

REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

LAW

ON CITIZENSHIP

17 September 2002 No. IX-1078

Vilnius

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania

The following persons shall be citizens of the Republic of Lithuania:

1) persons who held citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania prior to 15 June 1940, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren (provided that the persons, their children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren did not repatriate);

2) persons who permanently resided in the present-day territory of the Republic of Lithuania in the period from 9 January 1919 to 15 June 1940, as well as their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, provided that on the day of coming into force of the Law on Citizenship they were and at the present time

permanently reside in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and are not citizens of any other state;

3) persons of Lithuanian descent if they are not citizens of any other state. A person whose parents or grandparents or one of the parents or grandparents is or was Lithuanian and the person considers himself Lithuanian shall be considered as being a person of Lithuanian descent;

4) persons who acquired citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania prior to 4 November 1991 under the Law on Citizenship adopted on 3 November 1989;

5) other persons who have acquired citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania under the Law on Citizenship adopted on 5 December 1991.

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Article 3. Legal Status of Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania

1. Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania shall have all social and economic, political and personal rights and freedoms that are enshrined in and guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Lithuania, and international treaties to which the Republic of Lithuania is a party.

2. A citizen of the Republic of Lithuania must observe the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Lithuania, perform the duties prescribed thereunder, safeguard the interests of the Republic of Lithuania, help strengthen its might and authority, be loyal to it.

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CHAPTER II

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Article 7. Ways of Acquiring Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania

Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be acquired:

- 1) by birth;
- 2) by exercising the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania;
- 3) by being granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania (naturalisation);
- 4) by voicing one's option or on other grounds, as provided for by international treaties of the Republic of Lithuania;
- 5) on other grounds provided for by this Law.

Article 8. Citizenship of Children whose Parents are Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania

A child, both of whose parents at the moment of his birth were citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, shall be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania regardless of whether he was born in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania or beyond its borders.

Article 9. Citizenship of Children one of whose Parents is a Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania

1. If the parents of a child hold citizenship of different states and at the moment of the child's birth one of the parents was a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, the child shall be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania if he was born in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. If the parents of a child hold citizenship of different states and at the moments of the child's birth one of them was a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, the citizenship of the child born beyond the boundaries of the Republic of Lithuania, until he is 18 years of age, may be determined by agreement between the parents.

3. A child, one of whose parents at the moment of his birth was a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania and the other parent was either a stateless person or unknown, shall be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania regardless of the place of the child's birth.

Article 10. Acquiring Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania by Children Whose Parents are Stateless Persons

A child born in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, whose parents are stateless persons permanently residing in Lithuania, shall acquire citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 11. Citizenship of Children Whose Parents are Unknown

A child found in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, both of whose parents are unknown, shall be considered born in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and shall be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, unless circumstances are disclosed whereunder the child would acquire a different status.

Article 12. Conditions for Granting Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania

1. Upon submitting an application, a person may be granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, provided that he agrees to take the oath of allegiance to the Republic of Lithuania and meets the following conditions:

1) has passed the examination in the Lithuanian language;

2) for the last ten years has been permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania;

3) has a legal source of support in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania;

4) has passed the examination in the basic provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania;

5) is a stateless person or is a citizen of a state under the laws of which he loses citizenship of the said state upon acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania and notifies in writing of his decision to renounce citizenship of another state held by him after he is granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. The procedure of examination in the Lithuanian language and in the basic provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the procedure for issuing the appropriate certificates shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. Persons meeting the conditions provided for in this Article shall be granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania taking into account the interests of the Republic of Lithuania. The requirements of this Law, Article 12, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 1 and 4 shall not apply to persons who are 65 years of age or over, to

the disabled of group I and group II, also to persons ill with grave chronic mental diseases.

4. The provisions of this Article, paragraph 1 subparagraph 5, shall not apply to citizens of foreign states who have refugee status in the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 13. Reasons on the Ground whereof Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall not be Granted

Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall not be granted to persons who:

1) have committed international crimes provided for by the international treaties to which the Republic of Lithuania is a party or by customary law, such as: aggression, acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes;

2) have taken part in criminal activities against the State of Lithuania;

3) before coming to Lithuania, have been imposed a custodial sentence for a premeditated crime for which laws of the Republic of Lithuania also prescribe criminal liability, or have been convicted in Lithuania for a premeditated crime punishable by a custodial sentence.

