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Korean Red Cross Organization Act

대한적십자사조직법

Republic of Korea · 30 April 1949

Original Korean source · English translation, Gwangbok Archive

ACT NO. 25 · 30 APRIL 1949

Source details

Original title
: 대한적십자사조직법

Enactment
: Act No. 25, 30 April 1949

Effective date
: 30 April 1949 (upon promulgation)

Issuing authority
: Republic of Korea; promulgated by the President

Extent
: 4 chapters, 26 articles, and 2 articles of supplementary provisions

Textual basis
: Original 1949 enactment as recorded by the National Law Information Center; checked against the Korean Wikisource transcription

Subject
: Status, functions, emblem, governance, and supervision of the Korean Red Cross

Historical introduction

This Act constituted the Korean Red Cross (대한적십자사) as a juridical person and gave it its functions: wartime medical auxiliary service to the armed forces in the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, disaster relief, hospitals, nursing, and the Junior Red Cross. It protected the Red Cross emblem and name, and set up an elaborate governance structure of an Organizing Committee drawn from the President, the National Assembly, and the provinces, and a Central Committee that included six ministers.

Article 28 abolished the Chosŏn Red Cross organized in March 1947 by order of the American Military Governor and transferred its rights and obligations to the new society. The Act thus records the passage of a humanitarian institution from occupation authority to the Republic.

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. 25 · 30 April 1949

제1장 총칙	CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS
제1조 대한적십자사는 적십자사업을 수행함을 목적으로 한다.	ARTICLE 1 The purpose of the Korean Red Cross [Taehan Chŏksipchasa] is to carry out Red Cross work.
제2조 대한적십자사는 법인이다.	ARTICLE 2 The Korean Red Cross is a juridical person.
제3조 대한적십자사는 그 목적을 달성하기 위하여 좌의 사업을 행한다. 1. 제네바회의의 정신으로서 전시에 자진하여 국군의 의료보조기관이 되어 병상자를 구휼하는 사업 2. 국내수재, 화재, 기근, 악역기타중대한 천재지변이 발생한 때에 그 구제책을 수립하고 피해자를 구휼하는 사업 3. 병원, 진료소등의 의료사업, 간호사업, 응급구호사업, 특지봉사사업 및 소년적십자사업등의 사회사업 또는 교화사업 4. 기타국민의 보건후생향상에 필요한 사업	ARTICLE 3 To achieve its purpose, the Korean Red Cross shall carry out the following work: 1. In the spirit of the Geneva Conventions [Chenebahoeŭi], work in time of war of voluntarily serving as an auxiliary medical body of the national armed forces and relieving the sick and wounded. 2. When floods, fires, famines, pestilences, or other serious natural disasters occur in the country, work of drawing up measures of relief and relieving the victims. 3. Social or educational work, such as medical work in hospitals, clinics, and the like, nursing work, emergency relief work, volunteer service work, and Junior Red Cross work. 4. Other work necessary to improve the health and welfare of the people.
제4조 대한적십자사는 영리사업을 할 수 없다.	ARTICLE 4 The Korean Red Cross may not engage in profit-making business.

제5조
대한적십자사는 적십자사업에 관하여 정부에 건의할 수 있다.
대한적십자사는 정부의 자문에 대하여 답신하여야 한다.

ARTICLE 5
The Korean Red Cross may make proposals to the Government concerning Red Cross work.
The Korean Red Cross shall reply to consultations from the Government.

제6조
대한적십자사는 법인으로서의 당사자 능력, 소송능력, 기타 모든 능력을 보유하는 외에 좌의 권한을 보유한다.
1. 인장의 제정 및 사용
2. 각국적십자사에서 공통히 사용하는 “백색질희랍식적십자”표장의 사용
3. 정부의 승인을 얻어 국내법규에 배치되지 아니하는 세칙 또는 규정의 제정

ARTICLE 6
In addition to holding, as a juridical person, capacity to be a party, capacity to sue, and all other capacities, the Korean Red Cross shall hold the following powers:
1. To establish and use a seal.
2. To use the emblem of the “red Greek cross on a white ground” used in common by the Red Cross societies of all countries.
3. With the approval of the Government, to establish detailed rules or regulations not inconsistent with domestic laws.

