

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Anti-Corruption Law

Adopted by Decree No. 2 of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly on April 14, Juche 108 (2019), amended by Decree No. 351 on July 7, Juche 109 (2020)

Chapter 1: Basics of the Anti-Corruption Law

Article 1 (Mission of the Anti-Corruption Law)

The Anti-Corruption Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea contributes to establishing strict systems and order to prevent corruption, thereby establishing a healthy national ethos and protecting the rights and interests of the people.

Article 2 (Definition of Corruption)

Corruption refers to any act by officials of institutions, enterprises, and organizations who abuse the authority granted by the state to infringe upon the will and demands of the masses and national interests, pursuing personal gain.

Article 3 (Principles of Preventing Corruption)

Corruption is a poison that destroys the unity, the foundation of our style of socialism, and undermines socialism from within. The state establishes strict systems and order in all sectors and units, strengthens legal education, control, and legal struggle to prevent corruption.

Article 4 (Principles of Investigation and Handling of Corruption)

Strict investigation and handling of those who commit corruption according to legal requirements is an important method to establish national discipline and prevent the recurrence of corruption. The state strictly investigates anyone who commits corruption, regardless of who they are, and imposes legal sanctions according to the severity of the act.

Article 5 (Principles of Mass Struggle Against Corruption)

The struggle against corruption is a serious political issue related to the existence of the socialist system. The state encourages all institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens to actively participate in the struggle to eradicate corruption.

Article 6 (Scope of Application)

This law applies to officials above the deputy level in party and government institutions, administrative, economic, and labor organizations, judicial and prosecution, social safety, and security agencies, as well as factory managers, enterprise managers, and cooperative farm team leaders. This law also applies to officials who committed corruption and were dismissed or received retirement benefits without legal accountability.

Chapter 2: Forms of Corruption

Article 7 (Acts of Arbitrary Decision-Making and Abuse of Power)

Officials must not handle public affairs of institutions, enterprises, and organizations arbitrarily, violating established management norms and consensus order. If serious consequences arise from failing to adhere to consensus order while preparing to reflect important issues related to the sector or unit's work in national policy, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 8 (Acts of False Reporting of Work Performance)

Officials must not falsely report individual or institutional work performance for selfish or institutional purposes. If serious consequences arise from such acts affecting national or other institutional work, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 9 (Acts of Unjust Appointment and Commendation)

Officials must not unjustly appoint or commend individuals who do not meet the standards based on personal relationships or favoritism, violating established principles and order. If money or goods are received while committing such acts, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 10 (Acts of Unjust Dismissal of Officials or Employees)

Officials must not unjustly dismiss subordinates or employees without legitimate reasons. If such acts are committed to conceal their own illegal activities or faults, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 11 (Acts of Receiving Bribes, Illegal Hospitality, and Services)

Officials must not receive money, goods, meals, or convenience services for free or at reduced prices from target institutions, enterprises, and organizations while conducting public duties such as guidance and inspection. If officials demand or hint at such acts, or exaggerate, ignore, or weaken submitted materials, causing significant property loss or controversy, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 12 (Acts of Unjust Approval and Processing of Permits and Procedures)

Officials must not unjustly delay or arbitrarily process various permits such as construction permits, business permits, import/export permits, housing permits, and various procedures such as resident registration and residence procedures. If money or goods are received while committing such acts, or if national or relevant sector work is hindered, or if inconvenience and suffering are caused to the people, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 13 (Acts of Omitting and Illegally Disposing of Production and Income)

Officials must not omit various products, sales proceeds, service fees, commissions, and other income generated during the production and management activities of institutions, enterprises, and organizations from established financial and material management statistics and arbitrarily dispose of them under various pretexts. If goods or funds are embezzled or provided as bribes or gifts, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 14 (Acts of Arbitrarily Disposing of Support Materials)

Officials must not arbitrarily dispose of support funds and materials provided by institutions, enterprises, organizations, individuals, or donations and cooperation materials sent by other countries or international organizations, violating established financial and material management order. If goods or funds are embezzled or provided as bribes or gifts under their own name, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 15 (Acts of Encouraging Illegal Business Activities)

Officials must not allow individuals to illegally use state land and buildings, conduct production, transportation, or service activities under the name of institutions, enterprises, and organizations, or engage in money-making activities under the guise of institutions, enterprises, and organizations, or accept entrance fees. If money or goods are received while committing such acts, or if income is embezzled, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 16 (Acts of Violating Housing Allocation Order)

Officials must not unfairly allocate state-built housing or housing constructed with the funds of institutions, enterprises, and organizations based on personal relationships or favoritism. If bribes are received while committing such acts, or if officials repeatedly allocate housing for personal use or allow family and relatives to use it, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 17 (Acts of Violating the Use Order of Official and Business Vehicles)

Officials must not use official and business vehicles for private purposes or illegally purchase and use vehicles without proper authorization. If such acts are committed for

criminal or illegal activities, or if officials or their family and relatives use the vehicles as personal property, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 18 (Acts of Arbitrarily Assigning Social Tasks or Material Burdens)

