

Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs (Act No. 42 of 1999)

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 General Provisions (Article 1, Article 2)

Chapter 2 Disclosure of Administrative Documents (Article 3 - Article 17)

Chapter 3 Appeals, Etc.

Chapter 4 Auxiliary Provisions (Article 22 - Article 27)

Supplementary Provisions

Chapter 1 General Provisions

(Purpose)

Article 1

The purpose of this Act is, in accordance with the principle of sovereignty of the people, and by providing for the right to request the disclosure of administrative documents, etc., to endeavor towards greater disclosure of information held by administrative organs thereby ensuring to achieve accountability of the Government to the citizens for its various activities, and to contribute to the promotion of a fair and democratic administration that is subject to the citizens' accurate understanding and criticism.

(Definitions)

Article 2

(1) The term "administrative organ" as used in this Act shall mean the following organs.

- (i) Organs within the Cabinet (excluding the Cabinet Office) or organs under the jurisdiction of the Cabinet that were established pursuant to the provisions of Acts.
- (ii) The Cabinet Office, the Imperial Household Agency, and organs prescribed in Article 49, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Act for Establishment of the Cabinet Office (Act No. 89 of 1999) (Provided that those organs establish the organ designated by the Cabinet Order set forth in item 4, the organ designated by that Cabinet Order is excluded.).
- (iii) Organs prescribed in Article 3, paragraph 2 of the National Government Organization Act (Act No. 120 of 1948) (Provided that those organs establish the organ designated by the Cabinet Order set forth in item 5, the organ designated by that Cabinet Order is excluded.).
- (iv) Organs set forth in Articles 39 and 55 of the Act for Establishment of the Cabinet Office and in Article 16, paragraph 2 of the Imperial Household Agency Act (Act No. 70 of 1947), and extraordinary organs set forth in Articles 40 and 56 (including the cases where it is applied mutatis mutandis pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 1 of the Imperial Household Agency Act), that are designated by a Cabinet Order.
- (v) Facilities and other organs set forth in Article 8-2 of the National Government Organization Act, and extraordinary organs set forth in Article 8-3 of the same Act, that are designated by a Cabinet Order.
- (vi) The Board of Audit

(2) The term "administrative document" as used in this Act shall mean a document, picture, and electromagnetic record (a record made by an electronic method, a magnetic method, or any other method not recognizable to human senses. The same shall apply hereinafter.), that, having been prepared or obtained by an employee of an administrative organ in the course of his or her duties, is held by the administrative organ concerned for organizational use by its employees. However, the followings

are excluded:

- (i) Items published for the purpose of selling to many and unspecified persons, such as official gazettes, white papers, newspapers, magazines, and books.
- (ii) Items that are, pursuant to the provisions of a Cabinet Order, specially managed as either historical or cultural materials, or as materials for academic research in the National Archives or other organs designated by a Cabinet Order.

Chapter 2 Disclosure of Administrative Documents

(The Right to Request Disclosure)

Article 3

Any person, pursuant to the provisions of this Act, may request to the head of an administrative organ (Provided that the organ is designated by the Cabinet Order set forth in the preceding Article, paragraph 1, items 4 and 5, the person designated for each organ by a Cabinet Order. The same shall apply hereinafter.) the disclosure of administrative documents held by the administrative organ concerned.

(The Procedure of Request for Disclosure)

Article 4

(1) A request for disclosure pursuant to the provision of the preceding Article (Hereinafter referred to as "disclosure request.") shall be submitted to the head of an administrative organ as a document (Hereinafter referred to as "disclosure application.") in which are entered the following matters.

- (i) Name and domicile or residence of a person making a disclosure request, and the name of a representative in the case of a juridical person or other entities.
- (ii) The name of administrative documents or other particulars that is sufficient to specify the administrative documents pertaining to the disclosure request.

(2) When the head of an administrative organ finds that there is a deficiency in the form of the disclosure application, he or she may, fixing a considerable period of time, ask the person having made a disclosure request (Hereinafter referred to as "the requester.") to amend the request. In this case, the head of the administrative organ shall endeavor to provide the requester with information that will be helpful in the amendment.

(The Obligation to Disclose Administrative Documents)

Article 5

When there is a disclosure request, excluding the cases in which any of the information listed in each of the following items (Hereinafter referred to as "non-disclosure information.") is recorded in the administrative documents pertaining to the disclosure request, the head of an administrative organ shall disclose said administrative documents to the requester.

