

**Translation**

The following document is South Korea's overarching AI law, passed in January 2025 and slated to take effect in January 2026. Its provisions include incentives to attract foreign AI experts to South Korea, and a requirement that foreign AI companies operating in the country designate a Korean representative to liaise with the government on their behalf. Notably, the law establishes an AI safety research institute, encourages the creation of AI ethics committees, and includes many other measures related to AI safety and ethics.

**Title**

Framework Act on the Development of Artificial Intelligence and Establishment of Trust  
인공지능 발전과 신뢰 기반 조성 등에 관한 기본법

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**Source**

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The Korean source text is available online at:

[https://www.law.go.kr/%EB%B2%95%EB%A0%B9/%EC%9D%B8%EA%B3%B5%EC%A7%80%EB%8A%A5%20%EB%B0%9C%EC%A0%84%EA%B3%BC%20%EC%8B%A0%EB%A2%B0%20%EA%B8%B0%EB%B0%98%20%EC%A1%B0%EC%84%B1%20%EB%93%B1%EC%97%90%20%EA%B4%80%ED%95%9C%20%EA%B8%B0%EB%B3%B8%EB%B2%95/\(20676,20250121\)](https://www.law.go.kr/%EB%B2%95%EB%A0%B9/%EC%9D%B8%EA%B3%B5%EC%A7%80%EB%8A%A5%20%EB%B0%9C%EC%A0%84%EA%B3%BC%20%EC%8B%A0%EB%A2%B0%20%EA%B8%B0%EB%B0%98%20%EC%A1%B0%EC%84%B1%20%EB%93%B1%EC%97%90%20%EA%B4%80%ED%95%9C%20%EA%B8%B0%EB%B3%B8%EB%B2%95/(20676,20250121))

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## Framework Act on the Development of Artificial Intelligence and Establishment of Trust<sup>1</sup>

[Enforced January 22, 2026] [Law No. 20676, Enacted January 21, 2025]

### Chapter 1 General Provisions

<sup>1</sup> Translator's note: This translation follows the 2024 edition of the Korea Legislation Research Institute (한국법제연구원) *Korean-English Legal Translation Guidelines* (한영 법령번역지침), page 50, in translating 기본법 as "framework act." A more literal translation of the Act's title would be "Basic Act on the Development of Artificial Intelligence and Establishment of Trust." An archived version of the *Korean-English Legal Translation Guidelines* is available online at: <https://perma.cc/59J9-PZHQ>.

**Article 1 (Purpose)** The purpose of this Act is to protect human rights and dignity, and to contribute to enhance the quality of life, while strengthening national competitiveness by establishing essential regulations for the sound development of artificial intelligence (AI) and the establishment of trust.

**Article 2 (Definitions)** The definitions of the terms used in this Act are as follows:

1. **“Artificial Intelligence”** refers to the electronic implementation of human intellectual abilities, such as learning, reasoning, perception, judgment, and understanding of language.
2. **“AI System”** refers to an AI-based system that infers results such as predictions, recommendations, and decisions that affect the real and virtual environment for a given objective with various levels of autonomy and adaptability.
3. **“AI Technology”** refers to hardware, software, or application technologies necessary for AI implementation.
4. **“High-Impact AI”** refers to AI systems that have the potential to significantly impact human life, safety, or fundamental rights, used in any of the following areas:
  - a) Supply of energy pursuant to Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the *Energy Act*
  - b) Production processes of drinking water pursuant to Article 3, Paragraph 1 of the *Drinking Water Management Act*
  - c) Establishment and operation of a system for providing and using health care services pursuant to Article 3, Paragraph 1 of the *Framework Act on Health and Medical Services*
  - d) Development and use of medical devices pursuant to Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the *Medical Devices Act* and digital medical devices pursuant to Article 2, Paragraph 2 of the *Digital Medical Products Act*
  - e) Safe management and operation of nuclear materials and facilities pursuant to Article 2, Paragraph 1, Subparagraphs 1 and 2 of the *Act on Nuclear Facility Physical Protection and Radiological Emergencies*
  - f) Analysis and utilization of biometric information (referring to personal information regarding physical, physiological, and behavioral characteristics that can identify individuals, such as face, fingerprints, iris, and palm veins) for criminal investigations or arrest operations
  - g) Judgments or evaluations that have a significant impact on the rights and obligations of an individual, such as employment and loan assessments
  - h) Major operations and management of transportation conveyances,

transportation facilities, and transportation systems pursuant to Article 2, Paragraphs 1 through 3 of the *Traffic Safety Act*

- i) Decision-making by the national and local governments, and public institutions pursuant to Article 4 of the *Act on the Operation of Public Institutions* (hereinafter the “National Institutions”) that affect the public, such as qualification verification and determination, or expense collection necessary for providing public services
  - j) Student assessment in early childhood education, elementary education, and secondary education pursuant to Article 9, Paragraph 1 of the *Basic Education Act*
  - k) Other areas that have a significant impact on the protection of human life, physical safety, and basic human rights, as prescribed by Presidential Decree.
5. “**Generative AI**” refers to an AI system that generates text, sound, images, video, and various other outputs by imitating the structure and characteristics of input data (referring to data pursuant to Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the *Framework Act on Promotion of Data Industry and Data Utilization*).
  6. “**AI Industry**” refers to industries that develop, manufacture, produce, or distribute products utilizing AI or AI technology (hereinafter “AI products”) or that provide related services (hereinafter “AI services”).
  7. “**AI Business Operator**” refers to any corporation, organization, individual, or government agency engaged in business related to the AI industry, and falls under any of the following categories:
    - a) **AI Developer:** An individual or entity that develops and provides AI
    - b) **AI-using Business Operator:** An individual or entity that provides AI products or services using AI provided by a business operator in item (a).
  8. “**User**” refers to anyone receiving AI products or services.
  9. “**Affected Person**” refers to anyone whose life, physical safety, or basic human rights are significantly impacted by AI products or services.
  10. “**AI Society**” refers to a society that creates value and drives development through AI across all fields, to include industry, economy, society, culture, and administration.
  11. “**AI Ethics**” refers to ethical standards that should be observed by all members of society in all areas related to development, provision, and use of AI, based on respect for human dignity, and aiming to protect people’s rights, lives, and property to realize a safe and trustworthy AI society.

