**Lithuania – Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas**

1. Website:

<https://www.lrs.lt/sip/portal.show?p_k=1&p_kade_id=8>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:** Seim of the Republic of Lithuania Statute // Statute of the Seimas

**2. URL**: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/d9766070c2f511e883c7a8f929bfc500?jfwid=39x432mh7>

**3. What is the date for the most recent revision on the rules of procedure?**

September 27, 2018

**4. Is there a section of the rules of procedure that covers voting rules? If so, indicate the section.**

Yes, Chapter XVII: Voting and Vote Counting, Articles 111-121

**5. If available, please list the rules governing the use of roll call votes.**

“**Article 111. Voting Methods and Procedure**

1. Open ballot voting shall be conducted on issues debated at the Seimas, except for cases reinforced by this Statute.

2. Laws and resolutions of the Seimas shall be adopted using the electronic vote counting system. Voting shall also take place on individual provisions of issue under consideration, individual articles or stipulations of law, protocol decisions and work program of the session, agenda of fittings and other issues. Data on the vote of each Member of the Seimas shall be public. On the decision of the chair of the sitting, these issues may be voted upon by the show of hands.

3. Individual instructions approved by the Board of the Seimas shall establish how to use the electronic vote counting system.

4. The Members of the Seimas shall vote in person. The right to vote may not be transferred to other persons.

**Article 112. Voting Procedure**

1. The chair of the sitting shall announce the commencement of the voting procedure.

2. The chair of the sitting must inform the members of the Seimas how many votes are needed to adopt a decision.

3. The Members of the Seimas must stay in their seats during the voting.

4. No issues shall be debated until completion of the voting procedure. The floor is given only to speak for reasons of voting and mode of voting, except for the period during which the results of a roll call or ballot are being counted.

**Article 114. Roll Call Voting**

1. Roll Call Voting in the Adoption of Laws of the Republic of Lithuania, Seimas Resolutions or Other Acts supports such request.

2. Such a request may be submitted by a representative of a political group only upon conclusion of a debate and prior to voting on the entire draft.

3. In such a case, ballot papers for roll call voting shall be distributed to the Members of the Seimas prior to the commencement of voting; upon receipt of the ballot papers, the Members of the Seimas shall sign the record of the issued ballot papers.

4. The chair of the sitting shall announce the time of commencement and completion of the roll call voting. Respective information shall be announced throughout the premises of the Seimas.

5. Prior to commencement of roll call voting, chair of any political group may request a postponement of voting. In this case, the chair of the sitting shall indicate the exact duration of the postponement; this voting must take place later than the end of the next day's fittings. Such a mode of postponement of voting may be applied only once.

6. Upon announcing the commencement of voting, each Member of the Seimas shall fill in the ballot paper, sign it, and hand it over to the tellers' group.

7. Ballot papers shall be no longer issued and accepted upon expiry of the time set for voting.

8. Upon counting of votes, the chair of the sitting shall announce the vote of each Member of the Seimas.

**Article 115. Voting by Secret Ballot**

1. When electing a Speaker of the Seimas, Deputy Speakers of the Seimas, resolving an issue related to no-confidence in the Government, the Prime Minister or an individual minister, no-confidence in any official of the Seimas or dismissing of the head of a state institution appointed by the Seimas on the grounds of no-confidence, and when the vote is taken on the wording of the charges during the impeachment proceedings, the members of the Seimas shall vote by secret ballot.

2. In addition, voting by secret ballot shall be made when resolving issues relating to the appointment and dismissal of the judiciary of the Constitutional Court, the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Presidents of these Courts, the Chairs of the Divisions of the Supreme Court, by the Constitution and laws on the grounds of no-confidence, appointment of heads of state accountable to the Seimas, and issues concerning approval of appointment or dismissal of chairs and judges of the Court of Appeal and Chairs of the Divisions of this Court .

