

# **Citizens' participation in the legislative process in the Senate of the Republic of Poland**



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Petitions and Correspondence Unit**

# Public consultations

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Public consultations allow citizens to get involved in the legislative process, on an individual or collective basis (e.g. via organisations, associations, foundation or trade unions) by submitting opinions and remarks concerning bills prepared by Senators or the Senate committees.

**The aim of consultations is to reach as broad audience as possible, and find out what citizens think about the bill.**

# Public consultations

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## Mode of conducting public consultations:

- The chair of the Legislation Committee makes a decision about announcing public consultations – consultations of the bill are carried out via the Senate's website.
- Institutions and organisations submit opinions on the bill.
- The deadline for submitting opinions and remarks on the bill is set.

## Parliamentary Grouping for the Support of Citizens' Initiatives and Contacts with Non-Government Organisations

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### The tasks of the Grouping include:

- cooperation with non-government organisations,
- analysis of legislation related to active citizenship,
- initiating the removal of formal and administrative barriers to active citizenship,
- providing support of citizens' initiatives.



# Petition



**A petition is a letter which contains a request or a proposal addressed to the government.**

- Petitions are a form of direct participation of citizens in the process of governance.
- Petitions are:
  - proposals, submitted by individuals or groups, relating to any matters associated with public life,
  - postulates addressed to public authorities, in accordance with the competence of these authorities.

**A petition to the Senate** is a citizen's legislative proposal which must refer to the competence of the chamber – that is, contain proposals of changes to be introduced to the existing law or new solutions.



