

NOTES ON THE SENATE



**SENATE
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF POLAND**

The Senat Marshal, Deputy Senate Marshals, the Presidium of the Senate and the Council of Seniors

THE MARSHAL represents the Senate and guards its rights and dignity. The Marshal plans the work of the House and prepares a draft agenda, in consultation with the Council of Seniors. He or she convenes and presides over the sittings of the Senate and monitors their progression. The Marshal supervises the work of the Senate committees and instructs them to examine particular issues. The Marshal assists senators in exercising their mandates. In addition, the Marshal convenes and presides over the meetings of the Presidium of the Senate and of the Council of Seniors.

After consulting the Presidium of the Senate and the Rules, Ethics and Senatorial Affairs Committee, the Marshal also appoints and dismisses the Head of the Chancellery of the Senate, provides the Chancellery with its statute and drafts its budget.

As envisaged in the Constitution, the Marshal of the Senate takes on the duties of the President when the Marshal of the Sejm is unable to do so. The Marshal of the Senate may preside over the sessions of the National Assembly instead of the Marshal of the Sejm.

CHANCELLERY OF THE SENATE

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The Presidium of the eleventh term Senate. From the left: Deputy Marshal Maciej Żywno, Deputy Marshal Magdalena Biejat, Marshal Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska, Deputy Marshal Michał Kamiński, Deputy Marshal Rafał Grupiński (13.11.2023, photo by T. Ozdoba)

The Senat Marshal, Deputy Senate Marshals, the Presidium of the Senate and the Council of Seniors

DEPUTY MARSHALS act as deputies for the Senat Marshal in presiding over the Senat's sessions. In the Marshal's absence, they may also perform the tasks entrusted to the Marshal.

THE PRESIDUM OF THE SENATE CONSISTS OF THE MARSHAL AND DEPUTY MARSHALS. The Presidium is responsible, among other things, for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Senat, assigning matters to specific committees of the Senat, providing opinions on matters brought forward by the Marshal, and ensuring that senators fulfil their duties. The Presidium also establishes the rules of providing academic or scientific advice to the Senat. As far as public tasks in the area of providing care to the Polish diaspora and Poles abroad are concerned, the Presidium defines the principles under which these tasks are delegated, considers offers for their implementation, and procures the implementation of such tasks after receiving an opinion from the Emigration Affairs and Contacts with Poles Abroad Committee.

The Head of the Chancellery of the Senat and persons invited by the Marshal may take part in the meetings of the Presidium of the Senat in an advisory capacity.

THE COUNCIL OF SENIORS IS COMPOSED OF THE MARSHAL, THE DEPUTY MARSHALS AND SENATORS – REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SENATE CLUBS. The Senat clubs and groups may jointly appoint one representative to the Council of Seniors. In addition, the Council of Seniors comprises representatives of parliamentary clubs which include at least seven senators.

The Council of Seniors is convened to agree on issues such as Senat agendas, work schedules and dates of sittings. Moreover, the Council of Seniors examines and presents proposals on how the debate and the session of the House should be conducted.

Senators choose **SECRETARIES OF THE SENATE** from among their number. The Secretaries of the Senat are tasked with: drawing up the list of speakers during the sittings of the Senat, taking minutes of the sittings, counting votes etc.

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