



Legal Alert

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Assumptions of the draft law on offering support to Ukrainian citizens

In the coming days, a special law is to be adopted to regulate the legal status of people crossing the Polish border as a result of the war in Ukraine. The draft law is going to regulate the rules of residence, work, social care, and assistance for Ukrainian citizens.

Legal residence up to 18 months only for Ukrainian citizens

Ukrainian citizens who **entered the territory of Poland legally in the period from 24 February 2022 and have declared their intention to stay in Poland** are entitled to legal residence for a period of 18 months, starting from 24 February 2022.

There are some exceptions to the above rule. The prolongation of the legality of stay **does not apply**, for example, if the foreigner has a permit for permanent or temporary stay, or a long-term European Union resident permit.

Extension of the legal stay also **does not apply** to Ukrainian citizens who have applied to be granted with international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection) in Poland or who have declared an intention to apply for international protection.

Departure from the territory of Poland for a period longer than one month will deprive the Ukrainian citizen of the right to legal residence under the special law.

The draft assumes that the new rules will only apply to Ukrainian citizens who crossed the border due to the war.

Registering at the municipal authority office

Those who have crossed the border and have not been processed by the Border Guard (they do not have a stamp in their passport or permission from the commandant) must apply to register their stay within 60 days of entry at a municipal office.

Facilitating employment

Ukrainian citizens who stay in Poland legally under the special act's provisions or previous legal regulations will have the right to work based on a notification to a district labour office on the employment of a foreigner, submitted within 7 days from taking up employment.

Postponed legalisation of stay

Ukrainian citizens who will be legally residing in Poland under the special act will be able to apply for a temporary residence permit. The permit will be issued for 3 years.

Extension of existing residence permits

The draft provides for the automatic extension of existing residence titles if they expire on or after 24 February 2022.

One-off cash benefit

Ukrainian citizens whose stay is legal under the special law will be able to apply for a one-off cash benefit intended to cover living expenses in the amount of PLN 500 for a person living alone or PLN 300 for each person in a family.

Other forms of benefits for Ukrainian citizens

The draft assumes that Ukrainian citizens who fled the war and are legally residing in Poland will be entitled to a number of benefits, including medical care and family benefits.



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As the bill has not yet been debated in Parliament, further modifications may be possible which may affect the validity of the above information.