[Enforcement date: January 24, 2026] The part concerning digital medical devices in Article 2, Paragraph 4, Subparagraph d

### **Article 3 (Basic Principles and Obligations of the Nation)**

- 1) AI technology and the AI industry shall be developed in a direction that promotes safety and reliability to improve people's quality of life.
- 2) Affected persons shall be provided with a clear and meaningful explanation of the key criteria and principles, used to derive the final AI outcomes, to the extent technically and reasonably possible.
- 3) National and local government organizations shall respect the spirit of creativity of AI business operators and strive to create a safe environment for the use of AI.
- 4) National and local government organizations shall devise policies to ensure that all people can adapt stably to the changes brought about by AI in all areas, including social, economic, cultural, and daily life.

### **Article 4 (Scope of Application)**

- 1) This Act shall apply to acts conducted abroad that affect the domestic market or users in the Republic of Korea.
- 2) This Act shall not apply to AI developed and used solely for national defense or national security purposes, as prescribed by Presidential Decree.

### **Article 5 (Relationship with Other Laws)**

- 1) Unless other laws provide special provisions regarding AI, AI technology, the AI industry, and AI society (hereinafter "AI"), the provisions of this Act shall apply.
- 2) When enacting or amending other laws regarding AI, such laws shall be aligned with the purposes of this Act.

## **Chapter 2 Promotion system for Sound Development of AI and Establishment of a Foundation of Trust**

### **Article 6 (Establishment of the AI Basic Plan)**

- 1) Every three years, the Minister of Science and ICT, after consulting with the heads of relevant central administrative agencies and local governments, shall establish, amend, and implement the AI basic plan (hereinafter the "Basic Plan") to promote AI technology and the AI industry and strengthen national competitiveness, subject to deliberation and resolution by the National AI Committee pursuant to Article 7. However, minor amendments to the Basic Plan

prescribed by Presidential Decree are exempt from this requirement.

2) The Basic Plan shall include the following matters:

1. Basic direction and strategy for AI policies.
  2. Matters regarding the training of professional talent for the systematic development of the AI industry, and the establishment of a foundation for promoting the development and utilization of AI
  3. Legal, institutional, and cultural measures for implementing a sound AI society, including the spread of AI ethics
  4. Securing financial resources and investment directions for AI technology development and AI industry development
  5. Measures for establishing a foundation of trust, ensuring the fairness, transparency, accountability, and safety of AI
  6. Matters regarding the direction of development of AI technology, and corresponding changes and responses in areas of society, such as education, labor, economy, and culture
  7. Other matters deemed necessary by the Minister of Science and ICT for promoting AI technology and the AI industry, international cooperation, and strengthening national competitiveness
- 3) When establishing the Basic Plan, the Minister of Science and ICT shall consider the comprehensive plan under Article 6, Paragraph 1 and the implementation plan under Article 7, Paragraph 1 of the *Framework Act on Intelligent Informatization*.
- 4) The Minister of Science and ICT may request data from the heads of relevant central administrative agencies, local governments, and public institutions (referring to public institutions under Article 2, Paragraph 16 of the *Framework Act on Intelligent Informatization*; hereinafter the same) for the establishment of the Basic Plan. Unless there are special circumstances, the head of the institution requested to submit data shall comply.
- 5) The Basic Plan shall be considered as the sector-specific implementation plan for AI and the AI industry pursuant to Article 13, Paragraph 1 of the *Framework Act on Intelligent Informatization*.
- 6) The heads of relevant central administrative agencies and local governments shall consider the Basic Plan when developing and executing major policies under their jurisdiction.

7) Matters necessary for the establishment, amendment, and implementation of the Basic Plan shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

## **Article 7 (National AI Committee)**

- 1) The National AI Committee (hereinafter “the Committee”) shall be established under the President to deliberate and resolve matters regarding major policies for the development of AI and establishment of a trust-based foundation.
- 2) The Committee shall be composed of no more than 45 members, including one chairperson and one vice chairperson. A majority of the Committee members shall be members under Paragraph 4, Subparagraph 4, and shall not be composed solely of one gender.
- 3) The President shall serve as the Committee’s chairperson, and the vice chairperson shall be appointed by the President from among the members falling under Paragraph 4, Subparagraph 4.
- 4) The Committee’s members shall include the following persons:
  1. Heads of the relevant central administrative agencies as prescribed by Presidential Decree
  2. Deputy director in charge of AI affairs at the Office of National Security
  3. The senior secretary assisting with AI affairs in the Office of the President
  4. Persons with extensive expertise and experience in AI appointed by the President
  - 5) The chairperson represents the Committee and oversees its affairs.
  - 6) The chairperson may have the vice chairperson act on their behalf, as necessary.
  - 7) The term of office for members under Paragraph 4, Subparagraph 4 shall be two years, with a two-term limit.
  - 8) The Committee shall have one secretary, who shall be a member under Paragraph 4, Subparagraph 3.
  - 9) Committee members shall not disclose confidential information learned in the course of their duties nor use it for any purpose other than their official duties, except as otherwise provided by law.
  - 10) The Committee’s chairperson shall convene and preside over meetings of the Committee.
  - 11) Committee meetings shall be held with attendance of a majority of members and resolutions shall be made with the approval of a majority of attending

members.