# The Rules and Regulations of the Senate – petitions

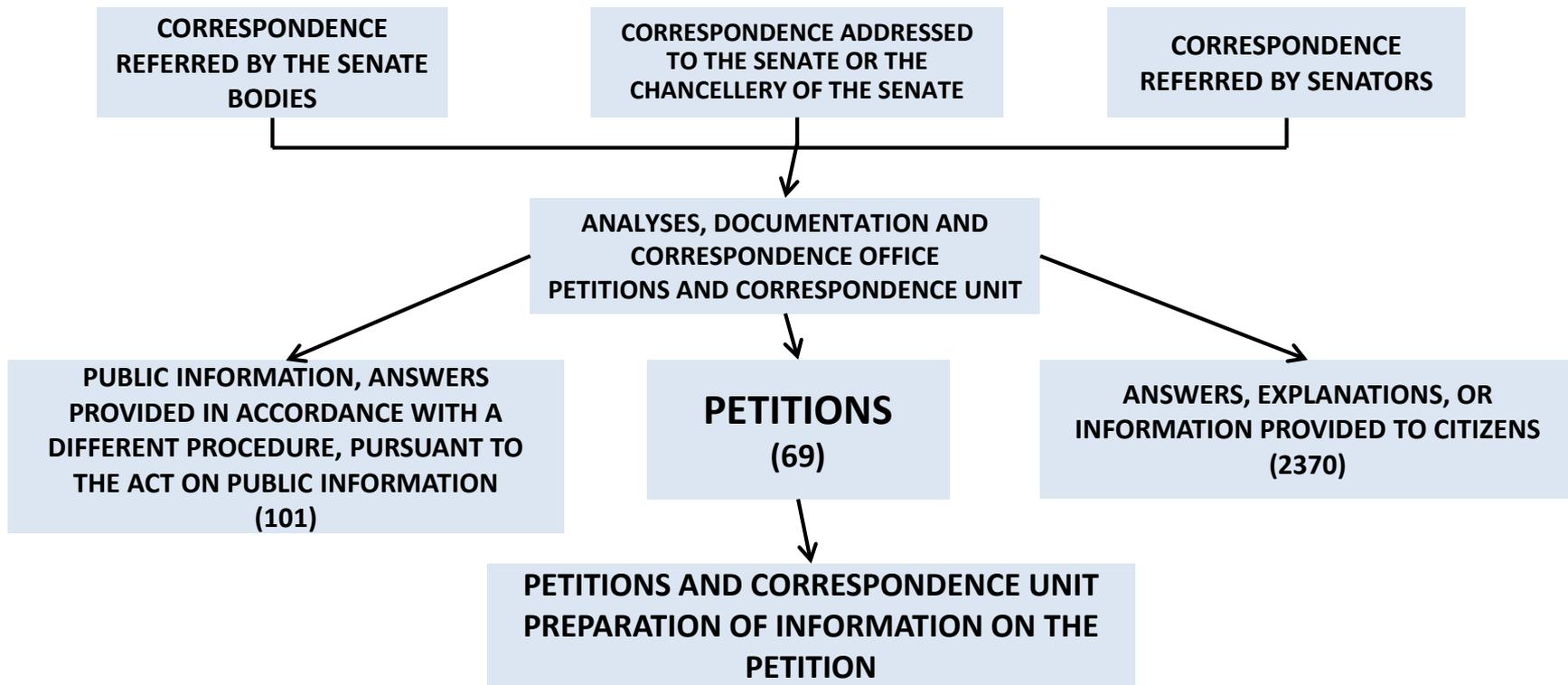


## *Section Xa – Consideration of Petitions specifies:*

- the mode of consideration of petitions by the Senate bodies – the Marshal and the committees,
- broadening of the competence of the Human Rights and the Rule of Law Committee to include the issue of consideration of petitions,
- making a decision to implement the petition's postulate – submitting to the Marshal of the Senate a motion to undertake a legislative initiative, together with a bill.



# Correspondence addressed to the Senate



# Forms of contact

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Citizens addressing correspondence to the Senate and the Chancellery of the Senate can send or deliver it:

- by e-mail, using the following address: [senat@senat.gov.pl](mailto:senat@senat.gov.pl),
- personally, by submitting the letter to the Registry Office of the Chancellery of the Senate, on business days, between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM,
- by postal operator.



» Spis telefonów

- Szef Kancelarii Senatu
- Dyrektor Generalny
- Sekretariat Marszałka Senatu Stanisława Karczewskiego
- Sekretariaty Wicemarszałków Senatu
- Gabinet Marszałka Senatu
- Biuro Prac Senackich
- Biuro Legislacyjne
- Biuro Spraw Międzynarodowych i Unii Europejskiej
- Biuro Polonijne
- Centrum Informacyjne Senatu
- Biuro Analiz, Dokumentacji i Korespondencji
- Biuro Spraw Senatorskich
- Biuro Prawne, Kadr i Organizacji
- Biuro Finansowe
- Biuro Administracyjne
- Pion Ochrony Informacji Niejawnych
- Zespół Audytu Wewnętrznego i Kontrol
- Zespół Radców Prawnych
- Kontakt
- Administrator Bezpieczeństwa Informacji

KONTAKT

Strona główna » Kontakty » Spis telefonów » Kontakt

Kontakt z Kancelarią Senatu możliwy jest poprzez wypełnienie zamieszczonego poniżej formularza lub przesłanie listu na adres:

Kancelaria Senatu  
ul. Wiejska 6  
00-902 Warszawa

\* wymagane pola

Imię:

Nazwisko:

E-mail:

Firma/organizacja/institucja:

Temat:

Treść:

Załącznik:  Przeglądaj...

Maksymalny rozmiar załącznika 1,48[MB]



Przepisz kod:



# Information on the subject matter of the petition



The **Petitions and Correspondence Unit** prepares for each petition Information on the petition. It constitutes auxiliary material meant to be used in consideration of the petition by the committee.

