

**Youth Work Act**  
**Passed 17 February 1999**  
**(RT I 1999, 27, 392),**  
**Entered into force 1 April 1999**

**Chapter 1**  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. Scope of application of Act

This Act provides the legal bases for the organisation of youth work.

§ 2. Definitions

In this Act, the following definitions are used:

- 1) a young person is a natural person between 7 and 26 years of age;
- 2) a youth project is an action plan in the field of youth work together with a budget which serves the objectives of youth work and the duration of which is up to one year;
- 3) a youth programme is an activity plan in the field of youth work which is implemented on the basis of specific projects and the duration of which exceeds one year;
- 4) a youth work agency is a state agency administered by the Ministry of Education, a local government agency or an agency of a legal person in private law, the main activity of which is the organisation of youth work.

§ 3. Youth work

(1) Youth work is the creation of conditions for young people for activities which facilitate their development and enable them to be active outside their families, curricula and work on the basis of their free will.

(2) The content of youth work is the social, cultural and health education of young people which promotes the mental and physical development of young people.

**Chapter 2**  
ORGANISATION OF YOUTH WORK

§ 4. Functions of Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education shall:

- 1) prepare the national programmes of youth work;
- 2) support the activities of youth associations and allocate annual grants thereto;
- 3) monitor the purposeful use of funds allocated for youth work from the state budget;
- 4) co-ordinate the organisation of recreational holidays for young people;
- 5) co-ordinate the provision of information for and counselling of young people;
- 6) prepare an overview of the results and studies of youth work;
- 7) perform other functions provided by law, regulations of the Government of the Republic and the statutes of the Ministry of Education.

§ 5. Functions of county governors

County governors shall:

- 1) co-ordinate the drafting and implementation of the national youth policy in the counties;
- 2) exercise supervision over the use of funds allocated for youth work from the state budget in the counties;
- 3) organise the provision of information for and counselling of young people in the counties by way of entering into a contract with a legal or natural person for the provision of the specified service.

#### § 6. Functions of rural municipality and city councils

(1) Rural municipality and city councils shall:

- 1) determine the priorities of youth work in their administrative territories and set out the tasks necessary for the achievement thereof in the rural municipality or city development plans;
- 2) support the youth programmes and youth projects of youth associations operating in the administrative territory of the given rural municipality or city, approve the conditions, procedure and application forms for supporting the youth programmes and youth projects of youth associations from the rural or city municipality budget;
- 3) perform other functions connected with the organisation of youth work in their administrative territories.

(2) Youth associations operating in the administrative territory of a rural municipality or a city have the right to submit proposals to the rural municipality or city council upon the preparation of rural municipality or city development plan.

#### § 7. Definition of youth association

A youth association is a non-profit association at least two thirds of the members of which are young people, the objective of which is the organisation and performance of youth work and which is entered in the Register of Youth Associations of the Ministry of Education on the basis of an application of the non-profit organisation.

#### § 8. Register of Youth Associations

(1) For entry of a youth association in the register, a non-profit association shall submit the following to the Ministry of Education:

- 1) an application for entry of a youth organisation in the register;
- 2) an extract of the registry card of the Non-profit Associations and Foundations Register;
- 3) a copy of the articles of association of the non-profit association;
- 4) a development plan approved by the general meeting of the non-profit association in which the principles and directions of development of the youth association are set out.

(2) A youth association entered in the Register of Youth Associations shall submit the following to the Ministry of Education annually by 15 January:

- 1) an overview of the structure of the non-profit association;
- 2) the total number of members of the non-profit association and the proportion of young people therein;
- 3) the youth association's activity report for the preceding year and activity plan for the given year approved by the general meeting of the non-profit association.

(3) Political parties or youth wings thereof shall not be entered in the Register of Youth Associations.

(4) Upon making changes or amendments to the documents specified in clauses (1) 2), 3) and 4) of this section, a youth association shall submit information concerning the changes or amendments to the Ministry of Education within ten working days after making thereof.

(5) The statutes of the Register of Youth Associations shall be approved by a regulation of the Minister of Education.

(6) Entry of a youth association in the Register of Youth Associations of the Ministry of Education shall be the basis for awarding an annual grant to the youth association under the conditions provided for in subsection 18 (1) of this Act and for applying for grants for youth programmes and youth projects of the youth association.

### Chapter 3

#### YOUTH CAMP AND PROJECT OF RECREATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

##### § 9. Definition and legal status of youth camp

A youth camp shall operate as an agency of a person entered in the commercial register, the Non-profit Associations and Foundations Register or the Estonian Register of Churches, Congregations and Associations of Congregations (hereinafter register) or as an agency of a legal person in public law (hereinafter owner):

- 1) which operates for at least two months a year;
- 2) the duration of one camp period of which is at least six days;
- 3) the activities of which are based on an activity licence issued by the Ministry of Education pursuant to § 10 of this Act.

##### § 10. Activity licence of youth camp

(1) An application for an activity licence shall be submitted by the owner of a youth camp to the Ministry of Education after conclusion of a memorandum of association (or partnership agreement or adoption of a foundation resolution) concerning the owner or adoption of a resolution on the corresponding amendment of the statutes. An application for an activity licence of a youth camp shall be submitted not later than three months prior to commencement of the activities of the youth camp.

