



Agency Against Corruption, MOJ

Press Release

Issuance Date: May 30, 2022

Issuer: AAC

Contact Person: Chien, Mei-Hui the Chief Secretary

Contact Number: 23141000#2004 No. 068

The Legislative Yuan passed the "Draft Amendments to Articles 6, 8, and 20 of the Act on Property-Declaration by Public Servants", adding requirements that property declaration of municipalities and counties (Cities) councilors shall be published on the internet to fully implement the Sunshine Act and a clean government!

The Act on Property-Declaration by Public Servants (the Act) imposes obligations on certain public servants to disclose their property information, so as to increase the general public's trust in government administration and the integrity of public servants. In order to prevent the abuse of power for personal gains and implement the concept of government transparency, On May 30, the Legislative Yuan passed the "Draft Amendments to Articles 6, 8, and 20 of the Act on Property-Declaration by Public Servants" at the third reading. The summary of the Draft Amendment is as follows:

I. Adding the Requirements that Property Declaration of Municipalities and Counties (Cities) Councilors shall be published on the internet (Paragraph 2 of Article 6)

The current provisions of Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Act stipulate that declarations made by the President, Vice President, Premier, and Vice Premier; the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Executive Yuan, Legislative Yuan, Judicial Yuan, Examination Yuan, and Control Yuan; Officers of political affairs; the legislators and mayors of special municipalities; and the governors of counties (cities) shall be published, while the special municipalities and counties (cities) councilors are not required to be

published . In order to achieve the legislative purpose of this Act's openness and transparency of the property of public servants, it is necessary to add requirements that property declaration of municipalities and counties (cities) councilors shall be published.

II. Adding a period of online declaration of public servants' property declaration (Paragraph 2 of Article 6)

The current provisions of Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Act stipulate the property declaration submitted by specific public servants shall be published on the Internet. However, there is no clear stipulation on the period for publishing the declaration on the Internet. Considering that if the above-mentioned public servants' property declaration of all previous years is fully published on the Internet, the content will be extremely cumbersome and complicated. It would be less meaningful to continue to publish all the information online. Therefore, the amendments and additions stipulate that the property information published online shall expire after 1 year after the loss of the eligibility to make a property declaration.

III. Amending the date on which the property declaration of candidates for political positions are available for the general public and online declaration, and adding the period during which the property declarations of candidates for political positions shall be published online by the election committees at all levels (Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 6)

- (1) The current provisions of Paragraph 3 of Article 6 of the Act stipulate those declarations made by the candidates of political positions shall be published by the responsible declaration agencies (institutions) on the Internet within 10 days of declaration acceptance. Considering that the declaration time of each candidate would be different, the online declaration date of each candidate would also be different. Moreover, the candidates for President, Vice President, and political positions with levels above the county (city) level are required to declare their property when applying for candidate registration. If the qualifications of such

candidates are deemed to be invalid after review, it would be unnecessary to make the declaration of property. Hence, the Act is amended to stipulate that the property declaration shall be made on the Internet on the date when the list of candidates is approved. The property declaration materials shall be reviewed and compiled on the date when the list of candidates is approved.

- (2) There would be less meaning to forever publish the candidates' property declaration online. Hence, the period for online property declaration is set at one year in the newly-added Paragraph 3 of Article 6 of the Act.

IV. Adding the Requirement to the County (City) Councilors to declare changes of properties (Article 8)

Article 8 of the Act stipulates that for the delegates with the power of policy decision-making and high level of influence, when declaring properties, they shall declare changes of properties (such as real estates and stocks of domestic public companies) of themselves, their spouses and underage offspring, which is a requirement that is only applicable to legislators and special municipality councilors. Hence, the amendment also includes the county (city) councilors

The above-mentioned amendments will come into effect as soon as the President promulgates them. In addition to continuing to implement the government's policy of transparency and anti-corruption, they will also be applicable to the local election on November 26, 2022 in which any and all candidates of municipalities and counties (cities) councilors, after being approved by the election committees at all levels, the committees shall publish all qualified candidates' property declaration on the Internet. It would not only enable voters to understand the candidate's property status for electing the right and adequate candidates, but also encourage candidates to maintain clean and honest conducts, which would achieve clean elections, establish integrity in elections, and implement a clean government!