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[May 2026]

KIPEC : Legislative Updates from The National Assembly of Korea Key Legislative Passed in May



Special Act on the Promotion of the Artificial Intelligence Data Center Industry

The AI Framework Act, enacted in January 2025, established the basic principles for AI governance and industrial development. However, concerns have been raised that it provides limited legal authority to support the infrastructure needed for the continued growth of the AI industry.

To address this gap, the Special Act on the Promotion of the Artificial Intelligence Data Center Industry seeks to support the construction and operation of AI data centers through administrative and financial assistance, while also introducing special measures to streamline permitting procedures.

Under the bill, the national and local governments may support the installation of electricity, water, and telecommunications infrastructure, road construction, the purchase of computing equipment, financing and subsidies, operational expenses, and workforce development programs.

The bill also includes provisions to facilitate a stable electricity supply for AI data centers. Renewable energy suppliers may directly provide electricity to AI data center operators without going through the wholesale electricity market, helping simplify energy procurement and support the expansion of AI infrastructure.

Special Act on Support for Special Cities

The bill aims to promote regional development by establishing support measures and special provisions for Special Cities, allowing them to pursue policies tailored to their local conditions and development needs.

The Special City designation was introduced through amendments to the Local Autonomy Act to strengthen local self-governance in cities with populations exceeding one million, excluding Seoul, metropolitan cities, and special self-governing cities. Currently, five cities—Suwon, Yongin, Goyang, Hwaseong, and Changwon—are designated as Special Cities.

Under the bill, the national government and provincial governments are required to support the development of Special Cities and enhance their regional competitiveness through legislative and administrative measures, including the continuous

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National Assembly Highlights (May 2026)



May 7

The National Assembly passed 117 bills during a plenary session, including the AI Data Center Promotion Act, the Special Cities Support Act, and the Framework Act on Life and Safety.

May 13

- Rep. Cho Jung-sik (Democratic Party) was selected as the party's nominee for Speaker of the National Assembly.
- Rep. Nam In-soon (Democratic Party) and Rep. Park Deok-heum (People Power Party) were elected as nominees for Deputy Speaker.

May 14

Candidate registration for the June 3 local elections took place on May 14-15. Official campaigning began on May 21.

May 19

The ruling and opposition parties agreed to elect the Speaker and Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly and to convene a plenary session on June 5.

May 27

The National Assembly held a ceremony commemorating the 78th anniversary of its founding.

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