

The Popular Initiative in Poland



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Overview

Introduction _____	3
The Regulation _____	3
The Procedure _____	4
The initiative right in practice _____	5
Table: Initiatives and course of procedure by year _____	6
The list of popular initiatives _____	7

Introduction

The new Polish Constitution, which was enacted and came into force in 1997, includes two main forms of direct participation by citizens in governing the country – the referendum and the popular initiative. There are separate regulations for the two instruments. In fact, the initiative in the form implemented in Poland should probably be referred to as semi-direct rather than direct democracy, because although the citizens can submit a draft bill to parliament, it is the legislature that makes the final decision on the law. There is no possibility for citizens to decide on the final act – such as, for example, by calling a nationwide referendum if the text of the draft has been rejected or significantly amended by the parliament. Another important restriction is that citizens do not have the power to propose bills that would seek to amend the basic law (constitution). Nevertheless, the 1997 Constitution is the first one in Polish history that engages citizens directly in initiating a legislative process. It provides that, in addition to the President, the Senate, the Council of Ministers and the deputies, the right to introduce legislation belongs to a group of at least 100,000 citizens. The signatories must have the right to vote in elections to the lower chamber of the Polish parliament - the Sejm. The procedural rules were specified by statute two years later, on 24th June 1999, regulating the manner of executing the right to initiate legislation by the citizens.

The Regulation

The initiative may relate to all the issues which can be regulated in the form of statute as the basic source of abstract and generally binding law in Poland. By means of a popular initiative, citizens can express their desire to regulate all issues on the same basis as other entitled bodies. Nevertheless, there are some exceptions relating to cases where the Constitution expressly restricts the initiative to particular bodies, as the only ones entitled to take action in such cases. There are two such cases. Firstly, in respect of the statute on the State Budget, an interim Budget, amendments to the Budget, the statute on the contracting of public debt, and the statute on State guarantees, the legislative initiative remains solely with the Council of Ministers. The second case when the citizens' initiative is excluded is, as mentioned above, an amendment to the Constitution, which can be initiated only by the President, the Senate and 1/5 of all the deputies to the Sejm. On the other hand, there is no instance where the initiative right belongs solely to the citizens. There is nothing to

prevent proposals on the same issue being simultaneously introduced by the citizens and another entitled body - even while such a draft is already under consideration by the parliament.

The provisions in the Constitution do not make any distinctions between the legislative initiative of citizens and other bodies. Although they are treated equally by the Constitution, there are some provisions which favour the citizens as far as the procedure is concerned. First of all, a temporal limitation is provided for, as the first reading of citizens' proposals in the Sejm should take place within three months of the time the draft was submitted to the Marshal of the Sejm. This is not a strong protection of the popular initiative, as in practice the parliamentary procedures - particularly the work of the relevant parliamentary committees - take quite a long time. In the case of initiatives from other bodies, the parliament has no time limit at all. A citizens' draft cannot be regarded as an "urgent bill" and the legislative procedure accelerated in that way. The Sejm, as in other cases, considers a bill in three readings, but the first reading can only take place at the plenary meeting of the Sejm, so there is no possibility to hold a committee debate at that stage. The regulations allow for the holding of a vote to reject the bill at that point, but in practice deputies are very reluctant to do so, as it would not meet people's expectations. The other difference is that the unwritten principle of discontinuation of parliamentary work when the term of office ends does not apply to popular initiatives. It means that, in contrast to other initiatives, the new parliament is obliged to continue the work on proposals that have been submitted by citizens. In addition, the citizens are the only initiators that take advantage of special judicial protection. They are entitled to bring a formal complaint to the Supreme Court if the Marshal should decide to reject their proposal despite the fact that all the formal requirements have been met.