제7조
대한적십자사나 그 지시에 의한 대행자 또는 국군의무당국이나 그 지시에 의한 대행자가 아니면 사업용 또는 선전용으로 적십자의 표장을 사용하거나 또는 적십자나 “제네바적십자”등의 문구를 사용 할 수 없다.

ARTICLE 7
No one other than the Korean Red Cross or an agent acting on its instructions, or the medical authorities of the national armed forces or an agent acting on their instructions, may use the Red Cross emblem, or the words “Red Cross,” “Geneva Cross,” or the like, for business or publicity purposes.

제8조
대한적십자사는 본사를 서울시에 두고 중앙위원회의 결의에 의하여 지방에 지사를 둘 수 있다.

ARTICLE 8
The Korean Red Cross shall have its headquarters in the City of Seoul and may, by resolution of the Central Committee, have branches in the provinces.

제9조
대한민국내에 거주하는 자는 성별, 종족, 국적, 종교 또는 정치신념여하를 불문하고 대한적십자사의 사원이 될 수 있다.
사원의 종류는 중앙위원회가 세칙으로 정한다.

ARTICLE 9
Any person residing in the Republic of Korea may become a member of the Korean Red Cross, regardless of sex, race, nationality, religion, or political belief.
The kinds of membership shall be prescribed in detailed rules by the Central Committee.

제10조
대한적십자사의 각종회의는 그 개회정원수를 재적인원의 과반수로 하고 출석인원 3분지2이상의 결의로써 의사를 결정한다.

ARTICLE 10
For all meetings of the Korean Red Cross, the quorum shall be a majority of the enrolled members, and decisions shall be made by a resolution of two thirds or more of those present.

제2장 설립 및 의결기관 CHAPTER II. ESTABLISHMENT AND DECISION-MAKING ORGANS

제11조
대한적십자사는 좌의 조직위원으로 구성된 조직위원회가 설립한다.
1. 대통령이 임명한 위원 8인
2. 국회에서 지명한 위원 12인
3. 서울시 및 각도에서 각4인식선출한 위원 60인

ARTICLE 11
The Korean Red Cross shall be established by an Organizing Committee composed of the following organizing members:
1. Eight members appointed by the President.
2. Twelve members nominated by the National Assembly.
3. Sixty members, four each elected by the City of Seoul and by each province.

제12조
조직위원의 임기는 제13조의 경우를 제한 외에는 5년으로 한다.

ARTICLE 12
The term of office of organizing members shall be five years, except in the cases of Article 13.

제13조
조직위원중대한적십자사의 복리를 위하여 부적당하다고 인정될 때에는 대통령이 임명한 위원인 경우에는 대통령이, 국회에서 지명된 위원인 경우에는 국회가, 서울시 또는 도에서 선출된 위원인 경우에는 당해 서울시장 또는 도지사가 각각 심사하여 이를 제명 또는 해임 할 수 있다.

ARTICLE 13
When an organizing member is considered unsuitable for the welfare of the Korean Red Cross, the President, in the case of a member appointed by the President; the National Assembly, in the case of a member nominated by the National Assembly; or the Mayor of Seoul or Provincial Governor concerned, in the case of a member elected by the City of Seoul or a province, may respectively examine the matter and expel or remove that member.

제14조
조직위원중전조에 의하여 제명이나 해임을 당하거나 또는 사망하였을 때에 대통령이 임명한 위원인 경우에는 대통령이, 국회에서 지명된 위원인 경우에는 국회가 그 후임자를 임명 또는 지명하고, 서울시 또는 도에서 선출된 위원인 경우에는 당해 서울시장 또는 도지사가 그 후임자를 보선한다. 단, 보선인 경우에는 차기조직위원년회에서 확인을 받아야 한다.

ARTICLE 14
When an organizing member has been expelled or removed under the preceding Article, or has died, the President, in the case of a member appointed by the President, or the National Assembly, in the case of a member nominated by the National Assembly, shall appoint or nominate a successor; and in the case of a member elected by the City of Seoul or a province, the Mayor of Seoul or Provincial Governor concerned shall fill the vacancy by election. However, a by-election shall be confirmed at the next annual meeting of the Organizing Committee.

