

REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
LAW ON THE AMENDMENT OF THE LAW ON STATISTICS

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Official translation

Article 1.

Revised Version of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Statistics

The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Statistics shall be amended to read as follows:

REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA LAW ON STATISTICS

CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Purpose of the Law

This Law shall establish general principles of the organisation of official statistics, the rights and duties of natural and legal persons as well as enterprises without the rights of a legal person in providing data for the statistical needs, the rights and duties of State and local self-government institutions in managing and using statistical data, data protection as well as liability for violations of this Law.

Article 2. Definitions of the Law

1. "Official statistics" means a system of the collection and management of statistical data which reflect economic, demographic processes, social factors, public and environmental changes and are intended to meet the national needs of State and local self-government institutions and agencies, and statistical information dissemination in accordance with the work program of Official Statistics.
2. "Statistical data" means data provided by respondents and received from administrative documents, registers as well as information systems intended for the compilation of aggregates.
3. "Statistical data processing" means the checking, summarising, grouping, classification of statistical data, and preparation of statistical tables and graphs.
4. "Statistical information" means aggregated information received as a result of statistical data processing.
5. "Statistical surveys" means the collection, accumulation, processing, analysis of statistical data, and preparation and presentation of statistical information.

6. "Management of statistical data" means the preparation of statistical survey reports and questionnaires, rules how to fill them out, their sending out to respondents, collection and preparation for processing.

7. "Statistical register" means a list of natural and legal persons as well as enterprises without the rights of a legal person (respondents) made by institutions managing statistics, updated and supplemented with statistical data, used for statistical surveys and for preparation, storage and usage of aggregated information.

8. Confidentiality of Statistical Data - use of data received from statistical surveys or by other methods for statistical purposes in such a way that no concrete respondent or results of its activity could be identified.

9. Respondent - a natural or legal person, enterprise without the rights of a legal person providing or obliged to provide data on its activity for the institutions managing statistics.

10. Work Program of the Official Statistics - a list of statistical work (surveys), which are indispensable for the State administration and public use, assigned to the Department of Statistics under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Department of Statistics), its territorial institutions, other state and local self-government institutions, in which the institution responsible for conducting surveys, the title of the survey, periodicity, manner and deadlines of the provision of results are indicated.

Article 3. Scope of the Law

This Law shall apply to:

- 1) State and local self-government institutions and agencies;
- 2) institutions and agencies managing statistics;
- 3) respondents.

Article 4. General Principles of the Organisation of Statistical Work

The organisation of official statistics shall be based on the following principles:

- 1) objectivity and professional independence from political and other interest groups;
- 2) necessity and suitability of statistical indicators to assess economic and social situation and dynamics;
- 3) use of statistical data for statistical purposes only;
- 4) confidentiality of statistical data;
- 5) transparency of methods and methodologies applied in statistical surveys;
- 6) comparability of statistical data;
- 7) compliance with international classifications and standards in accordance with which statistical data are managed;

8) compatibility of statistical methodologies.

Article 5. Tasks of Institutions and Agencies Managing Official Statistics

Main tasks of institutions and agencies managing official statistics shall be as follows:

- 1) on the basis of national needs and methodological principles applied by the international organisations, to determine a common system for collecting statistical information on the State's economic, demographic processes, social factors, and public and environmental changes;
- 2) to process, generalise and analyse collected statistical data, to prepare statistical information;
- 3) to disseminate information prepared in compliance with the work program of the Official Statistics and to ensure that the information as well as its preparation methods be available to society;
- 4) to provide statistical information for State and local self-government institutions and agencies, education institutions, Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), other international organisations in accordance with international agreements;
- 5) to implement measures to minimise input of labour and other expenses of respondents related to collection and provision of statistical data.

CHAPTER II MANAGEMENT OF STATISTICS

Article 6. Agencies Managing Official Statistics

1. In the Republic of Lithuania, official statistics shall be managed by the following agencies:
 - 1) the Department of Statistics;
 - 2) territorial statistical agencies of the Department of Statistics;
 - 3) ministries, other State and local self-government institutions, agencies, as well as the Bank of Lithuania, if it is provided for in the work programme of the Official Statistics.

Article 7. The Department of Statistics

1. The Department of Statistics shall be an institution of executive power of the Republic of Lithuania, financed from the State Budget. The Department of Statistics shall be a legal person which shall have a bank account and the seal with the Emblem of the State of Lithuania and its name on it. Regulations of the Department of Statistics shall be approved by the Government.