The Procedure

The proposals submitted by citizens must satisfy the same formal requirements as the drafts from other entitled bodies. A popular initiative in Poland has the form of a "*formulated initiative*": that means that citizens must prepare the full text of a bill with all the elements required by the "Sejm Regulations". The bill should be accompanied by an explanatory statement which has to include an estimate of its social, economic and financial effects, sources of finance if the bill imposes a burden on the State Budget, and a declaration as to the compliance of the bill with European Union law. At this point in the process, drafting the final language of a proposal is left to the proponents, as the state does not offer assistance and advice from the attorney general or legislative council. The activities connected with preparing the draft, distributing it, organizing the promotional campaign and gathering the signatures is within the competence of "the legislative initiative committee" (the committee). The committee can be founded by a group of at least 15 citizens who are registered voters and have handed in a written statement about joining the committee, together with personal data. The name of the committee must reflect the subject of the proposed legislation to distinguish it from other initiatives. A committee can support and promote only one proposal at a time. The committee is represented by a proxy or his or her substitute who are appointed in a written statement by the 15 committee founders. The next step is to gather at least 1000 signatures of registered voters supporting the initiative. After these requirements have been met, the committee has to inform the Marshal of the Sejm about its founding, providing him with a copy of the

draft and the list of signatures. If the submission meets all the legal provisions, the Marshal decides to accept it. The moment the decision is delivered to the committee, it obtains *ex lege* legal personality and the following stages can be undertaken. On the other hand, if the submission does not meet the formal requirements the Marshal can refuse to accept it and give it back to the committee, which has 14 days to rectify the faults. Otherwise, the procedure ends at that point. The Marshal's decision not to accept the submission can be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Once it has been notified that its submission has been accepted, the committee should publish its receipt of legal personality in one of the national newspapers, together with its address and the place where people can make themselves acquainted with the draft. The committee is obliged to cover all the cost of such a publication itself. They can also start the information campaign in order to gather the signatures of registered voters to support the proposed legislation. Once the Marshal's decision has been given, no changes to the text of the proposal can be made. The committee has to gather at least 100,000 signatures within 3 months of receiving the Marshal's decision. The law allows the 1000 signatures from the first stage to be included, so at least 99,000 extra signatures have to be gathered in the second stage. The number of signatures required is not very high as it is about 0.3 % of the total registered electorate. By comparison, a citizens' proposal to call a nationwide referendum must be supported by at least 500,000 signatures. There is no geographic distribution requirement for signature gathering. If the committee does not succeed in gathering the required number of signatures, the committee is dissolved by the force of law. The committee receives no financial support from the state. But having a legal personality, it can organize its own fundraising activities. Once the required signatures have been gathered, the committee's representative informs the Marshal, submitting to him the draft and the list of signatures. If there is any doubt, the Marshal can refer the proposal to the National Election Committee, which is entitled to verify the number and authenticity of the signatures supporting the initiative. The committee is dissolved when the legislative process is completed. Until that time it retains its legal personality, so the committee's representative can take part as an observer in the legislative process that takes place in the parliament. Unfortunately, despite the fact that citizens, like all initiators, are entitled to propose amendments as well as to withdraw the draft before the end of the second reading, there are no rules governing how this can be done. It is not clear if the representative or the whole committee are entitled to act on their own or should perhaps be supported by a certain number of the signatures. Factors such as the lack of appropriate regulation do in fact limit the citizens' right to influence the proposal after it has been passed to the parliament.

The initiative right in practice

Between 1999, when the citizens' legislative initiative right came into force, and summer 2005, 55 drafts were submitted to the parliament by citizens. By comparison, a total of 1910 initiatives were submitted to the Sejm in the same period.

Only 6 of the 55 drafts met all the formal requirements from the very beginning; in 49 cases the Marshal of the Sejm decided to return the bills for the removal of formal defects. Within the 14-day period provided by the law, only 38 initiative committees managed to do that. In 10 other cases the Marshal rejected the submission on the grounds that it still failed to meet the formal requirements, thus terminating the

process. In one case the committee dissolved itself. Of the 44 committees that obtained the legal personality, in 22 cases the drafts were not submitted to parliament as the committees failed to gather the required number of signatures within the limit of 3 months provided by the law. This resulted in those committees being dissolved and the process terminated. In the other 22 cases the committees were successful. In 3 cases the Marshal deemed the authenticity and number of citizens' signatures dubious, so he decided to refer them to the National Electoral Committee which is responsible for examining signatures. In all three cases the Committee's decision was negative, which brought an end to the process at that point. Finally, 19 of the 55 initiatives launched were the subject of a legislative process in the Sejm. None of the successful initiatives was rejected at the first reading – they were either adopted and came into force, or are still being considered by the parliament. In many cases, the original text of the draft was amended quite considerably.