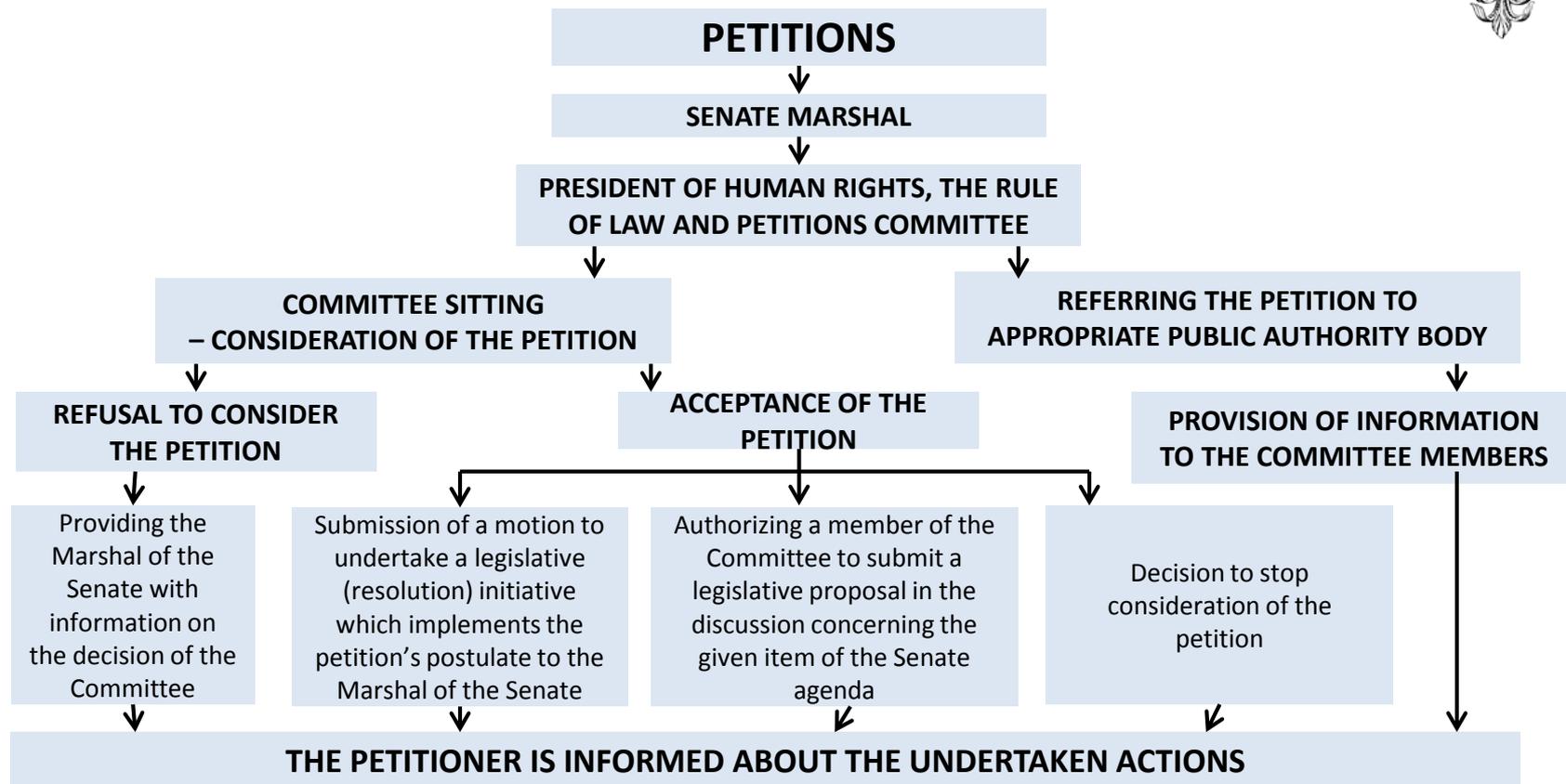
Each Information includes:

- presentation of the petition: description of the petitioner's postulates and their justification,
- analysis of the legal status of the issues raised in the petition and information on earlier legislative work on this subject,
- information on the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Tribunal and ordinary or administrative courts, and on the actions of the government or stakeholders of the issues related to the petition.

The information package is accompanied by materials including: a copy of the petition, selected legal acts, court rulings, bills, publications or information on actions taken in relation to the subject matter of the petition.



# Scheme for consideration of petitions in the Senate



# Examples of subject matters of petitions submitted to the Senate



- situation of people with disabilities (services for people with hearing impairment),
- family and custody law (joint custody of a child),
- civil and administrative proceedings,
- provisions concerning social and invalidity pensions, as well as old-age pensions (the amount of pension benefits),
- social insurance (including the period of parental leave in the qualifying period for retirement age, the state's for raising children),
- situation of war veterans and victims of oppression (benefits for soldiers – miners, and children born in Stalin-era prisons),
- housing-related issues (housing co-operatives),
- labour law (Sunday as a bank holiday, with a ban on trade on Sundays).



