

LAW ON AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 2, 20⁷ AND 29 OF GAMING LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA NO IX-325

No XV-107 of 14 January 2025 Vilnius

Article 1. Amendment to Article 2

Article 2(31) is amended to read as follows:

'31. The term "controller" used in this Law shall be understood as the term "beneficiary" as defined in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. Other terms used in this Law shall be understood as defined in the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Financial Accounting and the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Payments.'

Article 2. Amendment to Article 20⁷

Article 20⁷ is amended to read as follows:

'Article 20⁷. Measures to combat illegal remote gambling operators and arrangements on limiting payments for participation in illegal remote gambling

1. After carrying out an investigation and finding that an illegal gambling operator organises remote gambling in the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority shall issue one or both of the mandatory instructions:

1) for the payment service provider to cease all payment transactions relating to an entity engaged in illegal remote gambling activities without delay and not later than within one working day of receipt of the mandatory instruction;

2) to remove, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 98 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Electronic Communications, information used for the illegal operation of remote gambling or to remove access to this information.

2. The Control Authority, with a view to issuing an order referred to in paragraph 1(1) of this Article, within three working days of the discovery of the illegal remote gambling activity shall submit an application for authorisation for application of the mandatory instruction to the administrative court of first instance. An application for authorisation for application of the mandatory instruction must include the name of the person alleged to have committed the

infringement, the nature of the alleged infringements and the intended action. The administrative court of first instance shall examine the application for authorisation for application of the mandatory instruction and issue a reasoned order granting or rejecting this application. The application for authorisation for application of the mandatory instruction must be examined and an order issued no later than three working days after the submission of the application for authorisation for application of the mandatory instruction. If the Control Authority does not agree with the decision of the administrative court of first instance rejecting an application for authorisation for application of the mandatory instruction, it shall have the right to appeal against the decision before the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania within seven working days from the day of adoption of such decision. The Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania must examine the appeal against the decision of the administrative court of first instance rejecting the application for authorisation for application of the mandatory instruction not later than within seven days from the date of receipt of the Control Authority's appeal. The representative of the Control Authority shall have the right to be present when the appeal is dealt with in an oral procedure. A ruling adopted by the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania shall be final and not subject to appeal. The courts, when examining requests and appeals concerning the issue of authorisation for application of the mandatory instruction in question, must verify the confidentiality of the information received and action planned.

3. The Control Authority shall, without delay, make public on its website the information on the identified illegal gambling operators that illegally organise remote gambling in the Republic of Lithuania (these operators are not included in the Control Authority's list of entities authorised to engage in remote gambling activities in the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to in this Article as 'the List')), no later than 5 working days after the date of adoption of the decision granting the application for the authorisation for application of the mandatory instruction, and shall indicate the name of the illegal gambling operator - a legal entity or the name and surname of a natural person, the Internet domain name, the contact details of the legal entity (e-mail address, contact number), the name of the court which adopted the decision granting the application for the authorisation for application of the mandatory instruction, the date and number of the order. Information about identified illegal gambling operators shall be published until the infringement is eliminated, i.e. the illegal gambling operator no longer organises remote gambling in the Republic of Lithuania.

4. A payment service provider shall only execute payment transactions initiated by a payment card and/or remote payment transactions initiated by a payment card with the entities included in the List for the purpose of receiving stakes and/or paying out winnings. This provision shall not apply where a payment service provider operating in the Republic of

Lithuania executes payment transactions initiated by a payment card and/or remote payment transactions initiated by a payment card in territories other than the jurisdiction of the Republic of Lithuania and intended for receiving stakes and/or paying out winnings.

5. An entity shall be added to the List on the date on which a remote gambling licence (permit) is granted to it and shall be removed from the List on the date on which the remote gambling licence (permit) is withdrawn. The List containing the name of the legal entity, the legal entity code, the account number, the unique trader identification number assigned to payment card schemes as defined in Regulation (EU) No 2015/751 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 on interchange fees for card-based payment transactions shall be published on the website of the Control Authority. The Control Authority shall update the List on the same day on which the remote gambling licence (permit) is issued to the entity or withdrawn.

6. The procedure for limiting payments for participation in remote gambling organised by illegal gambling operators through payment service providers operating in the Republic of Lithuania shall be detailed by the Control Authority in agreement with the Bank of Lithuania.

7. The purpose of publishing the information referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article is to ensure the public interest and public security by combating illegal remote gambling activities, including, but not limited to, the prevention of illegal remote gambling activities, as well as to ensure transparency by informing the public about illegal gambling operators in order to prevent illegal activities that pose financial and social threats to vulnerable groups of society.'

Article 3. Amendment to Article 29

The following paragraph 9 is added to Article 29:

(9) draw up and maintain a list of entities entitled to conduct remote gambling activities in the Republic of Lithuania.'

Article 4. Entry into force and implementation of the Law

1. This Law, with the exception of paragraph 2 of this Article, shall enter into force on 1 May 2025.

2. The Director of the Gaming Control Authority under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania shall adopt the implementing legislation in respect of this Law by 31 January 2025.

I hereby promulgate this Law passed by the Seimas (Lithuanian Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania.

President of the Republic

Gitanas Nausėda