An analysis of the practice in Poland shows that the process is often initiated by social and political organizations and there is a clear lack of the pure bottom-up citizens' initiative. What is more, most of the initiatives are undertaken in order to satisfy the particular interests of the initiators. The bills that were adopted include: a law about retaining national control over the strategic natural resources in Poland; an act on the Foundation of National Education (a foundation that supports education, libraries, etc.); an amendment to the Teacher's Charter which regulates the professional standards of teachers; an act banning the promotion of violence in mass media; amendments to laws concerning environmental protection and waste; an act on employment and counteracting unemployment; an act relating to pharmaceutical law; an act providing financial support to single-parent families and an amendment to the act on state pensions.

Table: Initiatives and course of procedure by year

	Initiatives started	Defects removed	Proposal OKed	No changes made, process continued	Changes were not made, end of process	Signatures submitted	Signatures not submitted - end of process	Signatures checked and not valid	Bill enacted by Parliament	Bill got majority in the Sejm, but not in the Senate	Motion referred to committee
1999	1	1				1			1		
2000	10	4	3		3	5	2	2	1	1	1
2001	4	2		1	1	1	2				1
2002	12	10	1		1	3	8		1		2
2003	11	9			2	4	5	1	2		1
2004	12	7	2		3	5	4		1		4
2005	5	4			1	3	1				3
Total	55	37	6	1	11	22	22	3	6	1	12

The list of popular initiatives

submitted to the Marshall of the Sejm since the act went into force on 24th June 1999 until 26th August 2005

The Polish version was provided by Biuro Prawne i Spraw Pracowniczych Kancelarii Sejmu (Office of Legal Affairs and Workers' Issues of the Office of Sejm) revised by Piotr Uzieblo PhD)

No	The name of the committee of the legislative initiative	Title of the bill proposed	1) Primary representative 2) Deputy representative	Submission of the committee's founding			Marshal's decision to accept or reject the submission	Submitting the draft accompanied by 100,000 signatures	Referring the draft to the first reading		Referring the list of signatures to National Electoral Committee in case of doubts about authenticity or required number of signatures	Eventual rejection of the submission as result of negative decision of National Electoral Committee	The committee's representative during parliamentary process	End of the legislative process
				Date	Eventual formal defects	Completing the draft			Date of the first reading	No of the printed draft				
1.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on retaining the national character of the strategic natural resources	Act on retaining the national character of the strategic natural resources	1) Jan Podmaski, 2) Jaroslaw Kaczynski	23.08.99	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 3.09.99	The committee removed defects on 8.09.99	Marshal's decision to accept committee's submission of 14.09.99	on 4.10.99	The first reading on the 64th sitting of Sejm on 18.11.99	1455	-----	-----	Committee's representative - Jan Podmaski and his deputy - Jaroslaw Kaczynski	Enacted on 112 sitting of Sejm on 6.07.01, published: Dz.U. Nr 97, poz. 1051 the end of the process

2.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on employment and occupational and social rehabilitation of the disabled.	Act on employment and occupational and social rehabilitation of the disabled.	1) Grzegorz Piotr Dzik 2) Narcyz Marian Janas	4.01.00	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 13.01.00	The committee removed defects on 1.02.00	Marshal's decision to accept committee's submission of 11.02.00	On 9.05.00	-----	-----	23.05.00	National Electoral Commission's resolution of 1.06.00 - lack of proper procedure in required number of signatures	Marshal's decision of 6.06.00 to refuse to start the legislative process the end of the process	-----	-----
3.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on National Health Insurance and institutes of healthcare	Act on the amendment of the act on National Health Insurance and institutes of healthcare	1) Krystyna Sienkiewicz 2) Krystyna Ejsmont i Malgorzata Perkowska	11.02.00	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 22.02.00	The committee's letter of 8.03.00 – defects were not removed	Marshal's decision of 6.06.00 to refuse to accept committee's submission of 22.03.00 the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
4.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on Farmers' Independence and on the act on tax refunds for fuel used in agriculture	The act on tax refunds for fuel used in agriculture	1) Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski 2) Jacek Tomasz Michalowski	24.02.00	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 8.03.00	The committee removed defects on 10.03.00	Marshal's decision to accept committee's submission of 24.03.00	on 20.06.00	-----	-----	4.07.00	National Electoral Commission's resolution of 13.07.00 - lack of proper procedure in required number of signatures	Marshal's decision of 17.07.00 to refuse to start the legislative process the end of the process	-----	-----

