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Temporary Postal Control Act

임시우편단속법

Republic of Korea · 1 December 1948

Original Korean source · English translation, Gwangbok Archive

ACT NO. 11 · 1 DECEMBER 1948

Source details

Original title
: 임시우편단속법

Enactment
: Act No. 11, 1 December 1948

Effective date
: 1 December 1948 (upon promulgation)

Issuing authority
: Republic of Korea; promulgated by the President

Extent
: 7 articles and 2 articles of supplementary provisions

Textual basis
: Original 1948 enactment as recorded by the National Law Information Center; checked against the Korean Wikisource transcription

Subject
: Presidential powers to prohibit, restrict, inspect, and seize mail on grounds of national defense or public order

Historical introduction

The Temporary Postal Control Act was promulgated on 1 December 1948, the same day as the National Security Act (Act No. 10), in the weeks after the Yŏsu–Sunch'ŏn rebellion of October 1948. It allowed the President to prohibit or restrict the sending of mail and to have officials inspect it whenever he considered that there was a risk of harm to national defense or public order, and it allowed the Minister of Communications to stop or seize suspect items.

The Act is short, but it states plainly the reach of wartime-style controls over correspondence in the first year of the Republic. Article 7 at the same time protected the secrecy of letters against disclosure by the officials who handled them.

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. 11 · 1 December 1948

제1조 우편단속에 관하여는 따로 규정이 있는 것 외에는 본법에 의한다.	ARTICLE 1 Except where otherwise specially provided, postal control shall be governed by this Act.
제2조 대통령은 국방상 또는 치안상 위해를 미칠 염려가 있다고 인정할 때에는 국내, 국외에 전달되는 우편물의 발송을 금지 또는 제한할 수 있다.	ARTICLE 2 When the President considers that there is a risk of harm to national defense or public order, he may prohibit or restrict the dispatch of postal items transmitted within the country or abroad.
제3조 대통령은 국방상 또는 치안상 위해를 미칠 염려가 있다고 인정할 때에는 당해공무원으로 하여금 우편물을 검열하게 할 수 있다.	ARTICLE 3 When the President considers that there is a risk of harm to national defense or public order, he may have the competent public officials inspect [censor] postal items.
제4조 체신부장관은 우편물발송인 또는 수취인으로 하여금 본법에 의한 단속상 필요한 증명, 해석, 기재 기타의 행위를 시킬 수 있다.	ARTICLE 4 The Minister of Communications may require senders or addressees of postal items to provide certification, explanations, written statements, or other acts necessary for control under this Act.

제5조 체신부장관은 좌에 해당하는 우편물의 송달을 정지하거나 또는 이를 압수할 수 있다. 1. 제2조의 규정에 의한 금지 또는 제한에 위반한 우편물 2. 검열한 우편물중 국방상 또는 치안상 위해를 미칠 염려가 있다고 인정되는 것 또는 기재내용이 명백치 않은 것	ARTICLE 5 The Minister of Communications may suspend the delivery of, or seize, postal items falling under the following: 1. Postal items in violation of a prohibition or restriction under Article 2. 2. Inspected postal items that are considered to risk harm to national defense or public order, or whose contents are not clear.
제6조 제2조의 규정에 의한 금지 또는 제한에 위반한 자 또는 제4조의 규정에 위반하고 허위의 신고를 한 자는 만원이상의 벌금에 처한다.	ARTICLE 6 A person who violates a prohibition or restriction under Article 2, or who, in violation of Article 4, makes a false report, shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten thousand won [as printed: 만원이상].
제7조 본법에 의한 우편단속사무에 종사하는 자 또는 종사한 자가 그 직무집행에 관련하여 지득한 서신의 비밀을 누설한 때에는 2년이하의 징역 또는 2만원이하의 벌금에 처한다.	ARTICLE 7 A person who is or has been engaged in postal-control work under this Act and who discloses the secrecy of correspondence learned in connection with the performance of those duties shall be punished by penal servitude of not more than two years or a fine of not more than twenty thousand won.
부칙 ＜법률 제11호, 1948. 12. 1.＞	SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS Act No. 11, 1 December 1948
제8조 이 법은 공포한 날로부터 시행한다.	ARTICLE 8 This Act shall enter into force on the date of its promulgation.
제9조 이 법의 세칙은 대통령령으로 한다.	ARTICLE 9 Detailed rules for this Act shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

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. Inspection or censorship (Article 3). 검열 is rendered “inspect,” with “censor” in brackets. The

same word is used for the censorship of films in Primary 26, item 118.

2. Article 6. The penalty reads 만원이상의 벌금 (“a fine of not less than ten thousand won”), which sets a minimum and no maximum. Article 7 sets a maximum (“이하”). The difference may be a transmission error, but it is translated as transmitted and marked.

3. Arrangement of the supplementary provisions. In the transmitted text the heading 부칙 is followed by Articles 8 and 9, continuing the article numbering of the main text. The edition keeps that arrangement.

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, “임시우편단속법” [Temporary Postal Control Act], Act No. 11, December 1, 1948. National Law Information Center (original enactment). https://www.law.go.kr/lsInfoP.do?lsiSeq＝55259.

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

Suggested chicago-style citation

Republic of Korea. “임시우편단속법” [Temporary Postal Control Act]. Act No. 11, December 1, 1948. English translation by Gwangbok Archive, 2026.

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