(2) The following shall be annexed to an application for an activity licence:

- 1) the statutes of the youth camp;
- 2) information concerning the director and counsellors of the youth camp and whether they meet the qualification requirements;
- 3) information concerning the premises (buildings), furnishings and fittings and the area necessary for the activities of the youth camp, and certificates of the Health Protection Inspectorate and Rescue Board certifying the conformity of the premises (buildings), furnishings and fittings and the area to health protection, fire safety and rescue requirements;
- 4) an activity plan for camp periods including a list of activities which promote the development of young people;
- 5) a copy of the receipt for payment of the state fee.

(3) The qualification requirements for the directors and counsellors of youth camps shall be approved by a regulation of the Minister of Education.

(4) Health protection requirements applied to the premises (buildings), furnishings and fittings and the area necessary for the activities of a youth camp, requirements for the state of health of a young person who may be admitted to a youth camp, and the format of the medical certificate of a young person admitted to a youth camp shall be approved by a regulation of the Minister of Social Affairs.

(5) The term for reviewing an application for an activity licence of a youth camp at the Ministry of Education after submission of the information set out in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall be one month.

(6) An activity licence of a youth camp shall be issued for up to three years.

(7) The Ministry of Education shall notify the owner of a youth camp and the rural municipality or city government in the administrative territory of which the youth camp operates of the issue of an activity licence of a youth camp in writing within ten working days.

(8) The Ministry of Education shall not issue an activity licence to the owner of a youth camp if information prescribed in subsections (1) and (2) of this section is not submitted or does not conform to the requirements established by legislation. The owner of a youth camp shall be notified in writing of the reasons for refusal within ten working days after the corresponding decision is made.

(9) The procedure for the issue of activity licences of youth camps and the format

of such activity licences shall be approved by a regulation of the Minister of Education.

#### § 11. Statutes of youth camp

(1) The following shall be set out in the statutes of a youth camp:

- 1) the name of the youth camp;
- 2) the location of the youth camp;
- 3) the structure of the youth camp;
- 4) the competence and functions of the director and counsellors of the youth camp;
- 5) the rights and obligations of young people participating in the youth camp;
- 6) the conditions for admission of a young person to the youth camp;
- 7) the language of the camp;
- 8) the bases for calculating the rate of the fee for participation in the youth camp;
- 9) the bases for financing the youth camp;
- 10) the procedure for termination of the activities of the youth camp.

(2) The statutes of a youth camp shall be approved by the owner of the youth camp.

#### § 12. Register of Youth Camps

(1) After the issue of an activity licence to the owner of a youth camp, the youth camp shall be entered in the Register of Youth Camps of the Ministry of Education.

(2) The following information shall be entered in the Register of Youth Camps:

- 1) the name of the youth camp;
- 2) the location (address) and telecommunication numbers of the youth camp;
- 3) information concerning the owner of the youth camp;
- 4) information concerning the director of the youth camp (name, personal identification code, residence);
- 5) the number of the activity licence of the youth camp;
- 6) the number of places of accommodation in the youth camp permitted by the Health Protection Inspectorate.

(3) The statutes of the Register of Youth Camps shall be approved by a regulation of the Minister of Education.

#### § 13. Revocation of activity licence of youth camp

(1) The Ministry of Education has the right to revoke an activity licence of a youth camp in the following cases:

- 1) false information is submitted upon application for the activity licence;
- 2) the activities at the youth camp endanger the health of young people or damage the natural environment;
- 3) the owner of the youth camp fails to comply with a precept issued to him or her by a supervisory official by the date and pursuant to the procedure specified;
- 4) the owner of the youth camp makes a decision concerning termination of the activities of the youth camp;
- 5) the bankruptcy of the owner of the youth camp is declared on the basis of and pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Bankruptcy Act (RT 1992, 31, 403; RT I 1997, 18, 302; 1998, 2, 46; 36/37, 552; 1999, 10, 155; 27, 380);
- 6) the activities of the youth camp are not in conformity with law or with the requirements established by legislation issued on the basis of law.

(2) The Ministry of Education shall notify the owner of a youth camp and the rural municipality or city government in the administrative territory of which the youth camp operates of revocation of the activity licence of the youth camp in writing within ten working days.

#### § 14. State supervision over activities of youth camps

(1) State supervision over youth camps shall be exercised by officials of the

following administrative agencies:

- 1) officials of the Ministry of Education shall exercise supervision over schooling and education;
- 2) officials of the Rescue Board shall exercise supervision over fire safety and rescue;
- 3) officials of the Health Protection Inspectorate shall exercise supervision over health protection.

(2) If the activities of a youth camp do not conform to the requirements established by law or legislation issued on the basis thereof, an official of an administrative agency which exercises state supervision has the right to issue precepts to the owner to eliminate the deficiencies.

(3) An owner is required to comply with a precept issued by an official of an administrative agency exercising state supervision during the term specified in the precept after having been notified of the precept.