Article 14. Granting Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania to a Person who Contracted a Marriage with a Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania

1. A person, who contracted a marriage with a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania and has maintained his marital status for the last 5 years while residing in Lithuania, shall be granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania provided that he

meets the conditions established in this Law, Article 12, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 1, 4, and 5.

2. Persons who contracted a marriage with citizens of the Republic of Lithuania: deportees, political prisoners or their children born in exile shall be granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania provided that they have maintained their marital status for the last three years, have moved for permanent residence to the Republic of Lithuania together with their spouse who is a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania and meet the conditions established in this Law, Article 12, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 1, 4, and 5.

3. A person who, after contracting a marriage with a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, has resided in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania for over a year may, in case of death of his spouse, be granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania after he has resided in the Republic of Lithuania for a three-year period, provided that he meets the conditions established in this Law, Article 12, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 1, 4, and 5.

Article 15. Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of Lithuania

1. Persons who are granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania by way of naturalisation or by exercising the right of option as well as under Article 16 of this Law shall take the following oath of allegiance:

"I (name, surname), accepting citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, pledge to be loyal to the Republic of Lithuania, to observe the Constitution and laws of the Republic, to defend the independence of Lithuania, to protect the territorial integrity of the state. I pledge to respect the state language of Lithuania, its culture and customs, and to strengthen the democratic Lithuanian state."

2. The oath to the Republic shall be administered in public, in a solemn atmosphere. A person accepting citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall read aloud the text of the oath in the Lithuanian language and sign it.

Article 16. Granting of Citizenship by Way of Exception

1. The President of the Republic, in pursuance of this Law, may grant citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania to citizens of foreign states or stateless persons for special merit to the Republic of Lithuania without applying with respect to them conditions for the granting of citizenship provided for in Article 12 of this Law.

2. The granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania by way of exception shall by itself have no legal consequences for the family members of the person who acquired citizenship.

CHAPTER III

RETENTION OF THE RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA. LOSS AND RESTORATION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Article 17. Retention of the Right to Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania

1. The following persons shall retain the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania for an indefinite period:

1) persons who held citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania prior to 15 June 1940, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren (provided that the said persons, their children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren did not repatriate), who are residing in other states;

2) persons of Lithuanian descent who are residing in other states.

2. Persons who retain the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be issued, upon their application, according to the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, documents confirming the right.

3. Persons specified in this Article, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 1 and 2 shall exercise the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with this Law, Article 1, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1 or shall be considered persons of Lithuanian descent residing in other states.

Article 18. Loss of Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania

1. Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be lost:

1) upon renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania ;

2) upon acquisition of citizenship of another state;

3) on the grounds provided for by international agreements to which the Republic of Lithuania is a party.

2. Subparagraph 2 of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be applicable to:

1) persons who held citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania prior to 15 June 1940, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren (provided that the said persons, their children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren did not repatriate);

2) persons of Lithuanian descent whose parents or grandparents are or were or one of parents or grandparents is or was Lithuanian and the person considers himself Lithuanian.

3. A person may be recognised as having lost citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania if he is in the military service of another state or is employed in the public service of another state without having been granted authorisation by relevant institutions of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 19. The Right of a Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania to Renounce Citizenship

1. The right of a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania to renounce citizenship may not be restricted, except in cases specified in this Article.

2. A person's application for renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania may not be considered if criminal action has been brought against the person or if a court judgement in respect of the person has become effective and enforceable.

Article 20. Restoration of Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania

1. A person who has lost citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania under Article 18 (1) or (3) of this Law may have citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania restored to him upon his application, provided that at the moment of filing of the application the person is permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and meets the conditions established in this Law, Article 12, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 2, 3 and 5.

