

Administrative law

is the body of law that governs the activities of administrative agencies of government. It is the legal framework within which public administration is carried out. It derives from the need to create and develop a system of public administration under law, a concept that may be compared with the much older notion of justice under law. Since administration involves the exercise of power by the executive arm of government, administrative law is of constitutional and political, as well as juridical, importance.

There is no universally accepted definition of administrative law, but rationally it may be held to cover the organization, powers, duties, and functions of public authorities of all kinds engaged in administration; their relations with one another and with citizens and nongovernmental bodies; legal methods of controlling public administration; and the rights and liabilities of officials.

Administrative law is considered a branch of public law. It expanded greatly during the twentieth century, as legislative bodies worldwide created more government agencies to regulate the social, economic and political spheres of human interaction.

Administrative law can be divided into substantive, procedural, organizational-competence and administrative criminal law:

Substantive administrative law carries norms that regulate individual social situations to which administrative law can be applied. It does so by saying "what is and what is not allowed, or in other words what is valid and what is not." For example, law on registers, building regulations, etc.

Administrative procedural law regulates how substantive law is to be applied, that is the actual application activity of administrative authorities (procedural procedure of the authorities). In other words, it regulates the manner in which administrative authorities are to behave in the pursuit of their statutory interests and what rights and obligations are involved in the administrative proceedings. The key procedural norm in this case is the Code of Administrative Procedure. In a broader sense, this also includes legislation on the organization and powers of administrative bodies.

Organizational-administrative law is a set of standards governing internal relations in public administration. This is, for example, a set of service regulations.

Criminal administrative law regulates legal liability in the criminal law regime, especially offenses.

Furthermore, we can distinguish general administrative law, on the one hand, which defines principles, concepts and institutes for the whole area of administrative law and public administration. It forms the basis for all other fields of administrative law. And on the other hand, special administrative law, which regulates the intervention of state power in various specific areas regulated by the state (such as environmental law, construction law, etc.)

Bureaucracy and the role of administrative law

An inevitable consequence of the expansion of governmental functions has been the rise of bureaucracy. The number of officials of all kinds has greatly increased, and so too have the material resources allocated to their activities, while their powers have been enlarged in scope and depth. The rise of bureaucracy has occurred in countries ruled by all types of government

Administrative law is valuable in controlling the bureaucracy. Under liberal-democratic systems of government, political and judicial control of administration are regarded as complementary, but distinct. The former is concerned with questions of policy and the responsibility of the executive for administration and expenditure. The latter is concerned with inquiring into particular cases of complaint. Administrative law does not include the control of policy by ministers or the head of state.