- 12) A support team shall be established under the Committee to assist with its work and operations.
- 13) The Committee shall subsist for five years from the date this Act takes effect.
- 14) Matters concerning the composition and operation of the Committee and its support team under Paragraph 12 shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

#### **Article 8 (Functions of the Committee)**

- 1) The Committee shall deliberate and resolve the following matters:
  1. Establishment, amendment, and implementation of the Basic Plan
  2. AI-related policy matters
  3. Establishment of strategies for AI research and development (R&D)
  4. Establishment of investment strategies related to AI
  5. Identification and improvement of regulations that hinder AI industry development and competitiveness
  6. Plans for expanding infrastructure, such as AI data centers as defined in Article 40, Paragraph 1 of the *Framework Act on Intelligent Informatization*
  7. Promotion of AI utilization in industrial sectors such as manufacturing, services, and the public sector
  8. International cooperation regarding the establishment of AI-related international norms
  9. Recommendations or expression of opinions pursuant to Paragraph 2
  10. Regulation of high-impact AI
  11. Social changes and policy responses related to high-impact AI
  12. Matters designated by this Act or other laws for Committee deliberation
  13. Other matters deemed necessary by the chairperson to be brought before a Committee meeting
- 2) The Committee may express recommendations or opinions to heads of National Institutions, AI business operators, and others, regarding the correct use of AI, implementation of AI ethics, and AI technology safety and reliability.
- 3) When the Committee expresses recommendations or opinions pursuant to Paragraph 2 to the heads of National Institutions for legal or institutional improvements, or the establishment of practical measures, the heads of the

relevant National Institutions shall develop and implement measures accordingly.

### **Article 9 (Recusal, Avoidance, and Disqualification of Members)**

- 1) To ensure fairness, a Committee member shall be disqualified from the deliberation and resolution of a specific agenda if any of the following applies:
  1. If the member, or the corporation or organization to which the member belongs, has a direct interest in the agenda
  2. If a member's family (a family member as defined in Article 779 of the Civil Act) is an interested party
  - 2) Any party to the deliberation (including executives and employees of corporations, or organizations) may file a challenge if there are circumstances where it is difficult to expect a fair performance of duties by a Committee member. If such a challenge is deemed valid, the Committee shall decide to exclude that member by resolution.
  - 3) If a member falls under Paragraph 1 or 2, he or she shall voluntarily recuse themselves from the deliberation on the relevant agenda.

### **Article 10 (Subcommittees)**

- 1) The Committee may establish subcommittees by field of expertise as necessary to perform the Committee's work.
- 2) The Committee may establish special committees as necessary to address specific AI-related issues.
- 3) The Committee may establish an advisory panel of experts for professional review of AI-related matters.
- 4) Matters necessary for the composition and operation of subcommittees, special committees, and advisory panels shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

### **Article 11 (AI Policy Center)**

- 1) The Minister of Science and ICT may designate an AI Policy Center (hereinafter the "Center") to comprehensively perform tasks necessary for the development of AI policy, and the establishment and dissemination of international norms.
- 2) The Center shall carry out the following projects:
  1. Technical support necessary for the establishment and implementation of the Basic Plan
  2. Technical support for the development and implementation of AI-related policies and projects

3. Investigation and analysis of how AI impacts society, economy, culture, and people's daily lives
4. Investigation and research on laws, systems, and forecasting of social and cultural changes to support the development of AI policies and AI technology
5. Tasks entrusted by other laws or delegated by relevant agencies
6. Other tasks entrusted by the heads of National Institutions
  - 3) Other matters necessary for the establishment and operation of the Center shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

## **Article 12 (AI Safety Research Institute)**

- 1) The Minister of Science and ICT may operate an AI Safety Research Institute (hereinafter the "Safety Research Institute") to perform tasks professionally and efficiently to secure AI safety (hereinafter "AI Safety") protecting people's lives, physical well-being, property, etc. from risks associated with AI and maintaining a foundation of trust in an AI society.
- 2) The Safety Research Institute shall perform the following tasks:
  1. Definition and analysis of AI safety-related risks
  2. Research on AI safety policy
  3. Research on AI safety evaluation criteria and methods
  4. Research on AI safety technologies and standardization
  5. International exchange and cooperation related to AI safety
  6. Support for securing the safety of AI systems pursuant to Article 32
  7. Other tasks related to AI safety as prescribed by Presidential Decree
    - 3) The government may, within the scope of its budget, provide funding as necessary for the operation of the Safety Research Institute and the implementation of its projects.
    - 4) Other necessary matters for the operation of the Safety Research Institute shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

## **Chapter 3 AI Technology and Industry Development**

### **Section 1 Establishment of AI Industry Infrastructure**

#### **Article 13 (Support for Development and Safe Use of AI Technology)**

- 1) The government may support the following projects to promote the

development of AI technology:

