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Amendment to the Act on Punishment of Anti-National Acts

반민족행위처벌법 중 개정법률

Republic of Korea · 7 December 1948

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Editorial introduction

The Act on Punishment of Anti-National Acts (Law No. 3), promulgated on 22 September 1948, established offences and procedures concerning specified acts of collaboration with Japanese colonial rule. It provided for a Special Investigation Committee, special prosecutors, and a special trial body. Law No. 13, promulgated on 7 December 1948, amended the investigative and prosecutorial provisions of that statute rather than changing the definitions of the offences or their prescribed penalties. [1–3]

The amendment provided for National Assembly scrutiny of the Committee, access to its investigative documents by Assembly members, authority for investigators to direct judicial police personnel, and a procedure for requesting collective reconsideration of a special prosecutor’s decision. It also revised how a special prosecutor could request further investigation from a committee member. The National Law Information Center identifies the new police-direction power and the reconsideration procedure among the amendment’s purposes. [1–2]

SCOPE OF THIS EDITION The five operative amendment instructions are translated in full. The 1948 parent Act and later amendments are separate instruments; they are not silently merged into

this text.

Suggested archive citation

Republic of Korea. “Amendment to the Act on Punishment of Anti-National Acts” (반민족행위처벌법 중 개정법률). Law No. 13, December 7, 1948. Bilingual documentary edition, Gwangbok Archive, November 3, 2026.

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Bilingual transcription and translation

The Korean column follows the text reproduced from Official Gazette No. 20 in the National Institute of Korean History’s database. Mixed Korean–Hanja spellings are retained; only line breaks are regularized. The amendment has five textual operations, not five newly numbered statutory articles. [1]

Enacting formula

법률 제13호. 반민족행위처벌법 중 左와 如히 개정한다.	Law No. 13. The Act on Punishment of Anti-National Acts is amended as follows.

01 · ARTICLE 9(4) / NEW PARAGRAPH

제9조 제3항 다음에 좌의 1항을 加한다. 국회는 특별조사위원회의 처리가 본법에 위배한다고 인정할 때에는 불신임을 의결하고 특별조사위원을 再選할 수 있다.	After paragraph 3 of Article 9, insert the following paragraph: Where the National Assembly considers that the Special Investigation Committee’s handling of matters contravenes this Act, it may adopt a resolution of no confidence and re-elect the members of the Special Investigation Committee.

02 · ARTICLE 12(3) / NEW PARAGRAPH

제12조 제2항 다음에 좌의 1항을 加한다. 특별조사위원회와 각 도 조사부는 該 사무의 공정타당을 기하기 위하여 언제든지 국회의원의 요구가 있을 때에는 조사문서를 呈示하여야 한다.	After paragraph 2 of Article 12, insert the following paragraph: To ensure the fairness and propriety of their work, the Special Investigation Committee and the investigation office of each province shall present investigative documents whenever requested to do so by a member of the National Assembly.

03 · ARTICLE 15(2) / NEW PARAGRAPH

제15조 제1항 다음에 좌의 1항을 加한다. 특별조사위원은 조사상 필요에 의하여 사법경찰관리를 지휘 명령할 수 있다.	After paragraph 1 of Article 15, insert the following paragraph: A member of the Special Investigation Committee may direct and issue orders to judicial police personnel where necessary for an investigation.

04 · ARTICLE 26(1) / NEW PROVISO

제26조 제1항에 좌의 단서를 加한다. 단 특별검찰관의 결정이 부정당하다고 인정된 때에는 특별조사위원회는 특별검찰관 전원의 합의에 의한 재고려를 요구할 수 있다.	Add the following proviso to paragraph 1 of Article 26: Provided, however, that where a decision of a special prosecutor is considered improper, the Special Investigation Committee may request reconsideration through the agreement of all the special prosecutors.

05 · ARTICLE 26(2) / WORDING SUBSTITUTION

제26조 제2항 중 “특별조사위원 또는”을 “특별조사위원에게 재조사를 위촉하거나”로 개정한다.	In paragraph 2 of Article 26, replace “a member of the Special Investigation Committee or” with “commission a member of the Special Investigation Committee to conduct a further investigation, or”.

Editorial apparatus

Textual and historical notes

01 Statutory versions. Law No. 13 is an amending enactment. The linked National Law Information Center page also displays the Act as consolidated after amendment, effective 28 December 1948. That consolidated text should not be mistaken for the words of the amendment itself. [1–2]

02 Legislative supervision. The new paragraph in Article 9 gave the National Assembly a power to pass a resolution of no confidence and re-elect committee members if it judged the Committee’s handling of matters to violate the Act. It did not establish an unrestricted power to replace members for any reason. [1]

03 Access to investigative records. The Article 12 insertion required presentation of investigative documents at the request of a National Assembly member. This is a duty owed in the parliamentary setting, not a general right of public access. [1]

04 Investigative personnel. “Judicial police personnel” renders 사법경찰관리. The text enables a member of the Special Investigation Committee to direct such personnel when necessary for an investigation; it does not confer general command over the police. [1]

05 Prosecutorial reconsideration. Article 26(1) allows the Committee to request reconsideration through the agreement of all special prosecutors. The amendment provides a mechanism for requesting review; it does not expressly guarantee that the original decision must be reversed. [1–2]

06 Further investigation versus command. The Article 26(2) substitution replaces the expression

“special committee member or” with wording for commissioning a member to undertake further investigation. In the amended provision this distinguishes the commission of further investigation from the direction of judicial police personnel. [1–2]

07 Dates and textual witness. The Gazette transcription identifies promulgation on 7 December 1948 (Gazette No. 20); the official legal-history record identifies 28 December 1948 as the effective date. The original source uses mixed Korean and Hanja; the legal database also provides a more standardized transcription. [1–2]

08 Subsequent history. Later amendments were made by Law No. 34 (20 July 1949) and Law No. 54 (4 October 1949); Law No. 176 repealed the Act and its amendments on 14 February 1951. These later instruments are not part of this 1948 translation. [2, 4]

Source record

[1] National Institute of Korean History, “법률 제13호, 반민족행위처벌법 중 개정법률” [Law No. 13, Amendment to the Act on Punishment of Anti-National Acts], in 자료대한민국사, vol. 9, transcribing 관보 [Official Gazette], no. 20 (7 December 1948), https://db.history.go.kr/contemp/level.do?levelId=dh_009_1948_12_07_0030.

[2] Republic of Korea, “반민족행위처벌법중개정법률,” Law No. 13 (7 December 1948), effective 28 December 1948, National Law Information Center, amendment-text and legislative-history views, https://www.law.go.kr/LSW/lsInfoP.do?lsiSeq=3399&viewCls=lsRvsDocInfoR.

[3] Republic of Korea, “반민족행위처벌법” [Act on Punishment of Anti-National Acts], Law No. 3 (22 September 1948), original enactment, National Law Information Center, https://www.law.go.kr/LSW/lsInfoP.do?lsiSeq=3398.

[4] National Law Information Center, “반민족행위처벌법,” chronological enactment and amendment texts (Laws Nos. 3, 13, 34, 54, and 176), https://www.law.go.kr/LSW/lsRvsDocListP.do?chrClsCd=010202&lsId=001161&lsRvsGubun=all.

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