- (i) Information concerning an individual (Excluding information concerning the business of an individual who operates the said business.), where it is possible to identify a specific individual from a name, birth date or other description, etc., contained in the information concerned (Including instances where through collation with other information it is possible to identify a specific individual.) , or when it is not possible to identify a specific individual, but by making the information public there is a risk that an individual's rights and interests will be harmed. However, the followings are excluded:
 - (a) Information that is made public, or information that is scheduled to be made public, pursuant to the provisions of laws and regulations or by custom.
 - (b) Information recognized as necessary to be made public in order to protect a person's life, health, livelihood, or property.

(c) In the case that the said individual is a public officer, etc. (National public officers prescribed in Article 2, paragraph 1 of the National Public Officer Act (Act No. 120 of 1947) (excluding officers and employees of the specified incorporated administrative agencies prescribed in Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Act on General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agency (Act No. 103 of 1999) and of the Japan Post); officers and employees of the incorporated administrative agencies, etc. (meaning the incorporated administrative agencies, etc. prescribed in Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Act on Access to Information Held by Incorporated Administrative Agencies (Act No. 140 of 2001. Hereinafter referred to as "Incorporated Administrative Agency, etc. Information Disclosure Act"); local public officers prescribed in Article 2 of the Local Public Officer Act (Act No. 261 of 1950).); and officers and employees of the local incorporated administrative agencies (meaning institutions prescribed in Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Act on Local Incorporated Administrative Agency (Act No. 118 of 2003). The same shall apply hereinafter.)), and when the said information is one pertaining to the performance of his or her duties, from within the said information that portion to which concerns the said public officer, etc.'s office and the substance of the said performance of duties.

(ii) Information concerning a juridical person or other entities (Excluding the State, the incorporated administrative agencies, etc., local public entities and the local incorporated administrative agencies. Hereinafter referred to as "juridical persons, etc."), or following information concerning the business of an individual who operates the said business. However, information recognized as necessary to be made public in order to protect a person's life, health, livelihood, or property is excluded.

(a) Information which poses a risk of harm to , if made public, the rights, competitive position, or other legitimate interests of the said juridical persons, etc. or of the said individual.

(b) Information which, upon the request of an administrative organ, was offered voluntarily on the condition that it not be made public, and to which, in light of the nature of the information concerned and the circumstances, etc. at the time, the attachment of the condition such as not making public in ordinary case of a juridical person or an individual is considered to be reasonable.

(iii) Information that, if made public, the head of an administrative organ with reasonable grounds considers to pose a risk of harm to the security of the State, a risk of damage to relationship of mutual trust with another country or an international organization, or a risk of causing a disadvantage in negotiations with another country or an international organization.

(iv) Information that, if made public, the head of an administrative organ with reasonable grounds considers to pose a risk of causing a hindrance to the prevention, suppression or investigation of crimes, the maintenance of prosecutions, the execution of punishment, and other matters concerning maintenance of public safety and public order.

(v) Information concerning deliberations, examinations or consultations internal to or between either state organs, independent administrative institutes, etc., local public entities and local independent administrative institutes that, if made public, would pose a risk of unjustly harm to the open exchange of opinions or the neutrality of decision making, a risk of unjustly causing confusion among the citizens, or a risk of unjustly bringing advantage or disadvantage to specific individuals.

(vi) Information concerning the affairs or business conducted by a state organ, an incorporated administrative agency, etc., a local public entity or a local incorporated administrative agency that, if made public, would pose the risks listed in the followings and other risks of, by the nature of the said affairs or business, causing a hindrance to the proper performance of the said affairs or business.

(a) In relation to affairs pertaining to audits, inspections, supervision, examinations, or imposition or collection of tax, the risk of making difficult the grasping of accurate facts, or the risk of facilitating illegal or unfair acts, or making difficult the discovery of those acts.

(b) In relation to affairs pertaining to contracts, negotiations or administrative appeals and litigations, the risk of unfairly harming the property benefit or the status as a party of the State, an incorporated administrative agency, etc., a local public entity or a local incorporated administrative agency.

(c) In relation to affairs pertaining to research and study, the risk that their impartial and efficient execution may be unjustly obstructed.

(d) In relation to affairs pertaining to personnel management, the risk that the maintenance of impartial and smooth personnel affairs may be hindered.

(e) In relation to the business of an enterprise managed by the State or a local public entity, an incorporated administrative agency, etc., or a local incorporated administrative agency, the risk that legitimate interests arising from the management of the enterprise may be harmed.