1. Investigation of domestic and foreign AI technology trends, levels, and related systems
2. R&D, testing, evaluation, and utilization of AI technology, or utilization of advanced technology
3. Support for the practical application and dissemination, transfer, and commercialization of AI technology
4. Smooth distribution of information and industry-academia cooperation for implementing AI technology
5. Other projects related to AI technology R&D and investigation as prescribed by Presidential Decree
  - 2) The government may support the following projects to ensure the safe and convenient use of AI technology:
    1. R&D projects to implement the measures of Article 60, Paragraph 1 of the *Framework Act on Intelligent Informatization* in AI technology
    2. Support for research and dissemination of technologies that implement the emergency shutdown function in AI products or services pursuant to Article 60, Paragraph 3 of the *Framework Act on Intelligent Informatization*
    3. R&D and dissemination of design standards and technologies suitable for privacy protection pursuant to Article 61, Paragraph 2 of the *Framework Act on Intelligent Informatization* in AI technology development
    4. R&D projects for AI technology implementation and application of social impact assessment pursuant to Article 56, Paragraph 1 of the *Framework Act on Intelligent Informatization*
    5. R&D and dissemination of technologies or standards to ensure AI is developed and used to respect human dignity and fundamental rights
    6. Education and promotion projects to improve awareness of safe AI development and use, and to create a safe environment, and proper usage methods
    7. Other necessary projects to protect the fundamental rights, and the physical and property safety, of people in AI development and use
  - 3) The government shall make the results of the projects under Paragraph 2 publicly available and easily accessible to anyone. Where necessary to protect developers, a protection period may be designated during which technology usage fees may be collected or other protective measures may be taken.

## **Article 14 (Standardization of AI Technology)**

- 1) The government may promote the following projects to standardize AI technology, learning data pursuant to Article 15, Paragraph 1, and AI safety and reliability.
  1. Establishment, amendment, and abolition of standards related to AI technology and their dissemination
  2. Investigation and R&D of domestic and international standards for AI technology
  3. Other standardization projects related to AI technology
- 2) The government may announce standards established pursuant to Paragraph 1, Subparagraph 1 and recommend their compliance to relevant business operators.
- 3) The government may provide necessary support for private sector standardization projects related to AI technology.
- 4) The government shall maintain and strengthen cooperation systems with international standards organizations or institutions involved with AI technology standards.
- 5) Other matters necessary for the promotion and support of standardization projects pursuant to Paragraphs 1 and 3 shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

## **Article 15 (Establishment of Policies Related to AI Learning Data)**

- 1) The Minister of Science and ICT shall, in consultation with the heads of relevant central administrative agencies, promote necessary measures to facilitate the production, collection, management, distribution, utilization of data used for AI development and utilization (hereinafter “learning data”).
- 2) The government may select and support projects to facilitate learning data production, collection, management, distribution, and utilization, within budget limits.
- 3) The government may implement learning data generation projects to produce and provide various learning data to promote the production, collection, management, distribution, and utilization of learning data.
- 4) The Minister of Science and ICT shall build and manage an integrated provision system (hereinafter the “integrated provision system”) that can provide and manage learning data from the efficient execution of learning data construction projects and provide it for free use by the private sector.
- 5) The Minister of Science and ICT may collect fees from users of the integrated

provision system.

6) Other necessary matters for selecting and supporting projects pursuant to Paragraph 2, implementation of learning data construction projects, building and managing the integrated provision system, and collecting fees pursuant to Paragraph 5 shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

## **Section 2 AI Technology Development and Industry Revitalization**

### **Article 16 (Support for Introduction and Utilization of AI Technology)**

1) National and local government organizations may, as necessary, provide the following support to promote the introduction and expand utilization of AI technology by companies and public institutions.

1. Support for the development and dissemination of AI technology, products, or services of R&D results
  2. Consulting support for companies and public institutions intending to introduce and utilize AI technology
  3. Education support on AI technology introduction and utilization to executives and employees of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) pursuant to Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the *Framework Act on Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME Framework Act)*, venture businesses pursuant to Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the *Special Act on the Promotion of Venture Businesses*, and micro-sized enterprises pursuant to Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the *SME Framework Act*
  4. Financial support for SMEs to introduce and utilize AI technology
  5. Other matters prescribed by Presidential Decree to promote the introduction and utilization of AI technology by enterprises and public institutions
- 2) Matters necessary for the support pursuant to Paragraph 1 shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

### **Article 17 (Special Support for SMEs)**

1) When implementing various support policies under this act for AI technology and industry, SMEs shall be given priority consideration.

2) The government shall strive to revitalize participation by SMEs in the AI industry and shall reflect such considerations in the *Framework Act on the Development of Artificial Intelligence and Establishment of Trust* ("the AI Framework Act").

3) The Minister of Science and ICT may support the implementation of measures pursuant to Article 34 and impact assessment pursuant to Article 35 by SMEs to

ensure AI safety and reliability.

### **Article 18 (Promotion of Startups)**

- 1) The government may promote the following projects to promote startups in the AI industry:
  1. Discovering, fostering, and supporting AI startups
  2. Education and training for AI startup industry promotion
  3. Commercialization support for outstanding AI technology by professionals pursuant to Article 21
  4. Valuation of AI technology and financial support for startup funds
  5. Provision of AI-related research and technology development results
  6. Fostering of institutions and organizations supporting startups in the AI industry
  7. Other projects necessary to promote startups in the AI industry
- 2) Local governments may contribute to or invest in public institutions or organizations supporting startups in the AI industry.

