

# **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

## **Telecommunications Law**

Adopted by Decree No. 2037 of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly on  
December 14, Juche 100 (2011)

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Assembly on August 23, Juche 111 (2022)

### **Chapter 1: Fundamentals of the Telecommunications Law**

#### **Article 1 (Purpose of the Telecommunications Law)**

The Telecommunications Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea contributes to properly ensuring state command communications, production command communications for the people's economy, and communications for the convenience of people's lives by establishing strict systems and order in the construction and management of telecommunications facilities and the provision and use of telecommunications.

#### **Article 2 (Definition of Terms)**

The definitions of terms in this law are as follows:

1. Telecommunications refers to the transmission, reception, and transfer of various data such as text, voice, and images by electrical means.
2. Telecommunications network refers to a network consisting of telecommunications means and systems for receiving and transmitting information.
3. Telecommunications facilities refer to devices or lines used for telecommunications.
4. Telecommunications subscribers refer to institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens who use telecommunications through the telecommunications network.

#### **Article 3 (Principles of Telecommunications Development)**

The continuous development of telecommunications is an essential requirement for building a socialist powerful nation. The state increases investment in the telecommunications sector to modernize telecommunications facilities, continuously improve telecommunications capabilities, and ensure their regular and scientific operation.

#### **Article 4 (Principles of Construction and Management of Telecommunications Facilities)**

The state constructs telecommunications facilities with a long-term perspective and in a planned manner, manages them scientifically, and ensures that institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens participate responsibly in the protection of telecommunications facilities.

#### **Article 5 (Principles of Telecommunications Provision and Use)**

The state ensures that the requirements of promptness, accuracy, safety, service quality, cultural standards, and confidentiality are strictly observed in the provision and use of telecommunications.

#### **Article 6 (Principles of Scientific Research and Technical Personnel Training in Telecommunications)**

The state strengthens scientific research for the modernization of telecommunications, actively adopts achievements of modern science and technology, and trains more technical personnel needed for the telecommunications sector.

#### **Article 7 (Exchange and Cooperation in Telecommunications)**

The state develops exchange and cooperation with other countries and international organizations in the field of telecommunications.

#### **Article 8 (Scope of Application)**

This law applies to institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens that construct and manage telecommunications facilities or provide and use telecommunications.

### **Chapter 2: Construction and Management of Telecommunications Facilities**

#### **Article 9 (Formulation of Telecommunications Facility Construction Plans)**

The state planning agency formulates telecommunications facility construction plans. The state planning agency shall accurately formulate and timely distribute telecommunications facility construction plans by calculating the prospective demand for telecommunications.

#### **Article 10 (Design of Telecommunications Facility Construction)**

The communications design agency designs telecommunications facility construction. The communications design agency shall design telecommunications facilities by accurately calculating the construction target and scale.

#### **Article 11 (Responsibility for Telecommunications Facility Construction)**

Communications agencies and enterprises are responsible for telecommunications facility construction. If separate internal telecommunications facilities are to be installed, the relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations may construct them with the agreement of the communications agency.

#### **Article 12 (Construction of Telecommunications Facilities Based on Design)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations constructing telecommunications facilities must strictly adhere to the requirements of design and technical regulations. Telecommunications facilities cannot be constructed with unapproved designs.

#### **Article 13 (Construction of Telecommunications Infrastructure)**

Relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall, when constructing roads, public buildings, residential buildings, etc., include telecommunications infrastructure in the design in consultation with the communications agency and construct it with quality.

#### **Article 14 (Technical Inspection)**

When telecommunications facility construction is completed, a technical inspection shall be conducted. The technical inspection shall be conducted by the communications agency and the relevant institution. Telecommunications facilities that do not pass the technical inspection cannot be used.

#### **Article 15 (Responsibility for Telecommunications Facility Management)**

Communications agencies and enterprises are responsible for the management of telecommunications facilities. However, internal telecommunications facilities that are separately installed shall be managed by the relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations.

#### **Article 16 (Inspection of Telecommunications Facilities)**

Communications agencies, enterprises, and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall regularly inspect telecommunications facilities and promptly eliminate any deficiencies.

#### **Article 17 (Maintenance of Telecommunications Facilities)**

Communications agencies, enterprises, and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall establish telecommunications facility maintenance plans and periodically maintain and repair them. In case telecommunications facilities are damaged due to natural disasters or other circumstances, they shall be restored promptly.

#### **Article 18 (Telecommunications Facility Protection Zone)**

Protection zones are designated to protect telecommunications facilities. The Cabinet is responsible for designating protection zones.

#### **Article 19 (Order in Telecommunications Facility Protection Zones)**

Institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens must strictly observe the established order in telecommunications facility protection zones. The central communications guidance agency is responsible for determining the order in telecommunications facility protection zones.

#### **Article 20 (Prohibition of Entry to Telecommunications Equipment Rooms)**

Personnel other than staff members cannot enter telecommunications equipment rooms. If it is necessary to allow personnel other than staff members to enter, approval from the head of the institution must be obtained.

#### **Article 21 (Ensuring Conditions for Telecommunications Facility Management)**

Relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall adequately ensure the working conditions of communications agencies and enterprises for the management of telecommunications facilities.