Officials must not arbitrarily assign social tasks or material burdens to subordinate institutions, enterprises, organizations, or their employees under various pretexts. If social tasks are arbitrarily assigned to the science, education, and health sectors, or if material burdens are imposed on students and hospitalized patients, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 19 (Acts of Unjustly Recommending and Admitting to Higher Schools, Selecting Departments and Majors, and Assigning Graduates)

Officials must not unjustly recommend and admit individuals to higher schools, select departments and majors, raise grades, or assign graduates based on personal relationships or favoritism, violating established procedures. If money or goods are received while committing such acts, or if excellent candidates are excluded, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 20 (Acts of Violating Athlete Selection Criteria)

Officials must not violate established athlete selection criteria by selecting less skilled athletes for important sports teams or allowing them to participate in major international and domestic competitions. If money or goods are received while committing such acts, or if excellent athletes are excluded, resulting in poor competition performance, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 21 (Acts of Disregarding Human Dignity)

Officials must not insult people with abusive language or falsely accuse them in public. If such acts are committed along with assault, expulsion from meeting places, or actions that severely damage dignity, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 22 (Acts of Indulgence and Immorality)

Officials must not engage in excessive drinking and eating, drink alcohol during working hours, divorce without legitimate reasons, establish immoral relationships with other women, or engage in obscene speech or behavior. If officials organize collective drinking and eating, force sexual relations on subordinate women, or engage in de facto marital relationships, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 23 (Acts of Abusing Legal Authority)

Legal officials must not abuse their authority by ignoring reports or petitions, exaggerating, fabricating, or weakening cases, or violating human rights. If money or goods are received while committing such acts, or if such acts are committed to conceal their own illegal activities or faults, or if serious consequences arise from such acts, heavier penalties are imposed.

Article 24 (Acts Violating State Laws and Common Living Norms)

Officials must not engage in any acts that violate state laws, regulations, and common living norms.

Chapter 3: Obligations to Prevent Corruption

Article 25 (Drafting Business Order and Behavioral Norms to Prevent Corruption)

Ministries, central agencies, and relevant institutions must draft specific business orders and behavioral norms to prevent corruption according to this law and the characteristics of their sectors and units, and issue them to subordinate institutions, enterprises, and organizations, regularly understanding and addressing their implementation status.

Article 26 (Duties of Inspection and Supervision Agencies)

State inspection agencies and relevant institutions must strictly investigate and legally handle corruption discovered during inspection and supervision activities within the scope of their authority. If the scope and content of the investigation related to reported corruption do not match the duties and authority of the relevant inspection and supervision agencies, the relevant materials must be promptly transferred to the competent authorities.

Article 27 (Duties of Legal Institutions)

Prosecutors and social safety agencies must thoroughly investigate and strictly handle signs of corruption discovered during the enforcement of the Prosecutor's Supervision Law and Social Safety Control Law, or reported cases, until the root cause is revealed. The jurisdiction for investigation and handling of corruption by prosecutors and social safety agencies is governed by relevant laws.

Article 28 (Duties of Institutions, Enterprises, and Organizations)

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations must establish a proper business system and order, and ensure that all officials strictly adhere to management and behavioral norms. If corruption appears among officials, it must be promptly reported to the relevant superior institution, and illegal matters must be handed over to the relevant legal institution for investigation and handling.

Article 29 (Duties of Citizens)

All citizens must actively participate in the struggle against corruption with high civic awareness and cooperate with relevant institutions in their investigation efforts to uncover corruption.

Chapter 4: Reporting, Investigation, Handling, and Processing of Corruption

Article 30 (Duty to Report)

Institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens must promptly report any obtained or witnessed evidence of corruption-related crimes and illegal activities to the relevant people's government institutions, prosecutors, courts, social safety, and security agencies.

Article 31 (Mandatory Acceptance and Processing of Reports)

Institutions receiving reports of corruption-related crimes and illegal activities must mandatorily accept and process them according to established procedures. The order for accepting and processing reports is governed by the Criminal Procedure Law, Prosecutor's Supervision Law, Social Safety Control Law, and other relevant laws.

Article 32 (Investigation, Handling, and Processing of Corruption-Related Crimes and Illegal Activities)

The investigation, handling, and processing of corruption-related crimes and illegal activities are conducted by the Socialist Legal Life Guidance Committees at all levels, the Cabinet, prosecutors, courts, social safety, and security agencies according to the procedures regulated by the Criminal Procedure Law, Administrative Punishment Law, Prosecutor's Supervision Law, and Social Safety Control Law.

Article 33 (Confiscation and Recovery of Property Obtained Through Corruption)

The Socialist Legal Life Guidance Committees at all levels, the Cabinet, and relevant legal institutions must confiscate or recover money, goods, housing, and other property obtained through corruption.

Article 34 (Compensation for State and Personal Losses Caused by Corruption)

The Socialist Legal Life Guidance Committees at all levels, the Cabinet, and relevant legal institutions must handle compensation issues for state and personal losses caused by corruption.