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Item 1696

ACT

of 7 November 2025

amending the Animal Protection Act[1)]

Article 1. The Animal Protection Act of 21 August 1997 (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1580) is hereby amended as follows:

1) in Article 12, the following paragraphs 4c and 4d are added after paragraph 4b:

‘4c. The rearing or breeding of fur animals, as referred to in Article 2(4) of the Act of 10 December 2020 on the organisation of breeding and reproduction of farm animals (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 36), with the exception of rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), for commercial purposes, in particular for the purpose of obtaining fur or other parts of animals from them shall be prohibited.

4d. It shall be prohibited to engage in the activities referred to in Article 1(1)(n) of the Act of 11 March 2004 on the protection of animal health and control of infectious animal diseases, including the keeping of fur animals, referred to in Article 2(4) of the Act of 10 December 2020 on the organisation of breeding and reproduction of farm animals, with the exception of rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).’;

2) in Article 37, the following paragraph 5 is added:

‘5. Where a person is punished for an offence consisting of a breach of the prohibition referred to in Article 12(4c) or (4d), the court may impose a ban on keeping any animals or a specific category of animals for a period of between one and five years.’.

Article 2. Operators and farmers carrying out the activities referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended by Article 1 on the date of entry of the Act into force shall be allowed to carry them out on the basis of the existing provisions until 31 December 2033.

Article 3. 1. The operators or farmers referred to in Article 2 shall be entitled to lodge a claim with the State Treasury for compensation for the financial loss incurred as a result of the need to comply with the provision of Article 12(4c) of the Act amended in Article 1 hereinafter ‘compensation’.

2. The compensation shall include compensation for the financial loss, without profits, that the operator or farmer could have achieved had the loss not occurred.

3. On the basis of the environmental permit referred to in Article 71(1) of the Act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information on the environment and environmental protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessments (Journal of Laws 2024, items 1112, 1881 and 1940; 2025, item 1535), an operator or a farmer referred to in Article 2 carrying out an activity referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended in Article 1 may carry out an activity consisting of rearing or breeding animals other than those covered by the prohibition laid down in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended in Article 1 in numbers expressed in livestock units not higher than the number of livestock units resulting from the existing environmental permit issued for a project likely to have a significant impact on the environment. In such

1) This Regulation was notified to the European Commission on 27 September 2024 under number 2024/0550/PL, pursuant to § 4 of the Cabinet Regulation of 23 December 2002 concerning the manner in which the national notification system of standards and legal acts functions (Journal of Laws [Dziennik Ustaw], item 2039; and of 2004, item 597), which implements Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (OJ L 241 of 17.9.2015, p. 1).

cases, it shall not be necessary to obtain a new environmental permit.

Article 4. 1. The compensation shall be set at 25 % of the average annual income of the operator or farmer referred to in Article 2, hereinafter referred to as 'the applicant', from the business activity referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended by Article 1, for the period 2020–2024, provided that the applicant ceases the activity by 1 January 2027.

2. The compensation shall be set at 20 % of the average annual income of the applicant, from the business activity referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended by Article 1, for the period 2020–2024, provided that the applicant ceases the activity by 1 January 2028.

3. The compensation shall be set at 15 % of the average annual income of the applicant, from the business activity referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended by Article 1, for the period 2020–2024, provided that the applicant ceases the activity by 1 January 2029.

4. The compensation shall be set at 10 % of the average annual income of the applicant, from the business activity referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended by Article 1, for the period 2020–2024, provided that the applicant ceases the activity by 1 January 2030.

5. The compensation shall be set at 5 % of the average annual income of the applicant, from the business activity referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended by Article 1, for the period 2020–2024, provided that the applicant ceases the activity by 1 January 2031.

6. The applicant's income from the activities referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended by Article 1 shall not include income from sources other than the placing on the market of fur animals referred to in Article 2(4) of the Act of 10 December 2020 on the organisation of the breeding and reproduction of farmed animals, with the exception of rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), or products derived from such animals and animal by-products generated in the course of those activities, the revenue from which is documented by a document confirming their sale or a document appropriate for agricultural accounting.