### **Article 19 (Promotion of AI Convergence)**

- 1) The government shall establish and promote necessary measures for the convergence of the AI industry with other industries and enhance the use of AI across all sectors.
- 2) The government may, when necessary, prioritize and promote R&D projects related to AI convergence products and services in national R&D projects pursuant to the *National Research and Development Innovation Act*, to support the development of AI convergence products and services.
- 3) The government shall actively support the smooth implementation of temporary permits pursuant to Article 37, and regulatory sandboxes for AI-converged products and services under Article 38, Paragraph 2 of the *Special Act on Promotion of Information, Communications Technology, and Vitalization of Convergence Thereof*.

### **Article 20 (Institutional Improvements, etc.)**

- 1) The government shall strive to improve related institutions, including the development of laws and regulations, to develop the AI industry and establish a trust-based foundation.
- 2) The government may provide the necessary administrative and financial

support for the research of relevant laws and systems, and the collection of opinions from various sectors of society to promote institutional improvements under Paragraph 1.

### **Article 21 (Securing Expert Talents)**

- 1) The Minister of Science and ICT shall train and support AI and AI technology expert talents in accordance with the measures pursuant to Article 23, Paragraph 1 of the *Framework Act on Intelligent Informatization* for the development of AI technology and advancement of the AI industry.
- 2) The government may implement the following policies to recruit overseas expert talents in AI and AI technology.
  1. Research and analysis on AI and AI technology expert talents from overseas universities, research institutes, and companies.
  2. Establishing an international network to attract overseas expert talents
  3. Support for domestic employment of overseas expert talents
  4. Support for the overseas expansion of domestic AI research institutes and for attracting overseas AI research institutes to the domestic market
  5. Support for attracting international AI and AI technology organizations and events to the domestic market
  6. Other measures necessary to secure overseas expert talent

### **Article 22 (Support for International Cooperation and Market Expansion)**

- 1) The government shall identify international AI trends and promote international cooperation.
- 2) To strengthen AI industry competitiveness and promote overseas market entry, the government may provide the following support to individuals, companies, and organizations engaged in the AI industry.
  1. International exchange of information, technology, and talent related to the AI industry
  2. Collection, analysis, and provision of information on overseas expansion of the AI industry
  3. Joint R&D and international standardization of AI technology, products, or services between countries
  4. Attraction of foreign capital investment in the AI industry
  5. Promotion and marketing through participation in overseas AI academic

conferences and exhibitions

6. Establishment of sales, distribution, and cooperation networks for AI product and service exports
  7. Keeping abreast of international trends in AI ethics and international cooperation
  8. Other necessary measures for strengthening AI industry competitiveness and overseas market expansion
- 3) In order to efficiently carry out the support pursuant to each Subparagraph of Paragraph 2, the government may entrust or have public institutions or other organizations act on its behalf as prescribed by presidential decree, and may subsidize the necessary expenses.

### **Article 23 (Designation of AI Clusters, etc.)**

- 1) National and local governments may promote the functional, physical, and regional integration of companies, institutions, or organizations conducting R&D of AI and AI technology to promote the AI industry and strengthen AI competitiveness, development and utilization.
- 2) National and local governments may designate AI clusters (hereinafter "AI clusters") and provide administrative, financial, and technical support, and if necessary, facilitate clustering pursuant to paragraph 1 as prescribed by Presidential Decree.
- 3) National and local governments may revoke the designation of an AI cluster in any of the following cases. However, if the case falls under Subparagraph 1, the designation must be revoked.
  1. If the designation was obtained by false or other illegal means
  2. If the head of the national or local government that designated the AI cluster deems it difficult for the AI cluster to achieve its intended purpose
- 4) The government may establish or designate a dedicated institution to comprehensively support related tasks to effectively achieve establishment of the cluster in the region pursuant to Paragraph 1.
- 5) The government may contribute or subsidize all or part of the expenses necessary for operating and performing tasks of the dedicated institution pursuant to Paragraph 4.
- 6) Other necessary matters for the designation and revocation of AI clusters and for the establishment or designation of the dedicated institution pursuant to Paragraph 4 shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

## **Article 24 (Establishment of AI Demonstration Infrastructure, etc.)**

- 1) National and local governments may build and operate facilities, equipment, and installations (hereinafter "demonstration infrastructure"), necessary for testing or evaluation, or to support demonstration, performance testing, verification and certification, pursuant to Article 30 (hereinafter "demonstration testing") of technologies developed or acquired by AI business operators.
- 2) National and local governments may, as prescribed by Presidential Decree, open the demonstration infrastructure held by institutions to AI business operators to promote demonstration testing, etc.
- 3) Other necessary matters for building, operating, and opening the demonstration infrastructure shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

## **Article 25 (Promotion of AI Data Center-Related Policies)**

- 1) The government shall promote necessary policies to advance the establishment and operation of data centers used for AI development and utilization (hereinafter "AI data centers").
- 2) The government may perform the following tasks to promote policies pursuant to Paragraph 1.
  1. Administrative and financial support necessary for the establishment and operation of AI data centers
  2. Support for the use of AI data centers by SMEs, research institutes, etc.
  3. Support for balanced regional development of AI-related infrastructure facilities, including AI data centers