3. On the decision of the Seimas, other issues concerning the individual may also be voted on by the secret ballot.

4. Voting by secret ballot during a break in the Seimas sitting.

5. Ballot papers shall be stamped and issued by the tellers' group. Upon receiving their ballot papers, the Members of the Seimas shall sign the record of issued ballot papers.

6. There must be a secret voting booth and a ballot box in the premises where voting is held. The ballot box must be placed so that, in order to access it, the Members of the Seimas would first have to enter the secret voting booth.

**Article 116. Voting by Open Ballot**

1. Voting shall be conducted by open ballot when it is necessary to elect several candidates to posts from a larger number of candidates and when it has not been resolved to vote by secret ballot.

2. The procedure for voting by open ballot and the results of voting shall be the same as for voting by secret ballot, except that secret ballot papers shall be used and ballot papers shall be filled out in the Plenary Chamber.

3. It shall not be necessary to sign the ballot papers.

**Article 117. Ballot Papers**

1. A standard ballot paper for voting by secret ballot shall be approved by the Seimas prior to voting.

2. Issues relating to the dismissal of an official or a declaration of non-confidence in a formal ballot paper with the following words: 'Confidence' and 'No confidence' or 'To dismiss' and 'Not to dismiss' .

3. One ballot paper shall be used to cast a vote on either a single official or a declaration of no-confidence in a collegial institution or one of its members, or a dismissal of a single official.

4. One ballot paper may contain the surnames, in alphabetical order, of candidates to the same position.

5. In all cases, a ballot paper must have a heading clearly indicating the issue being voted on.

6. The Member of the Seimas casting his ballot shall cross the ballot paper against the candidates against whom he or she shall not vote.

7. Ballot papers which are not of approved form or which are unstamped and ballot papers containing more than one number of officials being elected or more than one alternative statement shall be considered invalid.

8. Surnames and statements additionally entered on ballot papers shall not be counted.

9. The record of counting votes by ballot papers shall be signed by the chair of the tellers' group and the chair of the sitting.

10. Ballot papers shall be preserved in the Seimas Archives until the end of the term of office of the Seimas.

**Article 118. Putting Issues to the Vote**

1. Voting may be held on one statement or two alternative statements. In the first instance, the vote shall be expressed by "For", "Against" or "I abstain". In the second instance, the vote shall be expressed by “For the first statement” or “For the second statement”.

2. Alternative statements shall be voted upon in the order in which they were submitted for debate. If there are more than two statements, the chair of the sitting must group them by topic so that they are all decided upon by several rounds of voting for one or two statements.

3. The statement which collects the most votes shall be adopted; otherwise, it shall again be put to the vote to confirm the decision.

4. If this file is not completed, the Members of the Seimas may either propose a compromise or postpone the issue.

5. On his own initiative or at the request of at least two Members of the Seimas, the chair of the sitting shall split the issue put to the vote into two.

6. The decision to postpone an issue shall be taken before voting on the subject matter of the issue.

7. Numbers shall be voted on in the ascending order. If necessary, the chair of the sitting may change the order of voting, unless the Members of the Seimas who have submitted the proposals object.

**Article 120. Announcement of Voting Results**

Voting results shall be announced by the chair of the sitting based on the information provided by the tellers' group or by the indicators of the electronic voting counting system.”

**6. If the documents are available in multiple languages, does it seem like the same number of documents/files are available in the different languages?**

This document is available in English and Lithuanian.

**7. How exactly did you locate these files? (i.e. if you were going to write instructions for someone else to find them, what would that look like?)**

From the home page, click on “Legislation” on the right hand side. Then click on “statue of the seimas”.

**8. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

No, because the document is available in English.

**9. Is there anything else you think we should know?**

No.

**10. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file for previous versions of the rules of procedure? If so, repeat questions 2-8.**

No.

