

**THE DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF DEPUTIES TO THE DIET OF THE  
POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC ACT OF 31 JULY 1985**

CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

*Art. 1.1* Deputies to the Diet are representative of the working people of town and country and perform their parliamentary mandate in accordance with the will of their constituency, governed by the well being of the people and the aims of the Socialist State.

2. Deputies to the Diet act in behalf of an universal social and economic development of the State and increasingly better satisfaction of the cultural, social and material needs of the citizens.

3. Deputies to the Diet strive for harmonious reconciliation of local interests with national interests.

*Art. 2.* While realizing the constitutional powers of the Diet, Deputies to the Diet participate in performing State Authority, particularly through active involvement in: 1) shaping the principal directions of State activities and policy, 2) instituting Law expressing the will and interests of the working people and serving the development of socialist democracy and consolidating rule of law and discipline, 3) exercising control over the activities of bodies of State authority and administration.

*Art. 3.1* Deputies to the Diet are responsible to their constituency, and may be recalled by them.

2. The electoral law provides for the matters relating to election of Deputies to the Diet and their recalling by their constituency, together with the other cases of expiration of the seat.

*Art. 4.* Before assuming his seat, a Deputy to the Diet takes the following oath: "As a Deputy to the Diet of the Polish People's Republic, I solemnly declare to perform my parliamentary mandate reliably and conscientiously, to work in behalf of the Polish Nation and to deepen its unity, contribute to the strengthening of the bonds of State authority with the working people of town and country, take every effort to consolidate the independence and sovereignty, for the prosperous, socialistic development of the Polish People's Republic."

*Art. 5.* A Deputy to the Diet is obliged to treat his parliamentary mandate as the most important citizen duty.

*Art. 6.* Deputies to the Diet have secured the conditions necessary for efficient realization of their mandate and protection of their rights, resulting of the title of holding mandate to the highest organ of State authority.

*Art. 7.* The internal organization of the Diet and order of its proceedings, together with the resultant duties and rights of the Deputies, are provided for in detail in the Rules of Procedure of the Diet.

## CHAPTER 2 DUTIES OF DEPUTIES TO THE DIET TOWARDS THEIR CONSTITUENCY

*Article 8.1* Deputies to the Diet are obliged to maintain bonds with their constituency.

2. Deputies to the Diet should maintain contact with the People's Councils and their organs proper for their constituency, as well as with the political, professional, socio-professional and social organizations and self-government bodies operating within the given constituency.

*Art. 9.* Devoting his particular attention to the issues being the objectives of the activities of the Diet and its organs, a Deputy to the Diet is obliged to report and explain to the constituency the principal objectives of State policy and the content of the Laws and Resolutions passed by the Diet and submit reports pertaining to his work as a Deputy, and also pertaining to activities of the Diet and Committees of the Diet of which he is a member.

*Art. 10.1* Deputies to the Diet are obliged to acquaint themselves with the working and living conditions of their constituency.

2. Deputies to the Diet receive opinions, proposals and motions submitted by their respective constituency and their organizations and local institutions; they consider such and take these into account in their parliamentary activities, and also support deserving issues.

3. A Deputy to the Diet must not be obliged to deliver information about the person who had provided him, as a such Deputy, with defined facts or presented opinions.

*Art. 11.1* Realization of parliamentary mandate towards the constituency takes place particularly through organizing open and local meetings, visiting work establishments, adopting permanent visiting hours (Deputy duty hours), publishing pronouncements of the Deputies in press, radio and television, and also through participating in People's Council sessions, as well as in meetings, conference and local festivities.

2. To enable Deputies to the Diet to carry out their duties towards their constituency, appropriate organizational measures shall be undertaken by the respective territorial offices of the Patriotic National Revival Movement, presidiums of the People's Councils, local state administrative organs, institutions, state-owned enterprises and press, radio and television authorities, all in collaboration with the Voivodship Groups of Deputies.

*Art. 12.1* Deputies to the Diet elected in constituencies establish Voivodship Groups of Deputies to the Diet, joining with Deputies who have received seats within the territory of the individual voivodships.

2. The Voivodship Groups of Deputies to the Diet establish organizational conditions for maintaining and strengthening bonds of the Diet and its Deputies with the constituency, local organs of State authorities as well as with political organizations, local, professional, socio-professional and social organizations. Voivodship Groups of Deputies to the Diet render the Deputies aid in their performance of activities resulting of holding a parliamentary mandate.

