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REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

LAW AMENDING THE LAW ON POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS

23 March 2004, No. IX-2072

Vilnius

(Official Gazette, 1990, No. [29-692](#); 1994, No. [48-891](#), No. [91-1763](#); 1995, No. [18-402](#), No. [55-1354](#); 1998, No. [51-1395](#); 1999, No. [30-855](#); 2000, No. [64-1936](#))

Article 1. The new version of the Law on political parties and political organisations of the Republic of Lithuania

Amend the Law on Political Parties and Political Organisations of the Republic of Lithuania to read as follows:

**„REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
L A W
ON POLITICAL PARTIES**

The variety of political parties shall ensure democracy of the political system of the Republic of Lithuania. Political parties shall unify the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania for the implementation of common political goals, assist in shaping and expressing the interests and political will of the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania.

**CHAPTER ONE
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1. Purpose of the Law

This Law shall regulate the formation, activities, rights, specific means of termination (reorganisation and liquidation) and restructuring of legal persons whose legal form is a political party.

Article 2. Concept of a political party

A political party shall be a public legal person that has its own name, has been established pursuant to this Law, and whose purpose is to meet the political interests of its members, assist in expressing the political will of the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania in enforcing State power and the right to self-government.

Article 3. The right to join political parties

Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania shall have the right to freely join political parties, participate in their activities and secede from them.

Article 4. Basis for the activities of political parties

1. Political parties shall act in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, this Law and other laws of the Republic of Lithuania, other legal acts, their own statutes and programmes.

2. Political parties and political organisations of other States, their branches may not be formed or operate within the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. It shall be prohibited to establish or operate political parties whose founding or programme documents propagate or that is their activities practise national, racial, religious, or social inequality and hatred, methods of authoritarian or totalitarian rule, forcible seizure of power, war and violence propaganda, violations of human rights and freedoms, public order, other ideas and actions conflicting with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, laws of the Republic of Lithuania and are inconsistent with universally-recognized rules of international law.

4. The bodies and the seat of a political party must be located within the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

CHAPTER TWO

ESTABLISHMENT, REGISTRATION AND TERMINATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Article 5. Establishment of political parties

1. Founders and members of a political party must be citizens of the Republic of Lithuania aged 18 and over.

2. Founders of a political party shall become members of this political party from the registration of the political party in the Register of Legal Entities. At the same time a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania may be a founder or member of one political party only.

3. For a political party to be established it shall have not less than one thousand founding members. Such founders at their own or their representatives' congress (meeting, conference) shall adopt the Statute, programme of the political party and elect the management bodies of the political party. A founder may, in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, authorise any other person to represent him in the founding congress (meeting, conference) of the political party.

Article 6. The founding document of a political party

1. Political parties shall act in compliance with their Statutes. The Statute shall be the founding document of a political party.

2. The Statute of a political party shall indicate:

- 1) the name of the political party;
- 2) the legal form of the political party – political party;
- 3) the seat of the political party;
- 4) objectives of activities of the political party. The objectives of the political party must be defined expressly and properly, indicating the area and types of activities of the political party;
- 5) the conditions and procedure for joining and seceding from the party and exclusion from the party;
- 6) the rights and duties of members of the political party;
- 7) the procedure for establishing branches of the political party, and terminating their activities;
- 8) the competence, periodicity of a congress (meeting, conference) of the political party, its convening and the decision-taking procedure;
- 9) the collegial management bodies of the political party, their competence, the procedure for electing and recalling them, the term of office of the collegial management bodies, and their decision-making procedure;
- 10) the procedure for electing and recalling the leader of the political party, his competences and possible periods for which he may be elected;
- 11) the procedure of accountability of the management bodies of the political party to its congress (meeting, conference) and the procedure for control of their activities;
- 12) the procedure for amending the Statute and programme of a political party;
- 13) the symbols of the political party, if the political party intends to have them;
- 14) the procedure for control of the use of the property and funds of the political party;
- 15) the duration of activities of the political party, if it is limited;
- 16) termination of the political party.

3. The Statute of a political party may also provide for other provisions of the activities of a political party that are in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, this Law and other laws.

4. The Statute of a political party under foundation must be signed by a representative authorised by the founders of the political party. The amended statute of the founded political party shall be signed by the leader of the political party.

5. There is no requirement for a notary to attest the authenticity of the signatures of the persons who signed the Statute of a political party.