## **Article 26 (Establishment of the Korea AI Promotion Association)**

- 1) Persons engaged in research and work related to AI may establish the Korean AI Promotion Association (hereinafter the "Association") or be designated as an association with the Minister of Science and ICT's approval, as prescribed by Presidential Decree, to promote AI development and use, advance the AI industry and technology, and provide AI education and propaganda.
- 2) The Association shall be a corporation.
- 3) The Association shall perform the following tasks:
  1. Promotion, distribution, and usage of AI technology, products, or services
  2. Surveys and statistics on the current state of AI
  3. Establishment and operation of shared facilities for AI business operators, and

talent training and cultivation

4. Support for overseas expansion of AI business operators and AI talents
  5. Education and promotion of the development and use of safe and reliable AI
  6. Projects entrusted to the Association pursuant to this Act or other laws
  7. Other projects necessary to achieve the purpose of the Association's establishment as stipulated in the Articles of Incorporation
- 4) National and local governments may finance the Association's business or subsidize the expenses necessary for its operation within the scope of the budget, if necessary for the development of the AI industry and the establishment of a foundation of trust.
- 5) The qualifications of the Association's members and its executives, and the Association's operations, shall be stipulated in the Articles of Incorporation, and other matters to be included therein shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.
- 6) When the Minister of Science and ICT grants approval pursuant to Paragraph 1, it shall be publicly announced.
- 7) Except as otherwise prescribed in this Act, the provisions of the *Civil Act* regarding incorporated associations shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Association.

## **Chapter 4 Ensuring AI Ethics and Reliability**

### **Article 27 (AI Ethical Principles)**

- 1) The government may establish and announce AI ethics principles (hereinafter "ethics principles"), as prescribed by Presidential Decree to promote the distribution of AI ethics, including the following:
  1. Safety and reliability to prevent harm to human life and physical and mental health during the development and use of AI
  2. Ensuring that products and services powered by AI technology are freely and conveniently accessible by everyone
  3. AI development and usage to contribute to human well-being and prosperity
- 2) The Minister of Science and ICT shall gather opinions from all sectors of society to develop practical measures to ensure the implementation of these ethical principles by all the parties involved in AI development and usage, and must publicize, promote, and educate about these measures.
- 3) When the head of a central administrative agency or local government

establishes or amends AI ethics standards (referring to laws, standards, or guidelines related to AI ethics, regardless of their name or form), the Minister of Science and ICT may express recommendations or opinions regarding their connection and consistency with ethical principles and practical measures pursuant to Paragraph (2).

#### **Article 28 (Establishment of Private Autonomous AI Ethics Committees)**

- 1) The following institutions or organizations may establish a private autonomous AI ethics committee (hereinafter “private autonomous committee”) to comply with the ethical principles.
  1. Educational institutions and research centers where individuals engaged in AI technology R&D are affiliated
  2. AI business operators
  3. Other AI technology-related institutions as prescribed by Presidential Decree
- 2) The private autonomous committee shall independently perform the following tasks:
  1. Ensure compliance with ethical principles in AI technology R&D and utilization
  2. Investigation and research on securing the safety of AI technology R&D and utilization, and preventing human rights violations
  3. Investigation and supervision of the procedures and results of AI technology R&D and utilization
  4. Education on ethical principles for researchers and employees of the relevant institution or organization
  5. Preparation of field-specific AI ethical guidelines suitable for AI technology R&D and utilization
  6. Other tasks necessary for the implementation of ethical principles
- 3) Matters necessary for the composition, operation, of the private autonomous committee shall be determined autonomously by the relevant institution or organization. However, the committee shall not be composed exclusively of one gender. It shall include individuals with the experience and knowledge to assess social and ethical validity, and individuals not affiliated with the institution or organization.
- 4) The Minister of Science and ICT may prepare and disseminate standard guidelines to ensure the fair and neutral composition and operation of private autonomous committees.

## **Article 29 (Preparation of Policies for Establishing a Foundation of Trust for AI)**

The government shall establish the following policies to minimize the potential risks of AI on citizens' lives and establish a foundation of trust for the safe use of AI.

1. Creation of a safe and reliable AI usage environment
2. Forecasting and prediction on the impact of AI usage on citizens' daily lives and on the maintenance of related laws and regulations
3. Support for the development and dissemination of safety and certification technologies to ensure the safety and reliability of AI
4. Education and promotion of the realization of a safe and trustworthy AI society and the practice of AI ethics
5. Support for the establishment and implementation of autonomous regulations related to safety and reliability by AI business operators
6. Support and dissemination of private-sector activities such as autonomous cooperation, the establishment of ethical guidelines for the promotion of safety and reliability of AI by organizations related to AI, and composed of AI business operators or users (hereinafter "Organizations")
7. Other matters prescribed by Presidential Decree to ensure the safety and reliability of AI

## **Article 30 (Support for AI Safety, Reliability, Verification and Certification)**

1) The Minister of Science and ICT may implement the following projects to support validation and certification activities (hereinafter "verification and certification") autonomously promoted by organizations to ensure the safety and reliability of AI.

1. Dissemination of guidelines for AI development
  2. Support for research on verification and certification
  3. Support for the establishment and operation of equipment and systems used for verification and certification
  4. Support for the talent training necessary for verification and certification
  5. Other matters prescribed by Presidential Decree to support verification and certification.
- 2) The Minister of Science and ICT may provide related information or administrative and financial support to SMEs seeking verification and certification, as prescribed by Presidential Decree.

- 3) AI business operators shall strive to obtain verification and certification prior to providing high-impact AI.
- 4) When National Institutions intend to use high-impact AI, they should prioritize products or services based on AI that have received verification and certification.