3. The Voivodship Groups of Deputies to the Diet are served by their Secretariats which are headed by Chairman of the Voivodship Group of Deputies to the Diet. Technical, organizational and financial support of the Secretariats, being separate organizational units of the voivodship administration offices (city administration offices in the Metropolitan City of Warsaw, of Lodz, of Krakow) are secured by the respective voivods (presidents of the Metropolitan City of Warsaw, of Lodz, of Krakow).

4. The scope and forms of activities of the Voivodship Groups of Deputies to the Diet is provided for in detail by the Rules of Procedure of the Diet.

### CHAPTER 3 THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF DEPUTIES TO THE DIET

*Art. 13.* Active participation in activities of the Diet is a right and duty of each Deputy. The Deputy is obliged to be present and actively participate in sittings of the Diet, and of those organs of the Diet to which he had been elected.

*Art. 14.* The Deputy is obliged to acquaint himself scrupulously and discerningly with the issues considered by the Diet and by the committees to which he has been elected, and also to deepen his knowledge pertaining to such issues and to input his knowledge and citizen experience to such considerations.

*Art. 15.* In performing his parliamentary mandate, the Deputy has particularly the right to:

- 1) present his standpoint and submit motions in issues considered during sittings of the Diet, and of committees to which he has been elected,
- 2) elect and be elected to committees of the Diet,
- 3) address the Presidium of the Diet of his own initiative, or as a result of analyzing the motions and proposals of his constituency relating to consideration of a given issue by the Diet or by its Committees,
- 4) participate—on principles and in accordance with the procedure delineated in the Rules of Procedure of the Diet—in introducing Deputies' bills and drafts of the resolutions of the Diet as well as in considering bills and drafts of the resolutions of the Diet,
- 5) participate in the discussion over each issue considered by the Diet or by a Diet Committee,

- 6) put—on principles and in accordance with the procedure delineated in Rules of Procedure of the Diet—interpellations and questions.

*Art. 16.1* The conclusions and remarks of the Deputies expressed during sittings of the Diet or of Diet Committees should be carefully considered by the respective State bodies, institutions and organization.

2. The Rules of Procedure of the Diet set the procedure for the cases defined in sec. 1, and also the procedure and forms of the obligatory answering of Deputies' interpellations and questions and for their consideration by the Diet.

*Art. 17.1* The Deputies may establish within the Diet Deputy Clubs basing on the party affiliation.

2. The Presidium of the Diet may give its consent for establishing Deputy circles or groups basing on principles other than those set in sec. 1 on hearing the opinion of the Council of Elders.

3. Leaders of the Clubs. Circles or Groups inform the Presidium of the Diet about, their membership and internal regulations (statutes) binding the members of such clubs, circles or groups. The content of these regulations should foster realization of the constitutional and legislative powers and duties of the Deputies.

## CHAPTER 4

### OTHER RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF DEPUTIES TO THE DIET

*Art. 18.1* In executing his parliamentary mandate, the Deputy to the Diet has the right to receive all information and materials and insight into the activities of the organs of State administration, state-owned enterprises, establishments and other units of socialized economy.

2. In cases connected to state or service secrets rendering information or enabling insight into that defined activity take place on the principles and in accordance with the regulations on protection of state or service secrets.

*Art. 19.1* A Deputy to the Diet has the right to participate in sessions of the Voivodship People's Council proper for the constituency in which that Deputy has been elected.

2. A Deputy to the Diet has also the right to participate in sessions of committees of the People's Council mentioned in sec. 1, and also in the sessions of the basic level People's Councils and of their committees.

2. In participation in such sessions and meeting, a Deputy to the Diet has the right to submit motions and remarks.

4. Presidiums of People's Council are obliged to guarantee the conditions necessary for realizing the right mentioned in sec. 1 and also—if the Deputy to the Diet expresses his interest in the given issue—rights mentioned in sec. 2.

*Art. 20.1* In performing his parliamentary mandate, the Deputy to the Diet has the right to submit a request to the organ of state administration, establish-

ment, state-owned enterprise or a social organization, and also in a non-state-owned unit for resolving an issue moved by himself, or in behalf of a constituent or constituency, and also to acquaint with the course of its consideration.

