

# Procedure for adopting laws

- Adoption of laws is one of the main tasks of the Saeima—the legislature of Latvia.
- The procedure for considering and adopting draft laws is set forth in the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia and the Rules of Procedure of the Saeima.
- The right to legislate belongs to the Saeima and the people of Latvia, in accordance with the procedure and to the extent set forth by the Constitution.
- Draft laws may be submitted to the Saeima by the President of Latvia, the Cabinet of Ministers, committees of the Saeima, at least five MPs or at least one-tenth of the electorate.

# Fundamental principles in considering draft laws

- Draft laws are considered in three readings; on certain occasions—in two readings.
- The responsible committee considers the relevant draft law before each reading and prepares the draft law for consideration at the plenary sitting.
- The responsible committee considers the submitted proposals when preparing the draft law for consideration in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings.
- The Presidium decides on including the relevant draft law in the agenda of the plenary sitting.
- For a law adopted by the Saeima to come into force, it must be proclaimed by the President. A law comes into force fourteen days after its proclamation unless a different term has been specified in the law.

## - DRAFT LAW

# **PRESIDIUM**

Reports to the Saeima on the draft law

#### **SAEIMA**

Forwards the draft law to committees and appoints the responsible committee

# RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE

Prepares its opinion and explanatory notes on the draft law

#### **PRESIDIUM**

Includes the draft law in the agenda of the plenary sitting

#### SAEIMA First reading

- Debates general principles of the draft law
- If necessary, declares the draft law to be urgent
- Passes the draft law in the 1st reading
- · Sets deadline for submitting proposals

#### RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE

- Examines proposals and prepares its opinion
- Prepares the draft law for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

#### **PRESIDIUM**

Includes the draft law in the agenda of the plenary sitting

#### SAEIMA Second reading

- Debates the draft law article by article
- Votes on proposals
- Passes the draft law in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading (adopts the draft law declared urgent)
- Sets deadline for submitting proposals

# RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE

- Examines proposals and prepares its opinion
- Prepares the draft law for the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading

### **PRESIDIUM**

Includes the draft law in the agenda of the plenary sitting

#### SAEIMA Third reading

- Reviews only submitted proposals
- Adopts the law

#### RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE

Examines voting results and prepares final wording of the law

# **PRESIDIUM**

Forwards the law to the President of Latvia



Proclaims the law in the official publication *Latvijas Vēstnesis*