### **Article 31 (Obligation to Ensure AI Transparency)**

- 1) AI business operators providing products or services using high-impact AI or generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) shall notify users in advance that the product or service is AI-based.
- 2) When providing GenAI products and services, AI business operators shall notify users in advance that such products and services are GenAI-generated.
- 3) AI business operators shall clearly notify or indicate to users or indicate clearly when virtual sounds, images, or videos are AI-generated, and may be difficult to distinguish from authentic ones. In such case, if the outcome is part of an artistic or creative work, the notification or indication may be made in a manner that does not hinder its exhibition or enjoyment.
- 4) Other necessary matters regarding the advance notification pursuant to Paragraphs 1, the indication pursuant to Paragraph (2), and the exceptions notification methods pursuant to Paragraph 3 shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

### **Article 32 (Obligation to Ensure AI Safety)**

- 1) AI business operators shall implement the following measures to ensure the safety of AI systems in which the cumulative computing amount used for learning meets or exceeds the standards prescribed by Presidential Decree.
  1. Identification, assessment, and mitigation of risks throughout the entire AI lifecycle
  2. Building of a risk management system to monitor and respond to AI-related safety incidents
- 2) AI business operators shall submit the results of implementing the measures pursuant to each Subparagraphs of Paragraph 1 to the Minister of Science and ICT.
- 3) The Minister of Science and ICT shall determine and announce the detailed guidelines for implementing measures pursuant to the Subparagraphs of Paragraph 1 and for submitting the results pursuant to Paragraph (2).

### **Article 33 (Confirmation of High-Impact AI)**

- 1) AI business operators providing AI-based products or services must review in

advance whether the AI in question qualifies as high-impact AI. If necessary, they may request confirmation from the Minister of Science and ICT as to whether the AI qualifies as high-impact .

- 2) The Minister of Science and ICT shall confirm whether such AI qualifies as high-impact AI upon request, pursuant to Paragraph 1, and may establish a specialized committee to receive relevant advice if necessary.
- 3) The Minister of Science and ICT may establish and distribute guidelines concerning the criteria and examples of high-impact AI.
- 4) Other necessary matters for the confirmation procedures pursuant to Paragraph 1 shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

#### **Article 34 (High-Impact AI Business Operators' Responsibilities)**

- 1) AI business operators providing high-impact AI or AI-based products and services must implement the following measures as prescribed by presidential decree to ensure the safety and reliability of the high-impact AI .
  1. Establishment and operation of a risk management plan
  2. To the extent that it is technically feasible, establish and implement a plan to provide explanations for AI-generated outputs, including the key criteria used to derive such outputs, and an overview of the learning data used in the development and utilization of AI
  3. Establishment and operation of user protection measures
  4. Human management and supervision of high-impact AI
  5. Preparation and storage of documents that demonstrate measures taken to ensure AI safety and reliability.
  6. Other matters deliberated and resolved upon by the Committee to ensure the safety and reliability of high-impact AI
- 2) The Minister of Science and ICT may establish and announce specific details of the measures pursuant to Subparagraphs of Paragraph 1, and recommend AI business operators comply with them.
- 3) If an AI business operator implements equivalent measures pursuant to Subparagraphs of Paragraph 1, in accordance with the laws and regulations as prescribed by Presidential Decree, they shall be deemed to have implemented the measures pursuant to Paragraph 1.

#### **Article 35 (Impact Assessment of High-Impact AI)**

- 1) AI business operators providing products or services using high-impact AI shall make efforts to assess in advance the impact on basic human rights (hereinafter referred to as "impact assessment").
- 2) When national institutions intend to use high-impact AI products or services, they must prioritize products or services that have undergone an impact assessment.
- 3) Other necessary matters concerning the specific content and methods of the impact assessments shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

#### **Article 36 (Designation of a Domestic Representative)**

- 1) AI business operators without an address or place of business in the Republic of Korea, which meet certain user and revenue thresholds defined by Presidential Decree, must appoint a domestic representative (hereinafter referred to as "domestic representative") in writing and report it to the Minister of Science and ICT.
  1. Submission of implementation results pursuant to Article 32, Paragraph 2
  2. Request for confirmation of qualification as high-impact AI pursuant to Article 33, Paragraph 1
  3. Support necessary for implementing safety and reliability measures pursuant to Subparagraphs of Article 34, Paragraph 1 (including inspecting the currency and accuracy of the documents pursuant to Subparagraph 5 of the same Paragraph)
- 2) The domestic representative shall have an address or place of business in the Republic of Korea.
- 3) If the domestic representative violates this Act under Subparagraphs of Paragraph 1, the AI business operator that designated the domestic representative shall be held responsible.

### **Chapter 5 Supplementary Provisions**

#### **Article 37 (Expansion of Financial Resources for the Promotion of the AI Industry)**

- 1) The government must establish measures to secure the necessary financial resources continuously and stably to effectively promote the Basic Plan and policies pursuant to this Act.
- 2) The Minister of Science and ICT may, when necessary, recommend public institutions provide support for projects related to the promotion of the AI industry.

- 3) National and local governments shall take necessary measures to enable the private sector, including corporations, to actively invest in projects related to the promotion of the AI industry.
- 4) National and local governments shall endeavor to efficiently leverage investment resources by comprehensively considering development stages of the AI industry.

