

## **Legislative Initiative in Polish Law**

The main research objective of the study is to present a comprehensive overview of issues related to the preparation of a bill, its submission to and passage through the Sejm. Considerations were given to notions of legal doctrine whilst also taking into account changing practice. Reference is made to the Polish constitutions and regulations of the interwar period and the contemporary constitutions of selected European countries. The thesis presents definitions of legislative initiative, articulated in a legal doctrine, which subsequently are compared with views regarding legislative initiative expressed in the Constitutional Tribunal jurisprudence rulings.

The subjective scope of legislative initiative, the activity of particular entities entitled to legislative initiative in recent parliamentary terms of the Sejm, as well as the privilege of individual entities regulated at the constitutional, statutory level and referring to standing orders of the Sejm are discussed. It was noticed that there is a tendency to depart from the use of the urgency procedure by the Council of Ministers, as well as an increase in using the so-called accelerated procedure in the passage of a bill through the Sejm.

Observations of the law-making process also show that there is a general tendency towards an increase in the number of bills submitted to the Sejm on the initiative of the Council of Ministers simultaneously accompanied by a rise of private members bills whose actual authors are particular ministers. The thesis also discusses the institution of preliminary control of a draft bill after it has been submitted to the Sejm (with formal control conducted by the Speaker of the Sejm and material scrutiny carried out in the Legislation Committee). In this context, the formal requirements of a draft bill submitted to the Sejm are also discussed: its written form, the appointment of the bill sponsor's representative and the requirements for the legal justification of a bill.

The author emphasizes the necessity of complying with the legal drafting rules in the course of the legislative process at the parliamentary stage. In this context, the jurisprudence rulings of the Constitutional Tribunal are also discussed.