Article 7. Divisions of political parties

Political parties may set up branches, representative offices and other structural divisions. Branches, representative offices and other structural divisions of a political party shall not have a legal personality. Branches and representative offices of a political party shall act in accordance

with the Statute approved by the political party. Having set up a branch or a representative office, a political party must, within 30 days from the setting-up, submit an application of an established form requesting the registration of the branch or representative office in the Register of Legal Entities in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Register of Legal Entities. The procedure for setting up and liquidating other structural divisions as well as their functions shall be set out in the Statute of a political party.

Article 8. Registration of political parties

1. Political parties shall be registered in the Register of Legal Entities.
2. The documents which must be submitted for the registration of a political party in the Register of Legal Entities, and its removal thereof, and the procedure for the registration of a political party in the Register of Legal Entities, and its removal thereof, also registration of changes in the data or the Statute of a political party shall be set out in the regulations of the Register of Legal Entities.
3. The authenticity of the data presented by political parties to the Register of Legal Entities, the compliance of the Statute, programmes or their amendments with the requirements of laws shall be attested and the documents confirming that the political party may be registered because the requirements set out by this Law have been fulfilled and the circumstances provided for in this Law have emerged shall be issued by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Justice) within 30 days from the day of receipt thereby of all documents and data specified in the regulations of the Register of Legal Entities.
4. In the event of failure by a political party to present all the documents and data specified in the Register of Legal Entities, the Ministry of Justice shall, not later than 15 days from the receipt thereof, inform, in writing, a representative authorised by the founders of the political party, specifying the shortcomings which must be eliminated. When all missing documents and data have been presented, the 30 days' term shall be counted anew from the day of presenting these documents and data.
5. The Ministry of Justice shall refuse to attest the authenticity of the documents submitted by a political party, the compliance of its Statute, programmes or their amendments with the requirements of laws, where the purposes, objectives and methods of activities of the political party indicated in the Statute, programme of the political party or the amendments thereof conflict with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, this Law and other laws, and the presented data are not correct. When verifying the authenticity of the presented data or attesting the compliance of the Statutes, programmes, their amendments with the requirements of laws the Ministry of Justice shall have the right to appeal to other public authorities and obtain findings from them.
6. The refusal by the Ministry of Justice to attest the authenticity of the data submitted by a political party, the compliance of its Statute, programmes, their amendments with the requirements of laws may be appealed in court in accordance with the procedure laid down by law.
7. Political parties shall be considered founded as of the day of their registration in the Register of Legal Entities.
8. Political parties intending to participate in elections shall, not later than 65 days before the first elections to be held that year, submit their membership lists to the Ministry of Justice in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. If a political party does not intend to participate in the first elections to be held that year, it may submit the said lists not later than 65 days before another election to be held that year in which the party

intends to participate. The membership lists shall indicate the name, surname, date of birth, and the residence address of the members of the political party. These data must be confirmed by the signature of the leader of the political party. Computer media containing these lists shall also be presented to the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice shall notify the Central Electoral Committee that the number of the members of the political party meets the requirements of this Law.

Article 9. Restructuring and termination of political parties

1. Political parties shall be restructured, terminated (reorganised or liquidated) in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. A decision to reorganise or liquidate a political party shall be taken by a congress (meeting, conference) of the political party or by the court in the cases set out by law.

3. When reorganising a political party by way of consolidation or division, when the conditions of reorganisation have been fulfilled, the political party shall, having discontinued its activities following the reorganisation, submit to the Ministry of Justice the documents for its removal from the Register, and the new political party which was founded during the reorganisation and which is the successor to the rights of the political party which has discontinued its activities shall submit the documents for its registration in the Register. A political party, which has discontinued its activities, shall be removed from the Register and the new political party, which was founded during the reorganisation, shall be recorded in the Register simultaneously.

4. When reorganising a political party by way of joining or splitting, when the conditions of reorganisation have been fulfilled, a political party which joined another political party and which discontinued its activities shall submit to the Ministry of Justice the documents for its removal from the Register, and the political party which continues its activities and which takes over the rights and duties of the political party which has discontinued its activities shall submit documents concerning the registration of amendments of the data and founding documents (if they have been amended). A political party, which has discontinued its activities, shall be removed from the Register and the amendments of the data and founding documents of a political party, which continues its activities, shall be registered simultaneously.