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TWOJE PRAWO

o PETYCJACH KAMPAANIA INFORMACYJNA WYDARZENIA KOMIKS ANIMACJA MATERIAŁY DO POBRANIA DLA SAMORZĄDÓW KONTAKT

Włoka Strony > Kontakt

PETYCJAMI SĄ PROPOZYCJE, KTÓRE MOŻNA SKŁADAĆ DO WŁADZ, POSTULUJĄC PODJĘCIE OKREŚLONEJ DZIAŁALNOŚCI LUB ZMIANĘ OBOWIĄZUJĄCEGO PRAWA. DLA JEJ OBYWATELI MA SZANSĘ BEZPOŚREDNIEGO WPŁYWANIA NA PROCES SPRAWOWANIA WŁADZY.



Historia ustawy o petycjach Przedmiot petycji Nadawca petycji			Kampania informacyjna	Wydarzenia
Adresat petycji Składanie petycji Rozpatrywanie petycji <a href="#">Ustawa o petycjach</a>			Dla samorządów	Materiały do pobrania

Organizatorzy

Patroni medialni





# Petition campaign



## Tools and means of communication:

- workshops for journalists from regional media in order to make sure that the information about the new act reaches local communities,
- training for employees of senators' offices who, in the course of their employment, meet with citizens and provide them with information,
- public lectures and presentations in libraries, community centres, etc.
- workshops, classes, and lectures for older schoolchildren and students,
- conferences in the Senate and the offices of the partners,
- support for senators in the actions undertaken by them in their constituencies.



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PETYCJAMI SĄ PROPOZYCJE, KTÓRE MOŻNA SKŁADAĆ DO WŁADZY, POSTULUJĄC POD REJĘ OKREŚLONEJ DECYZJI LUB ZMIANĘ OBOWIĄZUJĄCEGO PRAWA. DAJE TO OBYWATEŁOM SZANSĘ BEZPOŚREDNIEGO WPŁYWANIA NA PROCES SPRAWOWANIA WŁADZY.

- O petycjach
- Kampania informacyjna
- Dla samorządów
- Wydarzenia
- Materiały do pobrania

### Wydarzenia



Konkurs dla dziennikarzy



Warsztaty dla młodzieży ponadgimnazjalnej



Spotkanie w Centrum Praw Kobiet



PETYCJA – TWOJE PRAWO – warsztaty dla dziennikarzy



VI Zjazd Ambasadorów RPO



Inauguracja kampanii PETYCJA – TWOJE PRAWO

#### Organizatorzy



INSTITUT SPRAW PUBLICZNYCH



#### Patroni medialni

#### Koalicjanci





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- O PETYCJACH
- KAMPAANIA INFORMACYJNA
- WYDARZENIA
- KOMIKS
- ANIMACJA
- MATERIAŁY DO POBRANIA
- DLA SAMORZĄDÓW
- KONTAKT

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### Materiały do pobrania

- Komiks
- Foldery, plakaty, ulotki
- Zasady składania i tryb rozpatrywania petycji
- Petycje w Senacie
- Publikacje
- Petycje kierowane do organów jednostek samorządu terytorialnego

- O petycjach
- Kampania informacyjna
- Dla samorządów
- Wydarzenia
- Materiały do pobrania

### Materiały do pobrania



# Public hearing

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It is one of the forms of direct participation of citizens in the lawmaking process.

It provides an opportunity to be heard to those citizens who believe they would be affected by a proposed bill, or believer that their voice can improve the level of the debate or influence the quality or scope of the bill in question.

# The Rules and Regulations of the Senate - public hearing

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Pursuant to Article 80 para. 1b of the Rules and Regulations of the Senate, committees which consider a given bill may adopt a resolution on holding a public hearing concerning the bill.

The resolution, together with information concerning the place and date of the public hearing, is published on the Senate's website, at least 21 days before the date of the hearing.

The right to participate in a public hearing is vested in anyone who declares their will to do so to the committees at least 7 days before the date of the hearing, indicating i.a. the interest which they intend to protect with respect to the given regulation or the legal measure that they are going to seek.

# Formal conditions for the public hearing

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- Public hearings are held during joint sittings of the committees. The agenda of the sitting cannot include any other points.
- Committee chairs decide on the order and duration of the speech of the persons participating in the public hearing.
- Committees take positions with regard to remarks presented during the public hearing, indicating the resulting conclusions or, if necessary, the reasons for not taking them into account. The relevant information is published on the Senate's website within 30 days from the day of concluding the public hearing.