2. A person who has lost citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania under Article 18 (1) or (3) of this Law and who meets the conditions established in this Law, Article 1, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 1, 2 or 3 may be restored citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania upon such person's application without applying to the person conditions established in Article 12 of this Law

Article 21. Declaring the Act on the Granting of Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania Invalid

1. The act on the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be declared invalid if the person, who acquired citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania by way of naturalisation or by exercising the right of option, did this by presenting forged documents or by fraud, or did not renounce citizenship of another state, or if the court establishes that the person, prior to or after having been granted citizenship, committed international crimes provided for by the international treaties to which the Republic of Lithuania is a party, or under customary law, such as: aggression, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or committed crimes against the Republic of Lithuania.

2. The act on the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania may also be declared invalid if the court establishes that in the period after 15 June 1940 the person concerned organised or carried out deportation or extermination of the residents, suppressed the resistance movement in Lithuania, or, after 11 March 1990, took part in the actions directed against the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. A citizen of the Republic of Lithuania who acquires citizenship of another state or is issued the passport of a citizen of another state or any other document attesting citizenship of that state, with the exception of persons listed in this Law, Article 18, paragraph 2, subparagraphs 1 and 2, shall lose citizenship of the Republic

of Lithuania as of the day of acquisition of citizenship of another state or the day of issue of the passport of a citizen of that state or any other document attesting citizenship of that state.

4. A citizen of the Republic of Lithuania who, after having been issued documents of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, receives the passport a citizen of another state or any other document attesting citizenship of that other state, with the exception of persons listed in this Law, Article 18, paragraph 2, subparagraphs 1 and 2, must within 30 days give a written notice thereof to the Minister of the Interior or the institution authorised by him, or the migration office, sub-office, group or the passport subdivision of the territorial police body (hereinafter - the Migration Service) or the diplomatic mission or consular institution of the Republic of Lithuania abroad.

5. The acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be declared invalid if it is discovered that the person acquired the documents attesting citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania unlawfully or without due grounds.

CHAPTER 4

CITIZENSHIP OF CHILDREN AFTER THE CHANGE

OF PARENTS' CITIZENSHIP

Article 22. Change of Children's Citizenship after the Change of both Parents' Citizenship

1. If both parents acquire citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, or if both parents lose it, citizenship of children under 14 years of age shall change accordingly.

2. For the purpose of the above Article, adoptive parents shall be treated as parents and adopted children - as children.

Article 23. Acquisition of Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania by Children if one of the Parents Acquires Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania

1. If one of the parents acquires citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, whereas the other parent retains citizenship of another state, the child of such parents may acquire citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania upon a written application of both parents. If the child's parents are divorced, the child may acquire citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania on a written application of one of the parents who has acquired citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania and to whom the court has granted custody of the child or with whom the child is actually living on a permanent basis.

2. If one of the parents acquires citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, whereas the other parent remains a stateless person, the child of such parents may acquire citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania upon a written application of the parent who has acquired citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania. If one of the parents acquires citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, but he/she dies, whereas the other parent remains a stateless person, the child of such parents may acquire citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania upon a written application of the only parent the child has.

Article 24. Retention of Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania by Children if one of the Parents Loses Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania

If one of the parents loses citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, whereas the other parent is a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, the child of such parents shall retain citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania if he is under 14 years of age.

Article 25. Consent of Children Necessary for Changing their Citizenship

If the parents change their citizenship, citizenship of their children who are 14 to 18 years of age may be changed only upon the children's written consent.

CHAPTER V

PROCEDURE FOR RESOLVING ISSUES RELATING TO CITIZENSHIP

OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Article 26. Filing of Applications and Recommendations on Issues Relating to Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania

1. Issues relating to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be considered upon a written application filed by the person concerned.

2. The following documents shall be appended to the application for the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania: a copy of the document confirming the person's identity; a copy of the person's birth certificate; documents

attesting that the person is permanently residing in the Republic of Lithuania and has a legal source of support.

3. Application for the exercise of the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be accompanied by documents confirming that the person held citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania prior to 15 June 1940 (or is a child, grandchild or great-grandchild of such a person); documents confirming the person's identity (a copy of the passport of a citizen of a foreign state or an equivalent document), his Lithuanian descent, formerly held citizenship of another state and renunciation thereof (or documents attesting that the person is a stateless person), documents confirming the person's place of residence as well as the document of retention of the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania.

