**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

**S T A T U T E**

**Chapter IV**

**Discipline and Immunity of A Member of the Seimas. OBLIGATION OF**

**A MEMBER OF THE SEIMAS TO AVOID THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**Article 18. Obligation of a Member of the Seimas to Avoid the Conflict of Interest**

1. It shall be prohibited to use the mandate of a Member of the Seimas for purposes other than the interests of the Nation, State and voters. A Member of the Seimas must respect and act in compliance with the Constitution and laws.

2. While executing the duties of a Member of the Seimas, each Member of the Seimas must avoid the conflict between the private interests of a Member of the Seimas and his duties to represent the interests of the public, he must not also act in such a way, that the public would entertain doubts about the existence of such conflict. In the event of the conflict of interest, a Member of the Seimas must act in compliance with this Statute and recommendations of the Commission for Ethics and Procedures or the Chief Official Ethics Commission. A Member of the Seimas must do his utmost that his integrity should not raise doubts among the public and that the public be given a possibility to ascertain the integrity of the Member of the Seimas.

3. The Commission for Ethics and Procedures or an investigation commission set up for this purpose must analyse the activities of a Member of the Seimas which violate the said provisions, and prepare findings for the Seimas.

4. Every year each Member of the Seimas shall, according to the Law on the Alignment of Public and Private Interests in Civil Service, submit to the Commission for Ethics and Procedures an annual private interests declaration and declarations if new circumstances turn out. The said Commission shall keep private interests declarations of the candidates who have become Members of the Seimas. The declarations shall be kept in the Commission for the whole term of office of a Member of the Seimas, and later they shall be transferred to the Seimas Archives for keeping.

5. Having considered the private interests declarations of Members of the Seimas, the Commission for Ethics and Procedures shall submit to Members of the Seimas written recommendations how to avoid the conflict of interest, which Members of the Seimas may make public at their own discretion. The said recommendations may be general (annual) or specific. The latter shall usually be submitted at the request of a Member of the Seimas.

6. Before or during the consideration of an issue, a Member of the Seimas who has a private interest in the issue must inform the chair of a sitting about the danger of a conflict of interest and must withdraw from further consideration and voting.

7. If a Member of the Seimas has not carried out the requirements of paragraph 6 of this Article and such behaviour of a Member of the Seimas is contrary to the recommendation of the Commission for Ethics and Procedures, which has been submitted to a Member of the Seimas in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Article, the Commission for Ethics and Procedures shall immediately inform the Seimas about it. In this event, the consideration of an issue may, upon the decision of the Seimas, be started anew.

8. If it appears that during the passage of a Seimas law, the provisions of this Article concerning the avoidance of the conflict of interest have been violated, the provisions set forth in Article 160 of this Statute may be applied.