5.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on employment and occupational and social rehabilitation of the disabled	Act on employment and occupational and social rehabilitation of the disabled.	1) Grzegorz Piotr Dzik 2) Narcyz Marian Janas	14.06.00	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 26.06.00	The committee removed defects on 29.06.00	Marshal's decision to accept committee's submission of 10.07.00	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
6.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative "Let's give an equal chance to children" – an act on the Foundation of National Education	Act on the Foundation of National Education	1) Artur Smólko 2) Anna Maria Szaniawska	12.09.00	-----	-----	Marshal's decision to accept committee's submission of 15.09.00	on 9.11.00 The first reading at the 97th sitting of the Sejm on 11.01.01 and 98th sitting on 18.01.01	2397	-----	-----	-----	-----	Committee's representative - Andrzej Wajda and his deputy – Grazyna Stanisze-wska	Draft enacted as an act on a National Fund for Scholarships on 27.07.01; the Senate rejected the act on 31.08.01 so the act was directed to the Sejm's committee for consideration

7.	The "Amnesty" Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on amnesty for certain offences	Act on amnesty and amnesty for certain offences	1) Andrzej Lepper 2) Henryk Dzido	6.10.00	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 18.10.00	The committee didn't remove defects	Marshal's decision of 22.03.00 to refuse to accept committee's submission the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
8.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on General Election to the Sejm	Act on the amendment of the act on General Election to the Sejm	1) Slawomir Piotr Kopycinski 2) Grzegorz Artur Fura	13.11.00	-----	-----	Marshal's decision to accept committee's submission of 22.11.00 the end of the process	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

9.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on state pensions for professional soldiers and their families and the act on state pensions for officers of the police, the department of state security, the Border Guard, the prison service and their families.	Act on the amendment of the act on state pensions for professional soldiers and their families and the act on state pensions for officers of the police, the department of state security, the Border Guard, the prison service and their families.	1) Jerzy Zyzelewicz 2) Aleksander Kubacki	13.11.00	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 24.11.00	The committee removed defects on 5.12.2000	Marshal's decision to accept committee's submission of 8.12.00	On 8.03.01	The first reading at the 109th sitting of Sejm on 22.05.01 (III term of office); Repeat first reading at the 18th sitting on 04.04.02 (IV term of office.)	2804 30	-----	-----	-----	Committee's representative - Jerzy Zyzelewicz and his deputy – Aleksander Kubacki	The draft is being considered by Sejm's committees.
10.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the Act on the Teachers' Charter.	Act on the Teachers' Charter.	1) Wincenty Slawomir Broniarz 2) Janina Jura	29.11.00	-----	-----	Marshal's decision to accept committee's submission of 12.12.00	on 12.03.01	The first reading on the 109th sitting of Sejm on 22.05.01 and 23.05.01	2803	-----	-----	-----	Committee's representative - Wincenty Slawomir and his deputy - Janina Jura	Enacted on 117. sitting of Sejmu on 24.08.01; published: Dz.U. Nr 128, poz. 1404 the end of the process

11.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act of 17th December 1998 r. on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	Act on the amendment of the act of 17th December 1998 r. on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	1) Tomasz Maminski 2) Zdzislaw Kruzel	27.12.00	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 10.01.01	The committee was dissolved on 14.01.01	Dissolution of the committee made the Marshal's decision irrelevant the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
12.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act of 17th December 1998 r. on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	Act on the amendment of the act of 17th December 1998 r. on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund .	1) Tomasz Maminski 2) Grzegorz Wsciubiak	15.01.01	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 1.02.01	The committee didn't remove defects	Marshal's decision of 14.02.01 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
13.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative "Let's give a chance to small and medium-sized firms" – the act on amendment of the act on companies' welfare benefit fund	Act on amendment of the act on the companies' welfare benefit fund	1) Wojciech Wojtowicz 2) Jan Zakowski	3.04.01	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 11.04.01	The committee didn't remove defects	Marshal's decision of 3.05.01 to refuse to accept committee's submission the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

