

[December 2025]

KIPEC: Legislative Updates from The National Assembly of Korea



Key Legislative Passed in December

Partial Amendment to the Banking Act

The proposed amendment to the Banking Act would prevent banks from including certain statutory costs in the additional margin used to calculate loan interest rates, addressing concerns that such costs have been passed on to borrowers.

Banks would also be required to conduct compliance checks at least twice a year and reflect the results in their internal control standards.

Partial Amendment to the Act on the Performance of Duties by Police Officers

The amendment would expand police authority under the Act on the Performance of Duties by Police Officers to proactively prevent activities that may threaten public security and safety. These activities include leaflet distribution in border areas and the operation of unmanned free balloons in no-fly zones. Under the amendment, police officers would be able to issue necessary warnings.

Special Act on Criminal Procedures for Insurrection, Foreign Aggression, and Rebellion

This bill introduces special criminal procedural provisions to ensure a swift and fair trial process for serious crimes such as insurrection, foreign aggression, and rebellion.

It also strengthens protections for individuals who submit reports, complaints, petitions, or investigative leads by recognizing them as public interest whistleblowers under the Act on the Protection of Public Interest Whistleblowers. Under the bill, such individuals would be protected from any retaliatory measures.



Key Legislative Passed in December

Partial Amendment to the Act on Promotion of Information and Communications Network Utilization and Information Protection, etc.

The bill aims to strengthen regulation of illegal content online by expanding the definition of illegal information and tightening accountability for its distribution. It would introduce new criteria for identifying false and manipulated information, prohibit its dissemination through information and communications networks, and strengthen liability for damages.

The amendment expands the definition of illegal information to include content that incites violence or discrimination, or severely promotes hatred, against individuals or groups based on protected characteristics.

Special Act on Strengthening Competitiveness and Supporting the Petrochemical Industry

The bill establishes an administrative and financial support framework to strengthen the competitiveness of Korea's petrochemical industry. It responds to worsening oversupply and rising costs linked to the transition toward carbon neutrality. Under the bill, the central and local governments would be authorized to provide regulatory exceptions to support restructuring and higher value-added production.

Partial Amendment to the Medical Service Act

The bill seeks to establish a clear legal basis and regulatory framework for telemedicine under the Medical Service Act. It notes that telemedicine has so far been allowed only on an exceptional basis during serious infectious disease crises or operated as a pilot program due to the lack of a general legal provision.

The amendment reaffirms in-person care as the general principle, while permitting telemedicine mainly for follow-up patients and allowing initial consultations only under limited conditions.

Major News from the National Assembly of Korea – December

December 2

- The National Assembly held a plenary session and passed the 2026 government budget bill.

December 3

- The National Assembly held an event marking the first anniversary of the lifting of martial law.

December 15

- National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik attended the Korea-Central Asia Speakers' Meeting and made an official visit to Türkiye over six days and five nights.

December 17

- The National Assembly's Science, ICT, Broadcasting and Communications Committee held a hearing on Coupang's personal data leak.

December 29

- President Lee Jae-myung reported to work at the Blue House for the first time, about three years and seven months after the Yoon Suk Yeol administration relocated the presidential office to Yongsan in May 2022.

This material is distributed by the Korea Inter-Parliamentary Exchange Center (KIPEC) on behalf of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.