

EXCERPTS FROM
the Law on Measures and Actions during the State of Emergency Announced by a Decision of
the National Assembly of 13 March 2020 (prom. SG, issue 28/24.03.2020 - Emergency)

Art. 1. This Act shall regulate the measures and actions during the state of emergency on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Art. 2. The Minister of Health may, in addition to the Health Act, introduce other temporary measures and restrictions set out by law.

Art. 10. Soldiers of the Armed Forces shall have the right to:

1. carry out identity checks of persons;
2. restrict, until the arrival of the bodies of the Ministry of Interior, the movement of a person, for whom there is evidence that he/she has refused or failed to comply with the measures under Art. 61 and 63 of the Health Act, whereby a bilateral written protocol shall be drafted;
3. stop vehicles until the arrival of the bodies of the Ministry of Interior;
4. restrict the movement of persons and vehicles at checkpoints;
5. resort to physical force and aids only when absolutely necessary.

Transitional and Final Provisions

§ 10. The period of validity of residence documents of foreigners, issued in accordance with Art. 59, para. 2, items 1a, 2, 2a, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Bulgarian Personal Documents Act, as well as the documents under Art. 59, para. 3 of the same law, issued to members of the families of citizens of the European Union, to members of the families of nationals of States Parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, to citizens of the Swiss Confederation who are not citizens of the European Union, the European Economic Area and the Swiss Confederation, who by virtue of concluded international treaties with the European Union have the right to free movement, and of documents issued in accordance with Art. 59, para. 4 of the same law to citizens of the European Union, to citizens of States Parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, to citizens of the Swiss Confederation, who by virtue of concluded international treaties with the European Union, have the right to free movement, which expires in the period from 13 March 2020 until 31 October 2020 shall be extended by 6 months. For the duration of the extension, the documents shall be considered valid residence documents only on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, and they certify only the right of residence. At the request of the person, a new residence document may be issued even before the expiry of the extended 6-month period.

(2) The period of validity of identity cards which expires in the period from 13 March 2020 until 31 October 2020 shall be extended by 6 months. For the duration of the extension, the identity card shall be a valid identity document only on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria. At the request of the person, a new identity card may be issued even before the expiry of the extended 6-month period.

(3) The period of validity of driving licenses which expires in the period from 13 March 2020 until 31 October 2020 shall be extended by 6 months. For the duration of the extension the driving license shall be a valid individual certificate of competence for driving a motor vehicle only on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria. At the request of the person, a new driving license may be issued even before the expiry of the extended 6-month period.

§ 11. In the Law for the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria (prom., SG., issue 153 of 1998; amend., issue 70 of 1999, issue 42 and 112 of 2001, issue 45 and 54 of 2002, issue 37 and 103 of 2003, issue 37 and 70 of 2004, issue 11, 63 and 88 of 2005, issue 30 and 82 of 2006, issue 11, 29, 52, 63 and 109 of

2007, issue 13, 26, 28 and 69 of 2008, issue 12, 32, 36, 74, 82, 93 and 103 of 2009, issue 73 of 2010, issue 9 and 43 of 2011, issue 21 and 44 of 2012, issue 16, 23, 52, 68, 70 and 108 of 2013, issue 53 of 2014, issue 14, 79 and 80 of 2015, issue 15, 33, 97, 101 and 103 of 2016, issue 97 of 2017, issue 14, 24, 56 and 77 of 2018, issue 1, 24, 34, 58 and 101 of 2019 and issue 17 of 2020) the following additions shall be made:

1. In Art. 24 para 13 shall be created:

"(13) A foreigner with a permitted prolonged residence in the Republic of Bulgaria, whose term of residence expires within the period of declared state of emergency, may submit an application for continuation of residence within 14 days after the cancellation of the state of emergency, whereby the period of declared state of emergency shall not be considered interruption, as long as the foreigner submits an application for a long-term or permanent residence. A foreigner with a prolonged residence whose permitted prolonged residence expires within the period of the declared state of emergency may enter the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria without a visa within 14 days after the cancellation of the state of emergency."

2. In Art. 40, para. 1, item 6 after the words "in cases of" shall be added "declared state of emergency or of" and after the words "13 and 16;" shall be added "for the period of declared state of emergency the absence of the foreigner who has received a long-term or permanent residence permit, from the territory of the Member States of the European Union, for a period of 12 consecutive months shall not be considered absence;".

§ 22. In the Health Act (prom., SG, issue 70 of 2004; amend., issue 46, 76, 85, 88, 94 and 103 of 2005, issue 18, 30, 34, 59, 71, 75, 80, 81, 95 and 102 of 2006, issue 31, 41, 46, 53, 59, 82 and 95 of 2007, issue 13, 102 and 110 of 2008, issue 36, 41, 74, 82, 93, 99 and 101 of 2009, issue 41, 42, 50, 59, 62, 98 and 100 of 2010, issue 8, 9, 45 and 60 of 2011, issue 38, 40, 54, 60, 82, 101 and 102 of 2012, issue 15, 30, 66, 68, 99, 104 and 106 of 2013, issue 1, 98 and 107 of 2014, issue 9, 72, 80 and 102 of 2015, issue 17, 27, 98 and 103 of 2016, issue 58, 85 and 102 of 2017, issue 18, 77, 91, 98 and 102 of 2018, issue 24, 58, 99 and 101 of 2019 and issue 23 of 2020) the following amendments and supplements shall be made:

1. In Art. 61:

a) paragraph 2 shall be amended as follows:

"(2) When there is a threat to the health of citizens of diseases beyond those specified in para. 1, the Minister of Health may order compulsory isolation of sick, infected, contact persons and persons who have entered the territory of the country from other countries.";

a) paragraph 4 shall be amended as follows:

"(4) Isolation and treatment of persons under para. 2 may be carried out at home following an assessment of the existing epidemic risk by the attending physician or after consultation with an epidemiologist or a specialist in infectious diseases.";

c) a new para. 6 shall be created:

"(6) The appeal under para. 5 shall not suspend the execution of the order.";

2. In Art. 63 para 7 and 8 shall be created:

(8) In case of introduction of anti-epidemic measures under para. 1 or 2 contact persons of patients with contagious diseases may not refuse to undergo a test in order to establish the presence of a contagious disease."

4. Art. 215 shall be amended as follows:

"Art. 215. A patient with a contagious disease referred to in Art. 61, as well as a contact person who, by means of examination, has been confirmed as a carrier of a contagious disease referred to in Art. 61, who refuses or does not follow a compulsory isolation and treatment, shall be punished with a fine of

5000 lev. The same punishment shall be imposed on a contact person other than that referred to in the first sentence, as well as on persons who have entered the territory of the country from other countries, who refuse or do not follow compulsory isolation or treatment. Persons who refuse to appear for isolation and treatment on their own free will, as well as persons who do not follow compulsory isolation, shall be brought forcibly with the assistance of officials from the Ministry of Interior, at the request of the state health control authorities, of the head of the hospital institution or of the doctor who referred the person for hospitalization. "

5. Art. 215a shall be created:

"Art. 215a. (1) A contact person under Art. 63, para. 8 who refuses to undergo a test in order to establish the presence of a contagious disease, shall be punished with a fine of 50 to 500 lev.

(2) A person under para. 1 who refuses to appear on his/her free will for undergoing a test, shall be compelled, with the assistance of officials from the Ministry of Interior, at the request of the state health control authorities."

24.03.2020