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## **The meaning of „the act of a lesser significance” in the Polish criminal law**

### **SUMMARY**

The article discusses the meaning of “the act of a lesser significance” in the Polish criminal law. The existing interpretation of this institution raises many controversies which are of vital significance for the criminal law practice. Some representatives of the doctrine recognize it as a measure of a sentence, while the others as a separate manner of establishing a mitigated form of a crime. Selecting any of the above aspects leads to some discrepancies when practicing substantive criminal law and imposing a sentence for a perpetrator. The article covers an overview of diverse manners of understanding “the act of a lesser significance” and their possible further consequences. The conclusion of the article also includes a proposal to specify the meaning of the institution in question.

**KEYWORDS:** act of a lesser significance, interpretation, criminal law