*B.RECORD OF LEGISLATIVE VOTING*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of votes as reported in the working language of the legislature (e.g., scrutin public ordinaire).**

There is “an account” (attendance) taken before each vote. One can vote either for, against, or abstain.

**2. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required? If so what are these?**

No.

**3. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the voting record online (separate from the plenary minute)?**

Yes.

**If so:**

**-Where can one find these documents? Please provide instructions for how someone would find them.**

In the session for the day, instead of clicking on “eastern/western”, click on agenda. Then each vote will have its own link.

**-What types of votes are reported (e.g., the roll call vote record for individual legislators)?**

No. The only information on the votes is how many voted for, against, or abstained.

**4. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

Same as the minutes: available from 1990 to present.

**5. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Not sure, the information is directly on the website.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section? If not, please indicate which source and years we are missing.**

Not sure.

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

Plenary sessions are called “Seima sittings”.

See Statute of the Seimas, Articles 122-125 for more information.

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide instructions for how one would find them)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

From the home page, click on the “Activities” tab. Then, click on “Seimas sittings”.

**3. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

The minutes are available from 1990 to present.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

The files are available for download in PDF, DOCX, and ODT, but the minutes are also just available to read on the website itself.

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

No, google chrome translate works fine.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

Not sure.

*D. ATTENDANCE*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

“Lankomumas” means attendance.

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide the URL)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

Yes, it is found once you click on a specific plenary session. You have the option to click on “Minutes”, “Transcript”, “Video”, or “Attendance”.

**3. What years are available on this source?**

The same years as the plenary minutes: 1990 to present.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Not sure, the attendance is listed directly on the website.

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

No.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

Not sure.

*E. ROLL CALL VOTE REQUEST*

**1. In the available on-line documents, can you identify a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the requester?**

Though the Satute of the Seimas outlines a procedure for a roll call vote, and says that individual votes are made public by default, all the votes on the website were broken down by response and there was no information on how an individual legislator voted.

According to section 114 of the Statute of the Seimas, “2. Such a request may be submitted by a representative of a political group only upon conclusion of a debate and prior to voting on the entire draft.”

However, in practice, I am not sure this every happens.

**2. Do the available on-line documents report a justification for a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the justification?**

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**3. How is the decision to accept or deny the roll-call vote request made (this may be found in the rules of procedure)?**

There is nothing in the Statute about how a roll-call vote request is considered.

**4. In the available on-line documents, can you identify whether the request was accepted? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify this?**

I wasn’t able to find an example of a roll-call vote in the minutes.

*F. DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

I couldn’t find an example of a roll call vote, but theoretically it would be found in the agenda or the transcript.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

The actual speeches are only available in the transcript for that day ( if you click on a session, this will be an option).

2. Indication Votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

This is most easily found in the Agenda of the Day, if you click on a specific consideration it will describe the process of deliberation and how long (in minutes) each speech was.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

The actual speeches are only available in the transcript for that day ( if you click on a session, this will be an option).

*G. VOTING*

1. Roll-call votes: I was not able to find an example of a roll-call vote. See additional notes at bottom of the document.

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, calling of names, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? At the level of individual legislator? If so, where can this be found?**

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

2. Indication votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, in the agenda for that day.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, it is described in the agenda.

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, in the minutes.

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, raising of hands, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The default is electronic. It never explicitly states what method is used, but it can be deduced from reading the transcript.

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? If so, where can this be found?**

This can be found in the transcript, minutes, and agenda. It says how many voted for, against, or abstained.

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

This would be found in the transcript.

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*

* The website might glitch when using google translate- in that case, turn it off momentarily to click to the next page, then when you get to your destination turn it back on.
* In the plenary sessions, there are different sessions called “eastern” and “western”. I’m not sure what these mean, because the parliament is unicameral. Research on this was very unsuccessful.
* My research suggests that in practice, Lithuania does not actually do roll-call votes because I could not find any sort of record indicating how individual legislators votes, and the Statute states that roll call votes would be public.