

The Somali Media Law (as amended)

Here are the most dangerous articles put into the new Somali Media Law (as amended)

Article NO	Description
Article 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prohibits distribution of critical news including fake news, unnecessary propaganda
Article 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Imposes fine of USD300 – USD 1,500 to any editor or media director whose media outlet infringes this new Media Law.The Attorney General of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) will have the power to order the arrest and prosecute any journalist for violating the Media Law
Article 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Imposes deposit of money in advance before opening new media. All new media houses will be required to deposit a certain amount of money before opening the media.The amount of the advance deposit of the money will be set by the yet-to-be-formed Somalia Media Commission.
Article 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The transition period: All media houses will be required to APPLY for a registration within 60 days from the day this New Media Law takes into effect.
Article 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establishment of Somalia Media Commission which has 9 members as the media regulatory body.This Commission will be drawn from: 2 members from the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS); 7 Members from six Federal Member States (Somaliland is included) and Banadir Regional Administration (BRA).
Article 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All media houses will seek registration at the Ministries of Information (FGS' and Member States').
Article 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Journalists will be registered at the Ministries of Information at FGS and Member States.Journalists who have been registered and vetted by these Ministries will only be provided with Identification Cards. (this prohibits the operation of any journalist who has not being vetted and accredited by the Ministries of Information)
Article 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If a citizen or a government agency makes a complaint against a journalist or a media house for publishing or broadcasting a fake news, the person or the government agency will have the right to go the court and file a lawsuit if they are not satisfied with the

	apology made.
Article 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a journalist or any media house is fined for publishing false news, that journalist and media house is required to report the news of the fine which failure to do will result a fine between USD1,000 – USD3,000 by the Ministry of Information or the Somalia Media Committee.
Article 36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is prohibited from the journalist to violate the rights of the person, agency, religious places, Islamic religion and the laws of the country. • A journalist or the media house can keep the data of the anonymous sources but once it is required to present by the Court, the journalist/media house will have to present the names and details of the anonymous sources.
Article 40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister of Information will have the following powers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) To monitor and observe the work of the Somalia Media Committee. B) To receive reports and guide the Somalia Media Committee. C) Can call for a meeting with the Somalia Media Council whenever he/she considers as important. D) Can report to the Cabinet of Ministers about the work of Somalia Media Committee. E) Can suggest the amendment of this LAW. F) Can take other steps regarded as a National Interest if not contravenes this Law.

Somali Journalists Syndicate