§ 15. Project of recreational holidays and leisure activities for young people

(1) The promoter of a project of recreational holidays and leisure activities for young people of a duration not exceeding the time specified in § 9 of this Act shall be submitted for approval to the rural municipality or city government in the administrative territory of which the project of recreational holidays and leisure activities for young people is carried out.

(2) The promoter of a project of recreational holidays and leisure activities for young people shall submit the specified project to the rural municipality or city government for approval one month prior to carrying out the specified project.

(3) A project of recreational holidays and leisure activities for young people shall include the following information:

- 1) the name and location (residence) of the project promoter;
- 2) the place (exact location) in which the project is carried out;
- 3) a description of the objectives;
- 4) the daily schedule for the young people participating in the project;
- 5) the name, personal identification code and place of residence of the person responsible for carrying out the project.

(4) The term for reviewing a project of recreational holidays and leisure activities for young people at a rural municipality or city government after submission of the information set out in subsection (3) of this section shall be ten working days.

(5) A rural municipality or city government shall approve a project specified in subsection (1) of this section if the project includes the information set out in subsection (3) of this section, and shall notify the project promoter of the approval of the project in writing within three working days after the corresponding decision is made.

(6) A rural municipality or city government shall not approve a project specified in subsection (1) of this section if the information set out in subsection (3) of this section is not submitted, and shall notify the project promoter of the refusal to approve the project in writing within three working days after the corresponding decision is made.

## **Chapter 4**

### **FINANCING OF YOUTH WORK**

§ 16. Financing from state budget

(1) The following grants shall be prescribed in the state budget within the expenditure of the area of government of the Ministry of Education:

- 1) grants for youth programmes and youth projects of youth associations;
- 2) annual grants for youth associations;
- 3) grants for national and regional programmes of youth work;
- 4) grants for youth studies;
- 5) grants for agencies which organise youth work;

- 6) grants for international youth work;
- 7) grants for training youth workers.

(2) The conditions and procedure for applying for and allocating grants for youth programmes and youth projects of youth associations, national and regional programmes of youth work, youth studies and youth work agencies shall be approved by a regulation of the Minister of Education.

§ 17. Supporting youth programmes and youth projects of youth associations from state budget

(1) In order to support youth programmes and youth projects of youth associations, the Ministry of Education shall organise competitions of youth programmes and youth projects.

(2) A youth association may use funds received from the state budget for the support of youth programmes and youth projects only to carry out the youth programmes and youth projects for which the grant was intended.

§ 18. Annual grants for youth associations

(1) A youth association the membership of which includes at least 500 young persons and the local units of which operate in the territory of at least one third of the counties has the right to apply for an annual grant from the state budget.

(2) The conditions and procedure for applying for and allocating annual grants shall be approved by a regulation of the Minister of Education.

(3) The use of an annual grant shall be decided by the general meeting of a youth association.

## **Chapter 5**

### **IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS**

§ 19. Subsection (38) is added to § 183 of the State Fees Act (RT I 1997, 80, 1344; 86, 1461; 87, 1466 and 1467; 93, 1563; 1998, 2, 47; 4, 63; 23, 321; 36/37, 552 and 553; 52/53, 771; 57, 859; 59, 941; 60, 951; 61, 979 and 985; 64/65, 1004, 1005 and 1008; 86/87, 1408; 97, 1519; 103, 1701; 108/109, 1783; 111, 1829; 1999, 16, 275; 23, 355; 24, 359 and 360; 25, 364; 27, 380, 384-386), worded as follows:

"(38) A state fee of 50 kroons shall be payable for the issue of an activity licence to a youth camp."

§ 20. Clause 15) is added to subsection 5 (1) of the Value Added Tax Act (RT I 1993, 60, 847; 1996, 63, 1149; 76, 1344; 81, 1447; 1997, 11, 96; 40, 621; 42, 679; 48, 773 and 776; 74, 1231 and 1232; 1998, 23, 321; 57, 863; 86/87, 1410; 103, 1702; 1999, 18, 302):

"15) the provision of recreational holidays and leisure activities for young people in youth camps to which activity licences have been issued."

§ 21. Section 8 of the Gambling Tax Act (RT I 1995, 95, 1630; 1997, 1, 6; 11, 95; 81, 1364) is amended as follows:

1) clauses (3) 2) and 3) are amended by adding the words "young people," after the word "children,";

2) clause (42) 2) is amended by adding the words "youth programmes," after the word "educational,"

§ 22. Subsection 6 (1) of the Local Government Organisation Act (RT I 1993, 37, 558; 1994, 12, 200; 19, 340; 72, 1263; 84, 1475; 1995, 16, 228; 17, 237; 23, 334; 26-28, 355; 59, 1006; 97, 1664; 1996, 36, 738; 37, 739; 40, 773; 48, 942; 89, 1591; 1997, 13, 210; 29, 449 and 450; 69, 1113; 1998, 28, 356; 59, 941; 61, 984; 1999, 10, 155) is amended by adding the words "youth work," after the words "welfare services for the elderly,".

§ 23. Entry into force of Act

(1) This Act enters into force on 1 April 1999.

(2) Section 18 of this Act enters into force on 1 January 2000.