#### **Article 38 (Practical Surveys, Statistics and Indicators Preparation)**

- 1) The Minister of Science and ICT must, in consultation with the commissioner of Statistics Korea, compile, manage, and publish fact-finding surveys, statistics, and indicators on domestic and international AI for the planning, establishment, and promotion of policies and projects related to AI in connection with statistics pursuant to Article 26, Paragraph 2 of the *Framework Act on Science and Technology (S&T)*.
- 2) The Minister of Science and ICT may request cooperation, such as the submission of data, from the heads of relevant central administrative agencies, local governments, and public institutions for the preparation of statistics and indicators pursuant to Paragraph 1. In such cases, the head of the institution requested to cooperate shall comply therewith unless there are extraordinary circumstances.
- 3) Other matters necessary for the fact-finding surveys and the preparation, management, and publication of statistics and indicators under Paragraph 1 shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

#### **Article 39 (Delegation and Entrustment of Authority and Duties)**

- 1) The Minister of Science and ICT or the head of the relevant central administrative agency may delegate part of their authority under this Act to the head of an affiliated agency, or to the Special City Mayor, Metropolitan City Mayor, Special Self-Governing City Mayor, Provincial Governor, or a Special Self-Governing Provincial Governor (hereinafter referred to as "Mayor or Provincial Governor" in this Article) as prescribed by Presidential Decree. In such cases, the Mayor or Provincial Governor may re-delegate part of the delegated authority to a Mayor (including the Administrative Mayor pursuant to Article 11, Paragraph 2 of the *Special Act on the Establishment of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and the Development of Jeju Free International City*), county head, or district head (referring to the district head of a Self-Governing district).
- 2) The government may entrust the following tasks to relevant institutions or organizations as prescribed by Presidential Decree.

1. Support for projects related to the development and use of AI technology pursuant to Article 13
2. Selection and support of projects for the production, collection, management, distribution, and utilization of training data pursuant to Article 15, Paragraphs 2 and 3, and promotion of learning data construction projects
3. Establishment, operation, and management of an integrated provision system
4. Matters deemed necessary by the Minister of Science and ICT for promoting startup activity pursuant to Article 18
5. Support for verification and certification, pursuant to Article 30, Paragraph 2
6. Preparation of fact-finding surveys, statistics, and indicators pursuant to Article 38
7. Other affairs prescribed by Presidential Decree for developing the AI industry and promoting AI ethics

#### **Article 40 (Fact-Finding Surveys)**

- 1) The Minister of Science and ICT may require that AI business operators submit relevant data or have public officials conduct necessary investigations in any of the following cases:
  1. In the case where violations of Article 31, Paragraphs 2 or 3, Article 32, Paragraphs 1 or 2, or Article 34, Paragraph 1 are discovered or there is suspicion of such violations.
  2. If a report or complaint is received regarding a violation of Article 31, Paragraphs 2 or 3, Article 32, Paragraphs 1 or 2, or Article 34, Paragraph 1
- 2) The Minister of Science and ICT may, if necessary, for the investigation under Paragraph 1, have affiliated public officials enter the offices or business premises of an AI business operator to investigate ledgers, documents, and other data or items. In this case, except for matters prescribed by this Act regarding the content, method, and procedures of the investigation, it shall be governed by the provisions set forth in the *Framework Act on Administrative Investigation*.
- 3) If the Minister of Science and ICT deems that an AI business operator has violated this Act as a result of the investigation under Paragraphs 1 and 2, the Minister may order that the AI business operator take necessary measures to cease or rectify the violation.

#### **Article 41 (Deemed Public Officials for Application of Penal Provisions)**

- 1) Members of the Committee who are not public officials shall be deemed public officials when applying the penal provisions under Articles 129 through 132 of the *Criminal Act*.
- 2) Executives and employees of institutions or organizations engaged in entrusted work pursuant to Article 39, Paragraph 2 shall be deemed public officials when applying the penal provisions under Articles 127 and 129 through 132 of the *Criminal Act*.

## Chapter 6 Penalties

**Article 42 (Punishments)** A person who discloses confidential information learned in the course of their duties to others or uses it for purposes other than those related to their duties, in violation of Article 7, Paragraph 9, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than three years or by a fine not exceeding 30 million won [U.S. \$22,000].

### Article 43 (Administrative Fines)

- 1) An administrative fine not exceeding 30 million won [U.S. \$22,000] shall be imposed on any person who falls under any of the following Subparagraphs.
  1. A person who fails to provide notification, in violation of Article 31, Paragraph 1
  2. A person who fails to designate a domestic representative, in violation of Article 36, Paragraph 1
  3. A person who fails to comply with a cease order or corrective order pursuant to Article 40, Paragraph 3
- 2) The administrative fines under Paragraph 1 shall be imposed and collected by the Minister of Science and ICT as prescribed by Presidential Decree.

## Supplementary Provisions [Law No. 20676, January 21, 2025]

**Article 1 (Enforcement Date)** This Act shall enter into force one year after the date of its promulgation. However, the part regarding digital medical devices in Article 2, Paragraph 4, Subparagraph d shall enter into force on January 24, 2026.

**Article 2 (Preparatory Actions for the Enforcement of this Act)** The appointment of committee members, and the compositions of subcommittees, special committees, advisory groups, and support teams, necessary for the enforcement of this Act may be conducted before the enforcement of this Act.

**Article 3 (Special Provisions for Dedicated Institutions)** An institution operating with

government budgetary support to effectively establish regional clustering pursuant to Article 23, Paragraph 1 at the time this Act enters into force and that meets the requirements prescribed by Presidential Decree regarding organization and personnel shall be deemed to be designated as a dedicated institution under this Act, notwithstanding Article 23, Paragraph 4.