제15조
대한적십자사의 운영에 관한 최고의결기관으로서 중앙위원회를 둔다.
중앙위원회는 좌의 위원으로써 구성한다.
1. 조직위원회에서 선출된 위원 6인
2. 지사대표자회에서 선출된 위원 6인
3. 대통령이 임명하는 내무부, 재무부, 국방부, 법무부, 문교부 및 사회부장관의 직에 있는 위원 6인

ARTICLE 15
A Central Committee shall be established as the supreme decision-making organ for the operation of the Korean Red Cross.
The Central Committee shall be composed of the following members:
1. Six members elected by the Organizing Committee.
2. Six members elected by the Conference of Branch Representatives.
3. Six members appointed by the President who hold office as Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Finance, Minister of National Defense, Minister of Justice, Minister of Education, and Minister of Social Affairs.

제16조
조직위원회 및 지사대표자회에서 선출된 중앙위원의 임기는 제1차년회에서 각각 2인식 1년, 2년, 3년으로 추첨에 의하여 결정하며 차후에 취임한 당해위원의 임기는 3년으로 하고 대통령이 임명한 중앙위원의 임기는 당해국무위원재임기간으로 한다. 중앙위원은 재선 될 수 있으며 임기도중결원으로 인하여 보선된 위원은 전임자의 잔임기간 재임한다.

ARTICLE 16
The terms of office of the Central Committee members elected by the Organizing Committee and by the Conference of Branch Representatives shall be decided by lot at the first annual meeting, two each for one, two, and three years; the term of office of members taking office thereafter shall be three years; and the term of office of Central Committee members appointed by the President shall be the period during which they hold office as members of the State Council. Central Committee members may be re-elected, and a member elected to fill a vacancy arising during a term shall serve for the remainder of the predecessor’s term.

제17조
조직위원회 및 지사대표자회에서 선출된 중앙위원중사임사망 또는 기타 이유로 결원이 생겼을 때에는 그 선출한 조직위원회 또는 지사대표자회의에서 그 후임자를 보선하고 대통령이 임명한 중앙위원중결원이 생겼을 때에는 대통령이 그 후임자를 임명한다.

ARTICLE 17
When a vacancy arises among the Central Committee members elected by the Organizing Committee or the Conference of Branch Representatives through resignation, death, or another reason, the Organizing Committee or Conference of Branch Representatives that elected the member shall fill it by election; when a vacancy arises among the Central Committee members appointed by the President, the President shall appoint a successor.

제18조
조직위원회와 지사대표자회는 제16조제1항 전단에 규정한 중앙위원을 선출하기 위하여 본법시행후 1일이내에 제1차년회를 개최하고 그 후 매년회에서 임기만료위원의 후임자를 선출하여야 한다.

ARTICLE 18
To elect the Central Committee members prescribed in the first part of Article 16, paragraph 1, the Organizing Committee and the Conference of Branch Representatives shall hold their first annual meeting within one day [as printed: 1일이내] after this Act enters into force, and shall thereafter, at each annual meeting, elect successors to the members whose terms have expired.

제3장 집행기관

CHAPTER III. EXECUTIVE ORGANS

제19조
대한민국대통령은 대한적십자사의 명예총재로, 국무총리는 명예부총재로 추대한다.

ARTICLE 19
The President of the Republic of Korea shall be invited to serve as Honorary President of the Korean Red Cross, and the Prime Minister as Honorary Vice-President.

제20조
대한적십자사총재는 중앙위원회에서 선출하고 대통령의 인준을 받아야 한다.
총재의 임기는 3년으로 하되 재선 될 수 있다.
총재는 사무를 통리하며 중앙위원회와 동회에서 설정하는 각위원회의 의장이 된다.

ARTICLE 20
The President [ch'ongjae] of the Korean Red Cross shall be elected by the Central Committee and shall receive the approval of the President of the Republic.
The term of office of the President of the Society shall be three years, and he may be re-elected.
The President of the Society shall direct its affairs and shall chair the Central Committee and the committees established by it.

제21조
중앙위원회는 좌의 각임원을 선임한다.
1. 부총재 2인
2. 비서장 1인
3. 재정감독 1인
4. 법률고문 1인
각임원은 1연간 복무하며 임기만료후재 선임될 수 있다.