4. Documents, proving that the person held Lithuanian citizenship prior to 15 June 1940 shall be the following documents: extant internal and foreign passports of the Republic of Lithuania issued prior to 15 June 1940; foreign passports of the Republic of Lithuania issued by diplomatic missions or consular institutions of the Republic of Lithuania abroad after 15 June 1940; documents relating to service in the Lithuanian Army or employment in public service; birth certificates or other documents having direct reference to Lithuanian citizenship held by the person, identity cards issued on the basis of documents issued in Lithuania prior to 15 June of 1940. In the absence of the above documents the following documents may be submitted: documents relating to studies, work and residence in Lithuania prior to 15 June 1940; a statement under oath certified by a notary or an officer of the diplomatic mission or consular institution of the Republic of Lithuania; a notarised statement by three citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who themselves held Lithuanian citizenship prior to 15 June 1940 corroborating that the person held Lithuanian citizenship prior to 15 June 1940; a certified copy of the passport of a foreign state and other documents. Lithuanian descent shall be confirmed by documents testifying directly or indirectly that the person's parents or grandparents, or one of the parents

or grandparents are Lithuanian or held Lithuanian citizenship, also the person's written statement confirming that he considers himself Lithuanian. In the absence of reliable documents proving the person's Lithuanian descent, the issue shall be resolved by the Citizenship Commission. The submitted documents must comply with the requirements set by the laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

5. An application for the renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be accompanied by: a copy of the passport of a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, a copy of the identity card, (if the person has not been issued documents confirming citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, he shall submit a document issued by the migration service or the diplomatic mission or consular institution of the Republic of Lithuania abroad, attesting that the person is a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania and has not applied for the issuance of a document confirming citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania); a copy of the personal document held by him, issued by a foreign state institution; documents confirming the person's permanent place of residence and place of employment (occupation); and a receipt certifying payment of state fees and charges. If a person requests in his application that his underage child be granted permission to renounce citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania together with him, an application of the other parent shall also be submitted. If the child's parents are divorced, the child may renounce citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania if this is requested in writing by one of the parents who has been granted custody of the child by court decision or with whom the child is actually living on a permanent basis.

6. The following documents shall be submitted together with the application for the restoration of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania: a copy of the document confirming the person's identity; a copy of the birth certificate; a document relating to the grounds for the loss of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania held by the person; documents attesting that the person is permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and has a legal source of support.

7. Documents attesting that the person held citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania prior to 15 June 1940 or was a permanent resident in the present-day territory of the Republic of Lithuania (or is a child, grandchild or great-grandchild of such a person), or documents confirming the person's Lithuanian descent; a copy of the document confirming the person's identity (a copy of the passport of a citizen of a foreign state or a corresponding personal document), a document attesting citizenship of a foreign state held by the person or renunciation thereof (or a document confirming that he is a stateless person), the person's place of residence as well as the certificate of retention of the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be submitted together with an application for the restoration of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania under Article 20 (2) of this Law or an application for the retention of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania. Documents relating to the grounds on which the person lost citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania held by him shall be attached to the application for the restoration of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania.

8. Applications for the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, exercise of the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, restoration or retention thereof shall be submitted on behalf of persons who are under 18 years of age by their legal representatives.

9. The right to submit recommendations to recognise a person as having lost citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania in the cases specified in Article 18(3) of this Law shall rest with the Minister of the Interior or the institution authorised by him as well as with the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the institution authorised by him.

10. Applications for the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania or restoration of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be filed with the President of the Republic through the executive institution of the municipality. Citizens of the Republic of

Lithuania residing in foreign states may submit applications for the renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania or for the restoration thereof to diplomatic missions or consular institutions of the Republic of Lithuania abroad.

11. Persons specified in Article 18 (2) of this Law shall file applications for the retention of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania with the President of the Republic through the Minister of the Interior or the institution authorised by him, the migration service. Persons residing in foreign states may file applications for the retention of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania through diplomatic missions or consular institutions of the Republic of Lithuania abroad.