2. The Department of Statistics shall be an agency of official statistics, which shall implement a uniform State policy in the fields of organisation and methodology of statistics. The Department of Statistics shall prepare a work programme of the Official Statistics and a report on its implementation, which are approved by the Government or an institution authorised by it.

3. The Department of Statistics shall be headed by the Director General who shall be appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister.

Article 8. Rights of the Department of Statistics when Conducting Statistical Surveys

When conducting statistical surveys, the Department of Statistics shall have the following rights:

- 1) to get from State and local self-government institutions and agencies information on forthcoming statistical surveys intended for the preparation of the work programme of Official Statistics;
- 2) to get free of charge from respondents, State registers and information systems statistical data necessary for the implementation of the work programme of Official Statistics;
- 3) to organise statistical household surveys, to conduct voluntary statistical surveys;
- 4) to organise and conduct total censuses, when necessary enlisting the assistance of the population, in accordance with the procedure established by law or the Government;
- 5) to organise publishing of statistical information;
- 6) to check whether the submitted data have been calculated in accordance with presented methodologies;
- 7) when necessary, to invite experts in order to check reliability of data.

Article 9. Territorial Statistical Agencies of the Department of Statistics

1. Territorial statistical agencies shall be established and their regulations approved by the Department of Statistics. Territorial statistical agencies shall be legal persons financed from the State Budget.

2. Territorial statistical agencies of the Department of Statistics shall:

- 1) conduct statistical work provided for in the work programme of the Official Statistics, as well as other statistical work ordered and financed by the county governor's administration or a local self-government institution;
- 2) prepare statistical information on a territorial administrative unit concerning the number and structure of the population, administrative division, industrial potentials of economic entities and results of their activities, economy, environment, memorials, and for this purpose, use information and statistical data gathered by them and other official statistics managing institutions and agencies;
- 3) provide statistical information to county governors and local self-government institutions and agencies;
- 4) inform society about economic and social status, demographic and environmental

processes of a territorial administrative unit.

3. While implementing the work programme of Official Statistics, territorial statistical agencies shall have the right to collect from respondents of their territorial administrative units reports, questionnaires and data from administrative managing documents and approved by the Director General of the Department of Statistics, to manage and disseminate statistical information.

Article 10. Rights of other Statistics Managing Agencies and Organisations

1. Other official statistics managing agencies shall:

- 1) after consultation with the Department of Statistics, approve the forms of statistical reporting, rules on how to fill them out, establish the procedure and deadlines of provision of data as well as check whether the submitted data are calculated using provided methodologies;
- 2) independently collect data, process, compile, analyse and disseminate statistical information.

2. Political parties, political and public organisations, trade unions, religious organisations, enterprises, agencies and other organisations shall:

- 1) independently collect data and manage statistical information;
- 2) conduct statistical work (surveys) when official statistics managing institutions and agencies conclude contracts with them.

Article 11. The Statistical Council

1. The Statistical Council shall be an advisory institution of the Department of Statistics, which shall consider basic issues pertaining to the organisation and methodology of statistics. It shall consider methodological principles of censuses, statistical registers and main surveys, as well as the work programme of Official Statistics, basic results of statistical surveys, issues related to data protection, provision of statistical information to State and education institutions and making it public, prepare conclusions and submit proposals to the Department of Statistics regarding the said issues.

2. The Statistical Council shall consist of representatives of state and local self-government institutions, agencies managing statistics, education institutions, public organisations, enterprises, other respondents and mass media. The composition and regulations of the Statistical Council shall be approved by the Government.

Article 12. Sources of Official Statistical Data

1. Official statistical data sources shall be the following:

- 1) statistical surveys and censuses as well as bookkeeping data of natural and legal persons as well as enterprises without the rights of a legal person;
- 2) information systems of the Bank of Lithuania, tax inspectorates, customs, education and health institutions, labour exchange, social security and municipal economy institutions, State registers as well as data from administrative... or personal documents accumulated by county governors, local self-government institutions and agencies.

2. Statistical data shall be presented in reports, questionnaires or magnetic media in the form established by the Department of Statistics, other official statistics managing institutions and agencies. With the consent of a respondent, statistics managing institutions and agencies may collect data by phone.