14.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative against the promotion of violence on women in mass media	Act on banning the promotion of violence on women in mass media	1) Lucyna Podhalicz 2) Artur Mykita	23.04.01	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 3.05.01	The committee removed defects on 9.05.01	Marshal's decision of 15.05.01 to accept committee's submission	On 14.08.01	The first reading on the 10th sitting of Sejm on 10.01.02.	4 IV term of office	-----	-----	-----		The draft is being considered by Sejm's committees.
15.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on elections to the self-government councils (Legislative bodies elected by popular voting in communes (municipalities), districts (powiat) and provinces (województwo))	Act on the amendment of the act on elections to the self-government councils	1) Andrzej Madej 2) Barbara Bubula 3) Jerzy Eder	20.12.01	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 31.12.01	The committee removed defects on 21.01.02	Marshal's decision of 29.01.02 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
16.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on reduced fares on public transport and on the amendment of other acts	Act on the amendment of the act on reduced fares on public transport and on the amendment of other acts	1) Slawomir Wróbel 2) Artur Misztal 3) Bogdan Niziolek 4) Lukasz Walasek 5) Daniel Tymoszuk	01.02.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 13.02.02	The committee removed defects on 04.03.02	Marshal's decision of 08.03.02 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

17.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act of 25th March 1994 on the political system of Warsaw	Act on the amendment of the act of 25th March 1994 on the political system of Warsaw	1) Pawel, Janusz Teresiak 2) Tadeusz, Józef Szewczyk	11.02.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 20.02.02	The committee removed defects on 27.02.02	Marshal's decision of 01.03.02 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
18.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative of property owners on the amendment of the act on the protection of tenants' rights, residential resources of communes and amendment of civil code.	Act on the amendment of the act on the protection of tenants' rights, residential resources of communes and amendment of civil code.	1) Andrzej Rozenkowski 2) Krzysztof Pietrzak	01.03.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 14.03.02	The committee removed defects on 02.04.02	Marshal's decision of 15.04.02 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
19.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the criminal code.	The criminal code.	1) Aleksander Kaczynski 2) Zbigniew Ziobro	08.03.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 21.03.02	The committee removed defects on 05.04.02	Marshal's decision of 12.04.02 to accept committee's submission	11.07.02	Extraordinary parliamentary committee to consider the code was called	775 (IV term of office)	-----	-----	-----	-----	Lech Kaczynski, Zbigniew Ziobro	-----

20	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the political system of the city of Warsaw	Act on the political system of the city of Warsaw	1) Tomasz Wilk 2) Danuta Agata Gasiorowska	12.03.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 21.03.02	The committee removed defects on 04.04.02	Marshal's decision of 10.04.02 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process									
21.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative to protect second-hand shops by amending the act of 27th July 2001 on introducing the act on environmental protection, act on garbage and amending other acts	Act on the amendment of the act of 27th July 2001 on introducing the act on environmental protection, act on garbage and amending other acts [waste?]	1) Janusz Korwin-Mikke 2) Ewa Metelska-Swiat	17.04.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 26.04.02	The committee removed defects on 30.04.02	Marshal's decision of 02.05.02 to accept committee's submission	10.05.02	The first reading at the 24th sitting of the Sejm on 19.06.2002r.	579 468					1) Janusz Korwin-Mikke 2) Ewa Metelska-Swiat	Enacted on 18.07.2002 published: Dz.U. Nr 143, poz. 1196 the end of the process	
22.	Merchants' Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on prevention of alcohol abuse by teenagers and counteracting alcoholism	Act on the amendment of the act on prevention of alcohol abuse by teenagers and counteracting alcoholism	1) Jadwiga Duszkiewicz 2) Leszek Grochulski	25.04.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 7.05.02	The committee didn't remove defects	Marshal's decision of 7.06.02. to refuse to accept committee's submission the end of the process										

