

Legislative Updates

From the National Assembly of Korea

Key Legislation Passed in July 2026



Amendment to the Framework Act on Science and Technology

This bill strengthens the government's role in supporting collaborative research and development (R&D) among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), enabling them to jointly develop and share technologies commonly needed across industries.

According to the Ministry of Science and ICT, while more than 90% of government-supported SME R&D projects achieve their technical objectives, only about half are successfully commercialized into products that generate revenue. The amendment aims to help SMEs overcome limitations in technology, resources, and infrastructure by promoting collaboration, reducing development costs, and improving commercialization outcomes.

The bill requires the government to establish and implement policies that encourage SMEs to jointly develop technologies of common interest and share the resulting research outcomes.

Amendment to the Building Act

This bill strengthens oversight of unauthorized building modifications, enhances fire safety requirements, and relaxes certain building height restrictions intended to preserve access to sunlight.

The amendment requires local permitting authorities to conduct annual inspections of approved buildings to ensure they are maintained in accordance with their approved plans. It also allows building owners who comply with corrective orders to seek reimbursement from parties responsible for violations.

To strengthen enforcement, the bill increases penalties for repeated or profit-driven building code violations and requires recurring administrative fines when corrective orders are not followed.

The amendment also introduces stricter fire safety standards by requiring noncombustible materials in underground parking garages and establishing safety standards for insulation and finishing materials used in basement piping and mechanical systems.

In addition, the bill relaxes setback requirements associated with sunlight access by revising building height regulations and establishing new minimum setback distances based on building height.

Key Developments in the National Assembly: July 2026



July 1

- National Assembly Speaker Cho Jeong-sik appointed Koh Yong-jin as Secretary General of the National Assembly.

July 14

- A special parliamentary committee held its first hearing on the ballot shortage that occurred during the June 3 local elections.

June 17

- The National Assembly held a ceremony commemorating the 78th Constitution Day, marking the anniversary of the promulgation of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea.

July 23

- The National Assembly elected seven standing committee chairs for the second half of the 22nd National Assembly.
- During a plenary session, the National Assembly passed 23 bills, including amendments to the Building Act, the Public Restrooms Act, and the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities Act.

July 28

- Speaker Cho Jeong-sik held his first press conference since assuming office.

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