South Korea's AI Basic Act — Asia's First Comprehensive AI Statute, in Force Since January 2026 With Fines Deferred for a Grace Year

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · South Korea

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Korea's AI Basic Act took effect on 22 January 2026: notice and labelling duties for generative and high-impact AI, risk plans and human oversight, fines capped at KRW 30M but deferred during a grace year of at least one year.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-15

Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) — accessed 2026-11-15

US Commercial Service — South Korea AI Basic Act — accessed 2026-11-15

Cooley — South Korea's AI Basic Act: overview and key takeaways — accessed 2026-11-15

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