23.	Merchants' Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on alcohol abuse by teenagers and counteracting alcoholism	Act on the amendment of the act on alcohol abuse by teenagers and counteracting alcoholism	1) Jadwiga Duszkiwicz 2) Leszek Grochulski	13.06.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 24.06.02	The committee removed defects on 10.07.02	Marshal's decision of 18.07.02 to accept committee's submission.	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
24.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on National Health Insurance and other acts	Act on the amendment of the act on National Health Insurance and other acts	1) Konstanty Radziwill 2) Krzysztof Bukiel	25.09.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 08.10.02.	The committee removed defects on 22.10.02	Marshal's decision of 25.10.02 to accept committee's submission.	Draft was not supported by the required number of signatures the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
25.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on the income from agricultural properties	Act on the income from agricultural properties	1) Zdzislaw Podkanski 2) Waldemar Pawlak	10.10.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 21.10.02.	The committee removed defects on 07.11.02	Marshal's decision of 12.11.02 to accept committee's submission.	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

26.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on employment and counteracting unemployment and the act on public order	Act on the amendment of the act on employment and counteracting unemployment and the act on public order	1) Dariusz Aleksander Wójcik 2) Andrzej Tadeusz Mazurkiewicz	24.10.02	-----	-----	Marshal's decision of 05.11.02 to accept committee's submission.	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
27.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on the jobs of nurse and midwife.	Act on the amendment of the act on the jobs of nurse and midwife.	1) Bożena Banachowicz 2) Maria Olszak-Winiarska	21.10.02	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 30.10.02.	The committee removed defects on 20.11.02	Marshal's decision of 21.11.02 to accept committee's submission.	14.02.03	51st sitting on 27.06.03.	1576	-----	-----	-----	Bożena Banachowicz	The draft is being considered by Sejm's committee
28.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on employment and counteracting unemployment	Act on the amendment of the act on employment and counteracting unemployment	1) Jerzy Langer 2) Ewa Tomaszewska	09.01.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 18.01.03	The committee removed defects on 27.01.03	Marshal's decision of 30.01.03 to accept committee's submission.	29.04.03	54th sitting on 29.07.03	1768,	-----	-----	-----	Ewa Tomaszewska	The act was enacted as the act on pre-pension benefits at the 74th sitting on 30.04.04; published: Dz.U. 2004, nr 120, poz. 1252 the end of the process

29.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on pharmaceutical law and the associations of pharmacists	Act on the amendment of the act on pharmaceutical law and the associations of pharmacists	1) Andrzej Wróbel 2) Danuta Ignys	16.04.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 25.04.03	The committee removed defects on 09.05.03	Marshal's decision of 19.05.03 to accept committee's submission.	14.08.03 r.	On 30.10.03 and on 13.11.03 r.	2088	-----	-----	-----	1) Andrzej Wróbel 2) Danuta Ignys	The act was enacted at 73rd sitting on 20.04.2004 r.; published: Dz.U. 2004, nr 92, poz. 882 the end of the process
30.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	Act on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	1) Andrzej Chwiluk 2) Piotr Luberta	27.05.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 06.06.03	The committee removed defects on 25.06.03	Marshal's decision of 07.07.03 to accept committee's submission.	On 07.10.03	-----	-----	on 21.10.03	National Electoral Commission's resolution of 27.10.03 - lack of proper procedure in required number of signatures	Marshal's decision of 30.10.03 to refuse to start the legislative process the end of the process	-----	-----
31.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on taxes.	Act on the amendment of the act on taxes.	1) Slawomir Zielen 2) Andrzej Zacharzewski	22.07.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 30.07.03	The committee removed defects on 13.08.03	Marshal's decision of 21.08.03 to accept committee's submission.	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