ARTICLE 21
The Central Committee shall appoint the following officers:
1. Two Vice-Presidents.
2. One Secretary.
3. One Financial Supervisor.
4. One Legal Adviser.
Each officer shall serve for one year and may be reappointed after the term expires.

제22조
중앙위원회는 집행위원 7인을 선출한다.
집행위원은 집행위원회를 구성한다.
집행위원회는 중앙위원회의 회기가 아닌 경우에 있어서의 동위원회의 일체권한을 대행한다.

ARTICLE 22
The Central Committee shall elect seven executive members.
The executive members shall constitute the Executive Committee.
The Executive Committee shall exercise all the powers of the Central Committee when the Central Committee is not in session.

제23조
대한적십자사의 사무를 집행하기 위하여 사무국을 두고 사무국에 사무총장을 둔다. 사무국에 관한 직제는 세칙으로 정한다.

ARTICLE 23
To carry out the affairs of the Korean Red Cross, a Secretariat shall be established, headed by a Secretary-General. The organization of the Secretariat shall be prescribed in detailed rules.

제4장 감독과 벌칙	CHAPTER IV. SUPERVISION AND PENAL PROVISIONS

제24조 정부는 대한적십자사의 감독상 필요한 명령을 발하며 또는 처분을 할 수 있다.	ARTICLE 24 The Government may issue orders or make dispositions necessary for the supervision of the Korean Red Cross.

제25조 중앙위원회는 매년 4월 1일 직후 3월 31일로써 완료된 전회계연도중의 재정에 관한 수지계산보고서를 정부에 사업보고를 해당 각부에 제출하여 검사받은후 그 사본을 대통령 및 국회에 제출하여야 한다.	ARTICLE 25 Immediately after 1 April each year, the Central Committee shall submit a statement of receipts and expenditures concerning the finances of the previous fiscal year ending on 31 March to the Government, and a report on its work to the ministries concerned, and after examination shall submit copies to the President and the National Assembly. [The Korean sentence is irregular in construction; the translation follows its most probable sense.]

제26조 본법 제7조의 규정에 위반한 자는 10만원이하의 벌금에 처한다.	ARTICLE 26 A person who violates Article 7 of this Act shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred thousand won.

부칙 <법률 제25호, 1949. 4. 30.>	SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS Act No. 25, 30 April 1949

제27조 본법은 공포한 날로부터 실시한다.	ARTICLE 27 This Act shall be put into effect [silsi] from the date of its promulgation.

제28조 단기4280년 3월 15일 부미군정장관의 명령에 의하여 조직된 조선적십자사는 폐지하고 이에 속하였든 일체의 권리와 의무는 대한적십자사가 이를 계승한다.	ARTICLE 28 The Chosŏn Red Cross [Chosŏn Chŏksipchasa], organized by order of the United States Military Governor on 15 March of Tangi 4280 [1947], is hereby abolished, and the Korean Red Cross shall succeed to all the rights and obligations that belonged to it.

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. Names. 대한적십자사 is rendered “Korean Red Cross” and 조선적십자사 (Article 28) “Chosŏn Red Cross,” to keep the change of name visible.

2. Geneva (Article 3). 제네바회의 literally means “the Geneva conference(s)”; in context it refers to the Geneva Conventions. The emblem in Article 6 is described as 백색질희랍식적십자, a red Greek cross on a white ground.

3. Article 18. The text requires the first annual meetings within 1일이내 (“within one day”) of the Act’s entry into force, which seems impractical. It may be a misprint, but no other reading is attested in the sources consulted, so it is translated as transmitted.

4. Article 25. The sentence is irregular in construction; the clause naming the business report runs into the clause on financial accounts. The English gives the most probable sense and says so.

5. Article 27. The Act uses 실시 (“put into effect”) rather than the usual 시행. The English keeps the difference.

6. Officers (Article 21). 비서장 is rendered “Secretary,” distinct from the 사무총장 (“Secretary-General”) who heads the Secretariat in Article 23.

7. 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.

8. 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, “대한적십자사조직법” [Korean Red Cross Organization Act], Act No. 25, April 30, 1949. National Law Information Center (original enactment). https://www.law.go.kr/lsInfoP.do?lsiSeq=59880.

대한적십자사조직법, 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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