

## **Lithuanian govt in favor of polygraph tests for risky aliens, company business reps**

VILNIUS, Apr 16, BNS – The Lithuanian government on Wednesday approved a proposal to expand the list of people who could be subjected to polygraph tests.

The list would include business representatives, persons who want to become intelligence collaborators and aliens who could pose a threat to national security.

The Seimas will have the final say on this issue.

Having drafted the amendments in question, the Defense Ministry says that the changes have been initiated by intelligence institutions.

According to the explanatory note to the bill, the changes were initiated in response to the shortcomings of the existing legal regulation “concerning the possibility of polygraph tests not only for employees of secret entities, but also for other persons who are authorized to work with or have access to classified information”.

The Defense Ministry wants the possibility to subject business employees to polygraph tests as part of the screening process to receive permission to work with or have access to classified information.

Under the current regulations, persons working or applying to work with classified information, but who are not civil servants, soldiers, officials or employees of institutions, cannot be subjected to a lie detector test.

The proposed amendments would also allow polygraph tests for people who seek to be intelligence collaborators, as well as for aliens who pose a potential threat to national security.

The State Security Department now performs the assessment of aliens' threat to national security and provides conclusions and information to the Migration Department.

For the sake of legal clarity, it is proposed to detail the consequences for a person in cases where the result of a polygraph tests is negative and where a person refuses to undergo a polygraph tests.

The proposal provides that if a person refuses to undergo a polygraph tests, their permit to work with or to have access to classified information shall not be issued or shall be revoked. If the person under examination is an alien, they would be deemed as posing a threat to national security.

According to the current law, statutory authorities, military intelligence, the SSD, and the Special Investigation Service may perform polygraph tests.

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