5. If less than one thousand members remain in a political party, the political party must, within 30 days in accordance with the procedure laid down by the regulations of the Register of Legal Entities, notify the Register of Legal Entities about such decrease in members. A political party shall be liquidated in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, if within 6 months after the decrease in their number members of the political party decide not to reorganise or restructure the political party.

Article 10. Investigation of the activities of political parties

The procedure for the investigation of the activities of a political party shall be laid down by the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania.

CHAPTER THREE

GUARANTEES OF ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Article 11. Freedom of action of political parties

All political parties within the territory of the Republic of Lithuania shall act freely and independently. Public and local authorities, their officers, other legal and natural persons shall be prohibited from interfering in the internal affairs of political parties.

Article 12. Limitation of the activities of political parties

1. The organisational structure of political parties shall be based only on the territorial principle. Branches of political parties may not be established and operate in workplaces.

2. In the cases provided for in the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Lithuania the persons referred to in these laws may not be members of political parties or must suspend their membership in a political party.

3. A person whose membership in a political party has been suspended may not elect or be elected to the bodies of a political party and its branches, carry out their orders or participate in activities of the political party in any other way.

Article 13. Declaration of decisions of the bodies of political parties null and void

Decisions of the bodies of political parties may be declared null and void in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 14. Assets and funds of political parties

1. For the implementation of the purposes set out in the Statute political parties may possess current and non-current assets.

2. The procedure for fixing the amount of membership fees and their payments shall be defined by the Statute of the political party.

3. Other sources of funding of political parties, the procedure for the accounting of receipt of funds or assets, management and use of funds and assets shall be set out by other legal acts.

4. The assets and funds of a political party may not be distributed to its members.

Article 15. Control over the financial activities of political parties

Control over the financial activities of political parties shall be exercised by public authorities within the limits of their competence.

Article 16. The right to participate in elections to the office of the President of the Republic, the Seimas, municipal councils and the European Parliament

All political parties shall have equal rights to participate in elections to the office of the President of the Republic, the Seimas, municipal councils and the European Parliament. During elections all political parties participating in the elections as well as their candidates for members

of the Seimas, the European Parliament, members of municipal councils and President of the Republic shall be granted the right, at no charge, the use of time on Lithuanian National Radio and Television, they shall be provided equal opportunities to make use of other means of mass media in accordance with the procedure laid down by the election legislation of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 17. The right to form coalitions, unions of political parties

Political parties shall have the right to form coalitions, or unions of political parties.

Article 18. The right to disseminate information about the activities of a political party

1. Political parties shall enjoy the right to freely disseminate information in writing, verbally or in any other way about their activities, propagate ideas, objectives and their programmes.

2. Political parties shall enjoy the right to establish means of mass media and to make use of them.

Article 19. The right to organise mass events

Political parties shall, in accordance with the procedure laid down by laws of the Republic of Lithuania, have the right to hold meetings, demonstrations and other assemblies according to the procedure established by law.

Article 20. The liability of political parties

A political party shall be liable for its obligations by the assets owned thereby. A political party shall not be liable for the obligations of its member and the latter shall not be liable for the obligations of the political party.

Article 21. International relations of political parties

Political parties shall enjoy the right to maintain relations with political parties, international and other organisations of other States.”

Article 2. Enforcement of the Law

1. The Statutes of political parties and political organisations registered prior to the coming into effect of the present Law shall be effective to the extent they do not contradict the Civil Code, this Law and other laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. The divisions of political parties and political organisations established as legal persons prior to the coming into effect of the present Law, as of the coming into effect of the same shall be considered to be branches of the established political parties and shall not be considered legal persons, and their founding documents shall be effective to the extent they do not contradict the Civil Code, this Law and other laws of the Republic of Lithuania. All rights and obligations of the divisions shall be taken over by the founders thereof.

3. The requirement as to the minimum number of the members of a political party established in Article 5(3) of the Law on Political Parties as laid down in Article 1 of this Law shall be applicable only to political parties established after the coming into effect of this Law.

4. The provisions of Article 8(8) of the Law on Political Parties as laid down in Article 1 of the present Law shall be applicable as of 15 June 2004.

5. In respect of political parties established prior to the coming into effect of this Law the requirement set forth in Article 9 of the Law on Political Parties to have not less than one thousand members shall be applicable as of 1 January 2005.

I promulgate this Law adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
ARTŪRAS PAULAUSKAS