Article 5. 1. Compensation shall be granted at the written request of the applicant, submitted to the President of the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture, hereinafter referred to as 'the Agency'.

2. The request referred to in paragraph 1 shall contain:

1) indication of the authority to which the request is addressed and the matter it relates to;

2) full name and address of the applicant;

3) information on the income referred to in Article 4;

4) the date of termination of the activity referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended in Article 1;

5) the number of the bank account or the number of the account held by a co-operative savings and credit union to which compensation is to be paid;

6) the date and the signature of the person submitting the application.

3. The request shall be accompanied by the following supporting documents:

1) information on the income referred to in Article 4;

2) the date of termination of the activity referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended in Article 1, as established by the competent district veterinary officer in the form of a certificate of removal from the register referred to in Article 11(1) of the Act of 11 March 2004 on the protection of animal health and control of infectious animal diseases (Journal of Laws 2023, item 1075).

Article 6. 1. The decision on compensation shall be issued by the President of the Agency.

2. In order to verify the information contained in the application, the President of the Agency shall carry out inspections or arrange for them to be carried out.

3. The President of the Agency shall issue a decision on compensation no later than within six months from the date of submitting the application. This decision shall be deemed final.

4. The compensation shall be paid within thirty days of the date of delivery of the decision to the applicant.

5. Should the applicant have arrears of public debts on the date of compensation, such arrears shall be subject to deduction from the compensation due.

Article 7. 1. Within thirty days of the date of delivery of the decision referred to in Article 6(1), the applicant may bring an action before the ordinary court.

2. The bringing of the action referred to in paragraph 1 shall not suspend the enforcement of the decision referred to in Article 6(1).

3. The State Treasury shall be represented by the minister responsible for agriculture in common court cases referred to in paragraph 1.

4. No fees shall be charged for the application referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 8. The provisions of the Administrative Procedure Code of 14 June 1960 (Journal of Laws 2025, item 1691) shall apply to proceedings in the matters referred to in Article 6, unless this Act provides otherwise.

Article 9. The claim for compensation shall be subject to a time limit of one year from the date when the applicant terminated the activities referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended in Article 1.

Article 10. The claim for compensation shall pass to the applicant's legal successors.

Article 11. 1. An employee of the operator or farmer referred to in Article 2 whose employment relationship has been terminated due to the necessity to comply with the requirements referred to in Article 12(4c) of the Act amended in Article 1 shall be entitled to a severance payment equal to three months' remuneration as determined in accordance with the rules applicable to the calculation of the cash equivalent for annual leave. The provision of Article 8(1) of the Act of 13 March 2003 on special rules for terminating employment relationships with employees for reasons not related to employees (Journal of Laws of 2025, items 570 and 1661) shall not apply.

2. The Social Insurance Fund shall reimburse to the operator or farmer referred to in Article 2 an amount corresponding to the documented amount of the severance payments referred to in paragraph 1 paid by that operator or farmer.

3. The Social Insurance Fund shall reimburse the amount referred to in paragraph 2 at the request of the operator or farmer referred to in Article 2, on the basis of a decision issued in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 83 of the Act of 13 October 1998 on social insurance system (Journal of Laws 2025, item 350, as amended[2]).

4. The headcount on 30 September 2025 shall be determined.

Article 12. The revenue from the compensation does not constitute income within the meaning of the Act of 26 July 1991 on personal income tax (Journal of Laws of 2025, item 163, as amended[3]) or the Act of 15 February 1992 on corporate income tax (Journal of Laws of 2025, item 278, as amended[4]).

Article 13. The Act enters into force 14 days after the day of its announcement.

President of the Republic of Poland: *K. Nawrocki*

2)Amendments to the consolidated text of this Act were published in Journal of Laws 2025, items 620, 622, 769, 820, 1083, 1160, 1216, 1409, 1413 and 1423.

3)Amendments to the consolidated text of the above Act were published in Journal of Laws of 2025, items 340, 368, 620, 680, 1022, 1180, 1301, 1302 and 1366.

4)Amendments to the consolidated text of this Act were published in Journal of Laws 2025, items 340, 620, 680, 1022, 1074, 1218, 1301, 1426, 1657 and 1658.