CHAPTER III

THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF RESPONDENTS WHEN PROVIDING AND USING STATISTICAL DATA

Article 13. The Rights of Respondents

1. Respondents shall have the right to receive from statistics managing institutions, agencies and organisations information on the legal background of statistical survey, the purpose of data collection, obligatory or voluntary agreement to provide information as well as consequences for refusal to provide it, information protection measures.
2. Every respondent shall have the right to get access to the information he submitted to statistics managing institutions, agencies and organisations, which is stored in the information systems or registers.
3. When the respondent observes that the data he submitted to the statistics managing institution, agency or organisation is inaccurate, he shall have the right to make them precise in writing. If the respondent lacks appropriate data to fill out reports, he may submit the most accurate information possible together with an explanatory note.

Article 14. Duty of Respondents to Provide Statistical Data

1. Respondents must provide accurate data to statistics managing institutions and agencies in accordance with the procedure established by law and other legal acts.
2. Legal persons as well as enterprises, agencies and organisations without the rights of a legal person must free of charge provide statistical data for the implementation of the work programme of Official Statistics.
3. Natural persons must provide data only if it is provided for by law or the work

programme of the Official Statistics.

4. Signatures of the persons who have filled reports and survey questionnaires out shall confirm the authenticity of the data provided therein.

CHAPTER IV USE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Article 15. Use and Protection of Official Statistical Information

1. Statistical data collected for the purposes of official statistics may be used only for the preparation of statistical information.

2. Official statistical data shall be considered confidential and protected in accordance with the procedure established by law, if the respondent on whom or on whose activity results the primary information have been collected may be directly or indirectly identified from that official statistical data.

3. The following information shall not be subject to confidentiality established by this Law:

- 1) types of activities of enterprises, agencies and organisations in accordance with the Economic activity type classification (NACE);
- 2) production by European Economic Community List of Community Products (PRODCOM), income from production or services rendered;
- 3) number of employees of natural and legal persons or enterprises without the rights of a legal person;
- 4) data characterising environmental pollution;
- 5) data which a respondent permits in writing to disseminate.

4. Confidential statistical data may be presented for use for scientific purposes if scientific institutions ensure protection of the data in the way that it is not possible to directly identify respondents.

5. The Department of Statistics or any other institution or agency managing statistics shall take organisational and technical measures to ensure protection of the data submitted by a respondent, introduce computer technologies that shall prevent from illegal usage, dissemination and destruction of data.

Article 16. Dissemination of Statistical Information

1. The Department of Statistics and other institutions, agencies managing statistics shall,

within the limits of their competence, announce and regularly present via mass media statistical information on economic, social and demographic changes and environmental processes.

2. The data announced in the publications of the Department of Statistics and other institutions, agencies managing statistics or presented to State and local self-government institutions may not be disseminated without reference to the institution or agency managing statistics, which submitted the data.

3. Statistical data may be forwarded to Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), other international organisations in compliance with the provisions of this Law and other legal acts.

CHAPTER V

LIABILITY OF RESPONDENTS OR EMPLOYEES OF INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES MANAGING OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Article 17. Liability of Respondents

In case of the violation of the requirements of this Law and other legal acts pertaining to statistics, natural persons, heads of enterprises, agencies and organisations, as well as other persons responsible for the preparation and presentation of official statistics shall be held liable under law of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 18. Liability of Public Servants of Institutions and Agencies Managing Official Statistics

1. Public servants of the Department of Statistics, its territorial statistical agencies, other institutions and agencies managing official statistics must ensure confidentiality of data provided by respondents and used at the place of work for the whole period of confidentiality of data.

2. Public servants of institutions and agencies managing official statistics, who have permission to work with confidential information, shall commit themselves to use data provided by respondents only for the purposes of statistics and to protect such data. Termination of employment relations shall not free a person from the commitment to protect confidential information entrusted to him, as well as from the liability for divulgence of such information.

3. Public servants of the Department of Statistics, its territorial statistical agencies and other official statistics managing institutions and agencies who violate the requirements of this Law or other legal acts related to statistics, shall be held liable under law of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 19. Proposal to the Government

The Government shall, prior to 10 March 2000, submit to the Seimas drafts of laws on amendments and supplements of laws related to the provisions of this Law.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC VALDAS ADAMKUS