12. Persons specified in Article 17 (1) of this Law shall submit applications for the exercise of the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania to the Minister of the Interior or the institution authorised by him, the migration service or diplomatic missions or consular institutions of the Republic of Lithuania abroad.

Article 29. Citizenship Commission

1. The President of the Republic shall form the Citizenship Commission (hereinafter - the Commission) for preliminary consideration of issues of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania and approve the rules for the consideration of issues of citizenship in the Commission.

2. The Commission shall have the right to invite to its meetings the person the issue of whose citizenship is being decided, to instruct state institutions to give their opinion within the time period prescribed by the Commission and to present all the necessary documents relating to the application or recommendation under consideration in the Commission.

3. A meeting of the Commission shall be valid if not less than two-thirds of the members take part therein. Decisions of the Commission shall be adopted by a simple majority vote of all the Commission members and recorded in the minutes. The minutes shall be signed by all the Commission members participating in the meeting.

4. The Commission shall submit to the President of the Republic proposals to grant applications for citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania and, in case the Commission refuses to recommend granting citizenship, it shall notify the applicant thereof in writing, setting forth the reasons for refusal.

5. The Commission shall consider applications for citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania under Article 16 of this Law and shall submit to the President of the Republic proposals to grant the applications.

6. If persons fail to obtain, according to the established procedure, the necessary documents attesting citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania held prior to 15 June 1940 or their Lithuanian descent, the Minister of the Interior or the institution authorised by him, the migration services, the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the institution authorised by him, diplomatic missions or consular institutions of the Republic of Lithuania abroad may apply to the Commission for the verification of the above facts. The Commission shall present to the specified institutions recommendatory findings. A decision on the issue shall be taken by the Minister of the Interior or the institution authorised by him.

Article 28. Adopting Decisions on Applications and Recommendations on the Issues of Citizenship

1. The issues concerning the granting, renunciation, restoration, retention and loss of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania under Article 18 (3) of this Law as

well as declaration of the act on the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania invalid shall be resolved by the President of the Republic, who shall issue appropriate decrees thereon.

2. If it transpires that the person has acquired citizenship of another state, the Minister of the Interior or the institution authorised by him shall state the fact of the loss of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania under this Law, Article 18, paragraph 2, subparagraph 1. Such a person shall be considered to have lost citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania as of the day of acquisition of citizenship of another state.

3. The decree of the President of the Republic concerning the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall come into force only after the said person takes an oath at the executive institutions of the municipality or at the diplomatic mission or consular institution of the Republic of Lithuania abroad.

4. Persons who, by acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, lose citizenship of any other state held by them shall take an oath of allegiance to the Republic of Lithuania after they present proof that they have lost citizenship of the other state.

5. The executive institutions of the municipality, diplomatic missions or consular institutions of the Republic of Lithuania abroad shall within 7 days after the person took an oath of allegiance to the Republic of Lithuania notify the Office of the President of the Republic and the institution authorised by the Minister of the Interior thereof.

Article 29. Adoption of Decisions on the Change of Citizenship of Children

In the cases specified in Articles 22-25 of this Law, the issues relating to the change of citizenship of children shall be resolved and documents shall be processed by the institution authorised by the Minister of the Interior.

Article 30. Publication of Acts on the Issues of Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania

Decrees of the President of the Republic concerning the granting, restoration, retention or loss of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, as well as on declaring an act on the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania invalid shall be published in "*Valstybes žinios*" (Official gazette).

Article 31. Repeat Consideration of Applications and Recommendations Concerning Issues of Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania

Repeat applications for the granting or restoration of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be accepted not earlier than one year after the adoption of the previous decision.

Article 32. Preparation of Republic of Lithuania Citizenship Documents

1. Citizenship documents of persons who are permanently residing in Lithuania shall be prepared by migration services, whereas those of persons residing in other states - by the Minister of Foreign Affairs together with the Minister of the Interior or by the institutions authorised by them.

2. The rules for the preparation of documents of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

CHAPTER VI

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 33. Application of International Treaties on Citizenship Issues

If an international treaty to which the Republic of Lithuania is a party establishes rules other than those set by this Law, the rules of the international treaty shall apply.

Article 34. Entry into Force of the Law

1. This Law shall enter into force as of 1 January 2003.