32.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative "Together" on the amendment of the act on insurance agencies	Act on the amendment of the act on insurance agencies	1) Adam Sankowski 2) Irena Baczynska	28.08.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 10.09.03	The committee removed defects on 16.09.03	Marshal's decision of 17.09.03 to accept committee's submission.	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
33.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act of 24th July 1998 on introduction of the three-level territorial division of the state	Act on the amendment of the act of 24th July 1998 on introduction of the three-level territorial division of the state	1) Eugeniusz Zuber 2) Ireneusz Bijata	29.08.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 10.09.03	The committee removed defects on 26.09.03	Marshal's decision of 30.09.03 to accept committee's submission.	On 29.12.03	At 71st sitting on 18.03.04 r.	2491	-----	-----	-----	Eugeniusz Zuber	The draft is being considered by Sejm's committees.
34.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative to establish the 30th of May as surrogate parents' day	To establish the 30th of May as surrogate parents' day	1) Mariola Zych-Walaszczyk 2) Andrzej Olszewski	15.09.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 26.09.03 r.	The committee didn't remove defects	Marshal's decision of 23.10.03 to refuse to accept committee's submission the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

35.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on Patients' Ombudsman	Act on Patients' Ombudsman	1) Adam Sandauer 2) Witold Szmigielski	10.10.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 22.10.03	The committee removed defects on 03.11.03	Marshal's decision of 14.11.03 to accept committee's submission.	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
36.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on the emblem, colours and national anthem of the Republic of Poland	Act on the amendment of the act on the emblem, colours and national anthem of the Republic of Poland	1) Leszek Rodziewicz 2) Bogdan Rodziewicz	07.11.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 20.11.03	The committee removed defects on 05.12.03	Marshal's decision of 10.12.03 to accept committee's submission.	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
37.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act on VAT and excise duty and on enacting new law on VAT.	Act on VAT and an act on the amendment of the act on VAT and excise duty	1) Artur Oporski 2) Zbigniew Skudniewski	13.11.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 25.11.03	The committee didn't remove defects	Marshal's decision of 23.10.03 to refuse to accept committee's submission the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

38.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on VAT	Act on VAT	1) Artur Oporski 2) Tadeusz Stasiów	16.12.03	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 29.12.03	The committee removed defects on 14.01.04	Marshal's decision of 26.01.04 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
39.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on large-scale commercial structures.	Act on large-scale commercial structures.	1) Jan Rakowski 2) Barbara Godlewska	13.01.04	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 26.01.04	The committee removed defects on 06.02.04	Marshal's decision of 18.02.04 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
40.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on elimination of unemployment and improving the public finances.	Act on elimination of unemployment and improving the public finances.	1) Andrzej Blikle 2) Ireneusz Jablonski	17.02.04	-----	-----	Marshal's decision of 01.03.04 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
41.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on general provisions of the administration law.	Act on general provisions of the administration law.	1) Rafal, Mariusz Modzelewski 2) Eugeniusz Smoktunowicz	26.03.04	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 07.04.04	The committee removed defects on 15.04.04	Marshal's decision of 20.04.04 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

42.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on restructuring and privatisation of the Heat and Power Plant joint-stock company.in Łódź	Act on restructuring and privatisation of the Heat and Power Plant joint-stock company.in Łódź	1) Sylwester Pokorski 2) Izabela Bauc	29.03.04	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 07.04.04	The committee removed defects on 04.05.04	Marshal's decision of 14.05.04 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
43.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act providing support to single-parent families	Act on providing support to single-parent families	1) Renata Iwaniec 2) Beata Jaskulska	22.04.04	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 30.04.04	The committee didn't remove defects	Marshal's decision of 23.10.03 to refuse to accept committee's submission the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
44.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act providing support to single-parent families	Act on providing support to single-parent families	1) Renata Iwaniec 2) Joanna Wróblewska, Alicja Labedzka, Beata Stachowiak	21.05.04	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 02.06.04	The committee removed defects on 15.06.04	Marshal's decision of 21.06.04 to accept committee's submission	21.09.04 r	At the 93 rd sitting on 17.12.04 r.	3392	-----	-----	-----	-----	The draft is being considered by Sejm's committee s.