### **Chapter 3: Provision and Use of Telecommunications**

#### **Article 22 (Prompt, Accurate, and Secure Provision of Telecommunications)**

Ensuring the promptness, accuracy, and security of telecommunications is the basic duty of communications agencies and enterprises. Communications agencies and enterprises shall thoroughly establish safety measures in advance to ensure that communications are maintained without interruption even in cases of natural disasters such as forest fires or floods.

#### **Article 23 (Formulation of Telecommunications Plans)**

The central communications guidance agency and relevant institutions shall formulate and implement current and prospective plans to increase telecommunications capacity in accordance with the growing demand for telecommunications.

#### **Article 24 (Ensuring Telecommunications Demand and Quality)**

Communications agencies and enterprises shall ensure telecommunications demand and quality by modernizing telecommunications facilities and actively adopting advanced communication methods and various information services.

#### **Article 25 (Various Services through Telecommunications Networks)**

Communications agencies and enterprises can provide various information services such as electronic mail services, domain name services, science and technology dissemination, distance education, telemedicine services, video conferences, and telephone conferences through telecommunications networks. Important information services such as electronic mail services and domain name services shall be determined by the central communications guidance agency.

#### **Article 26 (Application for Telecommunications Use)**

Institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens wishing to use telecommunications shall submit an application form for use according to the type of communication to the communications agency. Procedures related to telecommunications use applications shall be determined by the central communications guidance agency.

#### **Article 27 (Review of Telecommunications Use Applications)**

The communications agency that receives a telecommunications use application shall accurately review it and approve or reject it. The review results shall be promptly communicated to the applying institution, enterprise, organization, or citizen.

#### **Article 28 (Change of Name)**

If institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens wish to change the name or workplace position of a telecommunications subscriber, they shall submit a name change application form to the communications agency, and if the address has changed, they shall submit an address change application form to the communications agency for approval.

#### **Article 29 (Ensuring Telecommunications Use Conditions)**

The communications agency shall ensure conditions for telecommunications use within one month for institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens whose telecommunications use has been approved.

#### **Article 30 (Management of Telecommunications Subscriber Data)**

Communications agencies and enterprises shall accurately register telecommunications subscriber data and manage it in accordance with regulations. Registered telecommunications subscriber data cannot be accessed without approval.

#### **Article 31 (Compliance with Telecommunications Use Order)**

Institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens must strictly observe the established telecommunications use order. Acts such as disclosing secrets during the use of

telecommunications, inputting unhealthy materials into telecommunications means, or using telecommunications means that have become unusable are prohibited.

#### **Article 32 (Prohibition of Illegal Import and Trading of Telecommunications Facilities or Means)**

Relevant institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens shall not import telecommunications facilities or means from other countries or engage in buying and selling them without approval.

#### **Article 33 (Registration of Telecommunications Means)**

Institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens shall register and use telecommunications means as prescribed. Communications agencies, enterprises, and relevant institutions shall not illegally register telecommunications means.

#### **Article 34 (Telecommunications Fees)**

Institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens using telecommunications shall pay the corresponding fees. The central price-setting agency is responsible for determining telecommunications fees.

### **Chapter 4: Guidance and Control of Telecommunications Business**

#### **Article 35 (Guidance of Telecommunications Business)**

The central communications guidance agency provides guidance for telecommunications business. The central communications guidance agency shall regularly monitor and guide the work of the telecommunications sector.

#### **Article 36 (Ensuring Conditions for the Telecommunications Sector)**

The state planning agency and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall adequately provide necessary labor, equipment, materials, funds, etc., for the telecommunications sector.

#### **Article 37 (Supervision and Control of Telecommunications Business)**

The central communications guidance agency and relevant supervisory agencies are responsible for the supervision and control of telecommunications business. The central communications guidance agency and relevant supervisory agencies shall strictly supervise and control the implementation status of the state's telecommunications policy.

#### **Article 38 (Warning, Severe Warning, Unpaid Labor, Labor Reeducation, Demotion, Dismissal, Removal Penalties)**

In the following cases, responsible persons shall be subject to warning, severe warning, or up to 3 months of unpaid labor or labor reeducation:

1. When telecommunications business is hindered by violating the telecommunications facility construction order
2. When telecommunications infrastructure was not constructed or was improperly constructed during the construction of roads, public buildings, residential buildings, etc.
3. When telecommunications provision is hindered due to improper maintenance and repair of telecommunications facilities
4. When telecommunications business is hindered by violating the telecommunications use order
5. When conditions for telecommunications use are not adequately provided
6. When telecommunications facilities or means are damaged
7. When telecommunications means are illegally imported from other countries or bought and sold
8. When telecommunications means are illegally registered

If the acts in the preceding paragraph are committed multiple times or if the acts in the preceding paragraph cause property damage equivalent to more than approximately 20,000 won, penalties of more than 3 months of unpaid labor, labor reeducation, or demotion, dismissal, or removal shall be imposed.

### **Article 39 (Criminal Responsibility)**

If a violation of this law constitutes a crime, criminal responsibility shall be imposed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Criminal Law.