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Census Act

인구조사법

Republic of Korea · 27 January 1949

Original Korean source · English translation, Gwangbok Archive

ACT NO. 18 · 27 JANUARY 1949

Source details

Original title
: 인구조사법

Enactment
: Act No. 18, 27 January 1949

Effective date
: 17 February 1949 (twenty days after promulgation)

Issuing authority
: Republic of Korea; promulgated by the President

Extent
: 6 articles and one supplementary note

Textual basis
: Original 1949 enactment as recorded by the National Law Information Center (record effective 17 February 1949); checked against the Korean Wikisource transcription

Subject
: General population censuses, surveys of population movement, and statistical confidentiality

Historical introduction

The Census Act provided the legal basis for counting the population of the new Republic. It set a ten-year cycle of general censuses keyed to 1950, with a simplified census five years after each, but required the first general census to be held in 1949. That census was taken on 1 May 1949, the first conducted by the Republic.

Article 4 limited the use of census data to statistics, and Article 6 punished disclosure by officials, refusal to report, and the spreading of false rumors to obstruct the count.

Text and editorial practice

The Korean text below is the original enactment as recorded by the National Law Information Center (국가법령정보센터), in the hangul-normalized form in which that database presents it, and it was checked character by character against the independent transcription on Korean Wikisource. The English follows the article and paragraph structure of the Korean one to one, without substituting later amended law.

Nothing has been silently corrected. Where the Korean as transmitted contains an evident misprint, a missing word, or an irregular construction, the Korean is left as it stands, the English gives the most probable sense with the printed form in square brackets, and the point is explained in the notes. Square brackets in the English otherwise give transliterations of Korean terms whose institutional meaning does not map neatly onto an English equivalent. Dates in the Tangun era (단기) are kept, with the Common Era year in brackets.

Primary source / facing translation

Original Korean and English Translation

Act No. 18 · 27 January 1949

제1조 본법은 대한민국영역내에서 총인구 및 인구동태에 관한 조사를 행하여 시정의 기본인 자료를 작성 발표함을 목적으로 한다.	ARTICLE 1 The purpose of this Act is to conduct surveys of the total population and of population movements within the territory of the Republic of Korea, and to compile and publish data fundamental to administration.
제2조 총인구조사는 단기 4283년을 기준으로 하여 10년마다 1회식 시행한다. 단, 제1회 총인구조사는 단기 4282년에 행한다. 전항의 규정에 의한 조사를 행한 후 5년마다 1회식 간이총인구조사를 시행한다. 전2항의 규정에 의한 조사이외에 필요한 경우에는 임시로 총인구조사를 시행할 수 있다.	ARTICLE 2 A general population census shall be conducted once every ten years, with Tangi 4283 [1950] as the base year. However, the first general population census shall be conducted in Tangi 4282 [1949]. Once every five years after a census under the preceding paragraph, a simplified general population census shall be conducted. In addition to the censuses under the two preceding paragraphs, a general population census may be conducted on a temporary basis when necessary.
제3조 인구동태조사는 1년을 기간으로 하고 계속하여 시행한다.	ARTICLE 3 Surveys of population movements shall be conducted continuously, on the basis of one-year periods.
제4조 인구조사에 의하여 수집한 자료와 보고는 통계목적이외에 사용치 못한다.	ARTICLE 4 Data and reports collected by population surveys shall not be used for any purpose other than statistics.
제5조 인구조사시행의 기일, 범위, 방법 기타 필요한 사항은 대통령령으로 정한다.	ARTICLE 5 The dates, scope, methods, and other necessary matters for conducting population surveys shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

제6조
본법에 의한 조사에 있어서, 다음 각호에 해당하는 자는 3개월이하의 징역 또는 5만원이하의 벌금에 처한다.
1. 직무집행중 지득한 사항을 이유없이 외부에 누설한 자
2. 조사를 기피하며 신고를 거부하거나 고의로 부정한 신고를 한 자
3. 허위의 풍열을 유포하거나 위계 또는 위력으로 조사를 방해하는 자

ARTICLE 6
In surveys under this Act, a person falling under any of the following items shall be punished by penal servitude of not more than three months or a fine of not more than fifty thousand won:
1. A person who without cause discloses to outsiders matters learned in the performance of duties.
2. A person who evades a survey and refuses to report, or who intentionally makes an improper report.
3. A person who spreads false rumors [printed 풍열, probably for 풍설] or obstructs a survey by deception or by force.

부칙
<법률 제18호, 1949. 1. 27.>
이 법은 공포당시에 부칙을 정하지 아니한 법률로서 헌법의 규정에 의하여 공포한 날로부터 20일 경과후 시행됨.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION
Act No. 18, 27 January 1949
[Editorial note in the National Law Information Center record, not part of the enacted text:] This Act, being a law for which no supplementary provision was laid down at the time of promulgation, entered into force twenty days after the date of its promulgation in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

The English text is a historical translation; it is not an official modern consolidated law.

Editorial apparatus

Notes and Sources

Translation and context notes

1. Population movements (Articles 1 and 3). 인구동태 is rendered “population movements,” meaning births, deaths, marriages, and migration recorded continuously, as opposed to the periodic count of the total population (총인구).

2. Article 6, item 3. The transmitted text reads 허위의 풍열, which is not a meaningful phrase. It is probably a misprint for 풍설 (rumor). The English follows that reading and shows the printed form.

3. The supplementary provision. The sentence printed under 부칙 is an explanatory note in the National Law Information Center record, stating that the Act took effect twenty days after promulgation under the Constitution because it fixed no date. It is not part of the enacted text, and the English labels it as a note.

4. Original and later versions. This edition presents the text as originally enacted. Later amendments have not been inserted, and the English is not a translation of the law currently in force.

5. Source collation. The Korean text was checked against the National Law Information Center record and the Korean Wikisource transcription, which agree. It has not been collated line by line against a photographic copy of the Official Gazette (관보) printing; any variants in the original print should be recorded before a critical facsimile edition is issued.

Primary-source references

Republic of Korea, “인구조사법” [Census Act], Act No. 18, January 27, 1949. National Law Information Center (original enactment). https://www.law.go.kr/lsInfoP.do?lsiSeq＝2860.

인구조사법, full Korean transcription, Korean Wikisource (consulted 19 November 2026; tagged as exempt from copyright under Korean law).

Suggested chicago-style citation

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