45.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative "Our Child" on the act on restoring the preferential 7% VAT on products for children.	Act on amendment the act on VAT	1) Ilona Wójcik 2) Miroslaw Maleszyk	25.05.04	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 08.06.04	The committee didn't remove defects	Marshal's decision of 22.07.04 to refuse to accept committee's submission the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
46.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on financing Health Care benefits	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on financing Health Care benefits	1) Krzysztof Brzózka 2) Jacek Lipinski 3) Krzysztof Oksiuta	21.06.04	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 01.07.04	The committee removed defects on 05.07.04	Marshal's decision of 15.07.04 to accept committee's submission	13.10.04	At the 95 th sitting on 07.01.05 r.	3550	-----	-----	-----	Krzysztof Brzózka, Stefan Ciesla	The draft is being considered by Sejm's committees.
47.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative "Our Child" on the act on the amendment of the act on VAT	Act on amendment the act on VAT	1) Ilona Wójcik 2) Zbigniew Wawak	25.08.04	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 03.09.04	The committee removed defects on 13.09.04	Marshal's decision of 17.09.04 to accept committee's submission	17.12.04	At the 99 th sitting on 09.03.05 r.	3764	-----	-----	-----	Ilona Wójcik, Zbigniew Wawak	The draft is being considered by Sejm's committees.

48.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the act on restructuring and privatisation of the Heat and Power Plant joint-stock company.in Łódz	Act on restructuring and privatisation of the Heat and Power Plant joint-stock company.in Łódz	1) Sylwester Pokorski 2) Waclaw Pelczynski	18.11.04	-----	-----	Marshal's decision of 26.11.04 to accept committee's submission	25.02.05	At the 102 nd sitting on 06.05.05 r.	3854	-----	-----	-----	Jerzy Janusz Kropiwnicki, Sylwester Pokorski	The draft is being considered by Sejm's committee s.
49.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	Act on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund	1) Marek Kluczewicz 2) Stanislaw Brzezniak	19.11.04	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 02.12.04	The committee didn't remove defects	Marshal's decision of 11.01.05 to refuse to accept committee's submission the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

50.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	Act on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	1) Dominik Kolorz 2) Henryk Nakonieczny	25.11.04	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 08.12.04 r.	The committee removed defects on 23.12.04	Marshal's decision of 04.01.05 r. to accept committee's submission	21.02.05 r	At the 101 st sitting on 22.04.05 r.	3864	-----	-----	-----	-----	Act on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund and the act on the Teachers' Charter were enacted at the 108 th sitting on 27.07.05r
51.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	Act on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	1) Tadeusz Krasko 2) Stanislaw Adamski	17.01.05	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 28.01.05	The committee removed defects on 08.02.05	Marshal's decision of 14.02.05 to accept committee's submission	The draft was not submitted to the Marshal the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

52.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on restoring provisions of the acts of 1974 and 1975 on treating all former prisoners of Hitler's prisons and concentration camps as disabled war veterans.	No proposal was submitted	1) Henryk Nowicki 2) Maria Pawlowska	04.03.05	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 18.03.05	The committee didn't remove defects	Marshal's decision of 19.04.05 to refuse to accept committee's submission the end of the process	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
53.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on ways of financing the professional training of doctors and dentists and on the amendment of other acts.	Act on ways of financing the professional training of doctors and dentists and on the amendment of other acts	1) Konstanty Radziwill 2) Malgorzata Brzozowska	13.05.05	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 25.05.05	The committee removed defects on 02.06.05	Marshal's decision of 13.06.05 to accept committee's submission	13.09.05 r.							The draft is being considered by Sejm's committees
54.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	Act on the amendment of the act of 17 th December 1998 on state pensions from the Social Insurance Fund.	1) Krystyna Pajura 2) Ludwik Knyba	13.06.05	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 27.06.05	The committee removed defects on 14.07.05	Marshal's decision of 21.07.05 to accept committee's submission	21.10.05 r.							The draft is being considered by Sejm's committees

55.	The Committee of the Legislative Initiative on the status of the unemployed.	Act on the status of the unemployed.	1) Daniel Podrzycki 2) Mariusz Olszewski	20.06.05	Formal defects were stated – the committee was called upon to complete the draft on 01.07.05	The committee removed defects on 08.07.05	Marshal's decision of 18.07.05 to accept committee's submission	18.10.05 r.											The draft is being considered by Sejm's committees
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