

By the Judgment of 15th April, 2014 No. 11-II/2014 the Constitutional Court gave appraisal of constitutionality of the provisions of Item 1 of Article 65 of the Federal Law “On Fundamental Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participate in a Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation”

The contested normative provisions, establishing the grounds and the procedure of early voting of voters, participants of a referendum, were the subject-matter of consideration in so far as they contemplate no possibility of early voting at elections to bodies of State power and bodies of local self-government of citizens, who would be absent at their place of residence on the day of voting for good reason (vacation, mission, regime of labour and educational activity, performing of State and public duties, health condition) and would not be able to arrive to the premises for voting at electoral district, on which they are included into the list of voters.

The Constitutional Court recognized the contested provisions as not conforming to the Constitution of the Russian Federation to the extent to which they exclude the possibility to vote early at the elections to bodies of State power and bodies of local self-government for the said category of citizens.

Until appropriate legislative amendments are made, voters, who on the day of voting would be absent at their place of residence and would not be able to arrive to the premises for voting at electoral district, on which they are included into the list of voters, for the indicated good reason, must be granted the possibility to vote early in the procedure analogous to the one established by Items 2-9 of Article 65 of the mentioned Federal Law.