for visiting eminent specialists

- (1) A person who is an eminent specialist in a particular branch of medicine and who is or intends to be in the United Kingdom temporarily for the purpose of providing medical services within that branch of medicine may apply to the General Council to be registered temporarily as a fully registered medical practitioner.
- (2) If the person referred to in subsection (1) satisfies the Registrar—
 - (a) that he holds, or has passed all the qualifying examinations necessary for obtaining, an acceptable overseas qualification;
 - (b) that he is entitled to practise medicine in the State where he is ordinarily resident;
 - (c) that he is or will be employed or engaged within the United Kingdom to provide medical services in a particular branch of medicine;
 - (d) that he is an eminent specialist in that particular branch of medicine; and
 - (e) that his fitness to practise is not impaired,that person shall, if the General Council think fit so to direct, be registered under this section as a fully registered medical practitioner, subject to any conditions specified in the direction, for such period (being no more than 26 weeks) as they specify in the direction.
- (3) The General Council may, if they think fit so to direct, vary the conditions specified in the direction and, subject to subsection (4), may extend the period specified in the direction for which the person is registered under this section.
- (4) A person may not be registered under this section for more than 26 weeks in any period of five years.
- (5) A person's registration under this section shall cease to have effect on the expiry of the period for which he is registered.

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- (6) If a person breaches any condition to which his registration under this section is subject, anything done by him in breach of that condition—
- (a) is to be treated as not being done by a registered medical practitioner; and
 - (b) may be treated as misconduct for the purposes of section 35C(2)(a) below, and the Registrar may refer the matter to the Investigation Committee for investigation by them under section 35C(4) below.

Textual Amendments

F34 Ss. 27A, 27B inserted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **37(2)** (with art. 87)

27B Special purpose registration

- (1) A person who is or intends to be in the United Kingdom temporarily for the purposes of providing particular medical services exclusively to persons who are not nationals of the United Kingdom may apply to the General Council to be registered temporarily as a fully registered medical practitioner.
- (2) If the person referred to in paragraph (1) satisfies the Registrar—
 - (a) that he holds, or has passed all the qualifying examinations necessary for obtaining, an acceptable overseas qualification;
 - (b) that he is entitled to practise medicine in the State where he is ordinarily resident;
 - (c) that he is or will be employed or engaged within the United Kingdom—
 - (i) at an establishment that provides medical services for persons who are not nationals of the United Kingdom, and
 - (ii) to provide particular medical services, but only for persons who are not nationals of the United Kingdom; and
 - (d) that his fitness to practise is not impaired,
 that person shall, if the General Council think fit so to direct, be registered under this section as a fully registered medical practitioner, subject to the conditions specified in the direction, for such period as they specify in the direction.
- (3) The conditions that the General Council specifies in any direction under subsection (2) are to comprise or include—
 - (a) a condition that the person shall, except in an emergency, provide medical services within the United Kingdom only to persons who are not nationals of the United Kingdom; and
 - (b) a condition that the person shall, except in an emergency, provide only the particular medical services which are specified in the direction, whilst he is in the United Kingdom.
- (4) The General Council may, if they think fit so to direct, vary the conditions in the direction (but not in such a way that the requirements of subsection (3) are no longer met) and may extend the period specified in the direction for which the person is registered under this section.
- (5) A person's registration under this section shall cease to have effect on the expiry of the period for which he is registered.

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- (6) If a person breaches any condition to which his registration under this section is subject, anything done by him in breach of that condition—
- (a) is to be treated as not being done by a registered medical practitioner; and
 - (b) may be treated as misconduct for the purposes of section 35C(2)(a) below, and the Registrar may refer the matter to the Investigation Committee for investigation by them under section 35C(4) below.]

Textual Amendments

F34 Ss. 27A, 27B inserted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **37(2)** (with art. 87)

^{F35}**27 Temporary full registration for visiting overseas specialists.**

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Textual Amendments

F35 S. 27 omitted (19.7.2006 for specified purposes, 19.10.2007 in so far as not already in force as notified in the London Gazette dated 20.7.2007) by virtue of [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1914\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b)(c)(3), **37(1)**

^{F36}**28 The Review Board for Overseas Qualified Practitioners.**

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Textual Amendments

F36 S. 28 omitted (1.4.2005 as notified in the London Gazette dated 14.1.2005) by virtue of [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(3), **6(11)** (with Sch. 2)

^{F37}**29 Functions of the Review Board.**

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Textual Amendments

F37 S. 29 omitted (1.4.2005 as notified in the London Gazette dated 14.1.2005) by virtue of [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(3), **6(11)** (with Sch. 2)

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