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Jerzy Kuciński, *Obywatelska inicjatywa ustawodawcza jako instytucja ustroju Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Studium prawno-politologiczne*, Warsaw 2018, pp. 315.

The author of the publication, Jerzy Kuciński, has taken a difficult task depending on presenting a genesis, an analysis of legal solutions, practices and conclusions *de lege ferenda* of a Polish institution of citizens' legislative initiative. The author is an expert within the field of political system and constitutional Polish state. It guarantees the high level of analysis presented in the book. His expertise is confirmed by numerous publications as well as the recognition of other scientists.

Matters connected with citizens participation in political life, especially in issues connected with creating laws and cooperation with a government are very important for the proper functioning of the state. That is why the selection of the book's topic shall be assessed as valuable and important from the point of view of legal sciences and better cooperation between a government and bottom-top initiatives including the institution of citizens' initiative in the scope of ordinary legislation. The book's author rightly observes that interest in the forms of direct democracy increased between 1980s and 1990s. A result was the inclusion of rules regulating the institution of people's legislative initiative in the Polish Constitution of 1997 and the adoption of bill regulating the functioning of this form of direct democracy.

The unquestionable advantage of the reviewed book is a skillful connection of the analysis of legal provisions regulating issues connected with the execution of legislative initiative by citizens with the practice of using this institution by an entitled subject, i.e. citizens. The author also demonstrated the results of such a regulation of this matter enriched with his own diligent assessment and conclusions *de lege lata* and *de lege ferenda*. Such an approach to the topic is very valuable from the point of view of a legislator as well as people who would want to reach for this form of direct democracy.

The book consists of seven chapters, an introduction, an ending and references. In the first chapter entitled *The Institution of Citizens' Legislative Initiative in the Process of Preparing*

the Constitution in 1993–1997 (Instytucja obywatelskiej inicjatywy ustawodawczej w procesie przygotowywania konstytucji w latach 1993-1997). The author clearly presented the genesis of constitutional provisions regulating the institution of citizens' legislative initiative, including the propositions included in the projects of the Polish constitution reported to the National Assembly in 1993-1994 with underlined leading principles of the state's political system in drafts being the basis of the institution of citizens' legislative initiative and the proposition of normalizing the institution of citizens' legislative initiative included in the projects of the constitution. Then, the author described three stages of works on the constitution in 1994-1997.

A second chapter *The Normative Fundamentals of a Citizens' Legislative Initiative as a Systemic Institution (Podstawy normatywne obywatelskiej inicjatywy ustawodawczej jako instytucji ustrojowej)* is a diligent analysis of legal provisions currently regulating the functioning of the institution of citizens' legislative initiative. In the first place the author described constitutional provisions concerning the institution of citizens' legislative initiative directly or including resolutions being their supplementation. Then he discussed the provisions of the Polish constitution regulating the legislative process after submitting a draft to the Sejm by an entitled subject, concerning also citizens' drafts. Then the author presented the bill's provisions and their genesis as well as the legal basics of using that instance included in the regulations of Sejm and Senate.

Chapter three *The Systemic Rank of the Institution of Citizens' Legislative Initiative (Ranga prawnoustrojowa instytucji obywatelskiej inicjatywy ustawodawczej)* stands for an accomplished try of presenting the systemic rank of the institution of citizens' legislative initiative. In this part of the book the author presents various forms of direct democracy and then the institution of citizens' legislative initiative in few perspectives, i.e. as: non-imperative form of direct democracy in the light of the Polish constitution; a political right of the Polish citizens to decide on the public matters and an institution facilitating the formulating of civic society and making the process of adopting bills more social.

Another three chapters stand as the analysis of practice connected with the functioning of the institution of citizens' legislative initiative in the Polish legal and political reality. So, a fourth chapter *Citizens' Initiatives Leading to Legally Efficient Draft Submissions to the Sejm (Inicjatywy obywatelskie prowadzące do skutecznego prawnie wniesienia do Sejmu projektów ustaw)* consists of the analysis of cases leading to the legally efficient submissions of drafts to the Sejm and the description of citizens' bills efficiently submitted to the Sejm in the III-VII cadencies of the Sejm. Especially worth in this chapter there is the quantitative and formal analysis of citizens' bills and their justifications and the presentation of information about processes that led to the legally efficient submission of citizens' bills.

Another stage of processing is chapter fifth *Drafts Submitted to the Sejm (Wniesione do Sejmu obywatelskie projekty ustaw w postępowaniu legislacyjnym)*. The author diligently discusses the disputed regulations of legislative process on citizens' drafts and their practical use with taking into account submitting amendments to a citizens' draft by an applicant

and cancelling such a draft and the problem of discontinuation parliamentary works in regard to this kind of bills. In the further part the author characterized the processing in the Sejm and Senate and the participation of President in the case of citizens' drafts enriching considerations with the analysis of parliamentary practice in this field.

Chapter six *Bills Adopted Due to Citizens' Initiatives (Ustawy uchwalone w wyniku inicjatyw obywatelskich)* is a precise quantitative and formal description of adopted bills initiated by citizens. Moreover, the chapter is enriched with a description of the functioning of these bills after the adoption.

The last chapter, seventh, *The Proposals of Changes in Normative Regulations Concerning the Institution of Citizens' Legislative Initiative (Propozycje zmian w uregulowaniach normatywnych dotyczących instytucji obywatelskiej inicjatywy ustawodawczej)* contains remarks *de lege ferenda* in regard to the regulations of processing a draft submitted by a citizens' initiative. The author divided these comments into two groups. In the first one he discussed remarks consisted in the drafts submitted to the Sejm, i.e. in the draft on changing the Polish constitution and drafts on changing the bill on the execution of the legislative initiative by citizens. In the second group the author presented suggestions consisted in the data and statements of other character such as: beyond-parliamentary drafts of the Polish constitution announced in the XXIst Century; statements of scientists and recommendations of the institute of Civil Matters.

Precious for both theoreticians and practicians is the ending of reviewed book. It is a diligent summary of considerations from the whole publication. The author does not spare his own comments and ably presents the conclusions resulting from the analysis conducted in the particular chapters of the book.

One should approve figures and data prepared and presented by the Author. Thank to this process a reader may easily get familiar with the institution of citizens' legislative initiative.

The book is enriched with properly selected literature and other sources such as normative acts and parliamentary materials ensuring solid background for writing the publication. The selection and use of sources are therefore correct and appropriate for a scientific text.

That's why I fully recommend the book *Obywatelska inicjatywa ustawodawcza jako instytucja ustroju Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Studium prawno-politologiczne* written by Jerzy Kuciński.

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