2. The organs and units mentioned in sec. 1, in respect to which Deputy to the Diet had submitted a request, are obliged to inform the Deputy within 14 days at most on the state of considering the issue and to settle it within a time limit agreed with the Deputy.

3. The head of the office or institution is obliged to meet immediately a Deputy to the Diet who has arrived to resolve an issue relating to performance of his parliamentary mandate and to render the Deputy all the information and explanations concerning this issue.

*Art. 21.* The organs of state administration, establishments, state-owned enterprises and social organizations are obliged to render a Deputy to the Diet all the required aid in his performance of parliamentary mandate. Transgressions of employees of such organs and units constitute a violation of their worker's duties as understood by the labour law.

## CHAPTER 5 CONDITIONS FOR EXERCISING PARLIAMENTARY MANDATE

*Art. 22.1* In accordance with the provisions of Art. 21 sec. 3 of the Constitution of the Polish People's Republic, a Deputy to the Diet may not be prosecuted nor arrested without consent of the Diet or, when the Diet is not holding its meetings without the consent of the Council of State. The Council of State informs the Diet at the nearest meeting about each case of such consent or refusal to give such consent.

2. Prohibition of arresting without consent of the Diet or Council of State also includes prohibition of detaining of the Deputy or limiting his inviolability in any other way.

3. Motions concerning consent for prosecuting or arresting are considered by the Diet at its plenary meeting. The procedure for such cases is defined in the Rules of Procedure of the Diet.

*Art. 23.1* On application by the Deputy to the Diet, his work establishment shall grant him a pay-less leave for enabling performance of the parliamentary mandate (Deputy to the Diet leave).

2. The work establishment is obliged to employ the Deputy on expiration of the pay-less leave on the same or equivalent position.

*Art. 24.1* The work establishment employing a Deputy to the Diet is obliged to create conditions proper for carrying out his parliamentary mandate; for the time of absence caused by performance of such mandate the Deputy receives remuneration same as for his holiday leave.

2. Termination of the contract of employment with a Deputy to the Diet and change of the working conditions and wages without consent of the Deputy during

his term of office and within a period of two years thereafter cannot take place without consent of the Presidium of the Diet.

*Art. 25.1* Deputy to the Diet receives a reimbursement on the title of performing his parliamentary mandate. This allowance is not subject to taxation.

2. Deputy allowances are paid from the central budget in its part assigned to the Chancellery of the Diet.

3. The amount and principles of this allowance payment are set by the Presidium of the Diet.

*Art. 26.* Deputies to the Diet receive official gazettes and other official publications and printings on charge-free basis, in accordance with the specification arranged by the Presidium of the Diet, and also all Diet publication and printings.

*Art. 27.* On motion by the Presidium of the Diet the Council of Ministers defines the forms and range of health service for the Deputies to the Diet by socialized health service units and the range of pensioning and retirement benefits resulting of parliamentary work in People's Poland.

*Art. 28.1* Deputy to the Diet has the right to charge-free travel by state communication means and domestic flights over the whole territory of Poland, and also to charge-free travel using municipal transport means.

2. The proper Ministers in agreement with the Presidium of the Diet define the detailed conditions for exercising these rights.

*Art. 29.* A Deputy to the Diet receives a deputy identity card. The Presidium of the Diet defines the pattern of this card.

*Art. 30.1* The Presidium of the Diet renders Deputies the aid required in their work, watch over performance of parliamentary mandate by the Deputies as well as the duties of state authorities and other units in respect to the Deputies as defined in this Act.

2. The Chancellery of the Diet secures and organizes the services required by Deputies in performing their duties and ensures necessary support, particularly in the access to expert reports, literature and opinions, as well as secures the organizational and material or technical conditions for their realization.

3. The tasks of the Presidium of the Diet and Chancellery of the Diet in matters provided for in sees. 1 and 2 are defined in detail by the Rules of Procedure of the Diet.

*Art. 31.* Presidium of the Diet creates conditions for profiting the Diet and its bodies of the knowledge and public experience of former Deputies to the Diet.

*Art. 32.1* The Chancellery of the Diet secures social aid to former Deputies to the Diet, when required.

2. The principles and forms of aid mentioned in sec. 1 are defined by the Presidium of the Diet.

CHAPTER 6  
FINAL PROVISION

*Art. 33.* The present Act shall come into force on the day of its publication.

Chairman of the Council of State:

*H. Jablonski*

Secretary of the Council of State:

*J. Szymanek*