(Partial Disclosure)

Article 6

(1) In the case that non-disclosure information is recorded in a part of an administrative document pertaining to a disclosure request, when it is possible to easily divide and exclude the portion in which the non-disclosure information is recorded, the head of an administrative organ shall disclose to the requester the portion other than the excluded portion. However, this shall not apply when it is found that no meaningful information is recorded in the portion other than the excluded portion.

(2) In the case that the information set forth in item 1 of the preceding Article (Limited to that which makes possible the identification of a specific individual.) is recorded in an administrative document pertaining to a disclosure request, and if by excluding the portion of the description, etc., that makes possible the identification of a specific individual, such as a name or birth date from the said information, it is considered that there is no risk of harm to the rights and interests of an individual even though it is made public, then the portion other than the excluded portion shall be deemed as not being included in the information of the same item, and the preceding paragraph shall apply.

(Discretionary Disclosure for Public Interest Grounds)

Article 7

Even in the case that non-disclosure information is recorded in administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request, when the head of an administrative organ finds that there is a particular public interest necessity, he or she may disclose those administrative documents to the requester.

(Information Concerning the Existence of Administrative Documents)

Article 8

When non-disclosure information will be disclosed by merely answering whether or not administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request exist, the head of an administrative organ, without making clear the existence or non-existence of the administrative documents, may refuse the disclosure request.

(Measures Concerning Disclosure Requests)

Article 9

(1) When disclosing all or a part of the administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request, the head of an administrative organ shall make a decision to that effect, and notify the requester to that effect and matters designated by a Cabinet Order relating to the implementation of disclosure in writing.

(2) When not disclosing any of the administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request (Including when refusing a disclosure request pursuant to the provision of the preceding Article and when administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request are not held.), the head of an administrative organ shall make a decision to the effect of non-disclosure and

notify the requester to that effect in writing.

(Due Date for Disclosure Decisions, Etc.)

Article 10

(1) The decisions set forth in each items of the preceding Article (Hereinafter referred to as "disclosure decisions, etc.") shall be made within thirty days from the date of a disclosure request. However, in the case that an amendment is requested pursuant to the provision of Article 4, paragraph 2, the number of days required for the amendment shall not be included within this period of time.

(2) Notwithstanding the provision of the preceding paragraph, when there are justifiable grounds such as difficulties arising from the conduct of business, the head of an administrative organ may extend the period of time prescribed in the same paragraph for up to thirty days. In this case, the head of an administrative organ shall without delay notify the requester in writing of the extended period and the grounds for the extension.

(Exception to the Due Date for Disclosure Decisions, Etc.)

Article 11

In the case that there is a considerably large amount of administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request, and that there is a risk that the performance of duties may be considerably hindered by making disclosure decisions, etc. for all of them within sixty days from the date of a disclosure request, notwithstanding the provision of the preceding Article, it would be sufficient for the head of an administrative organ to make disclosure decisions, etc. for a reasonable portion of the administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request within the said period of time, and to make disclosure decisions, etc. for the remaining administrative documents within a considerable period of time. In this case, the head of an administrative organ shall within the period of time prescribed in paragraph 1 of the same Article notify the requester in writing of the following matters:

- (i) The application of this Article and the grounds for its application.
- (ii) The due date for making disclosure decisions, etc. for the remaining administrative documents.

(Transfer of a Case)

Article 12

(1) The head of an administrative organ may, when there is a justifiable ground for the head of another administrative organ to make the disclosure decisions, etc., such as when administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request were prepared by that administrative organ, upon consulting with the head of that administrative organ, transfer the case to the head of that administrative organ. In this case, the head of the administrative organ who has transferred the case shall notify in writing the requester to the effect that the case was transferred.

(2) When a case has been transferred pursuant to the provision of the preceding paragraph, the head of the administrative organ who has received the transfer shall make the disclosure decisions, etc. for the disclosure request. In this case, the acts prior to transfer by the head of the administrative organ who has transferred the case shall be deemed to be those of the head of the administrative organ who has received the transfer.

(3) In the case referred to in the preceding paragraph, when the head of the administrative organ who has received the transfer makes a decision set forth in Article 9, paragraph 1 (Hereinafter referred to as "disclosure decision."), the head of that administrative organ shall implement disclosure. In this case, the head of the administrative organ who has transferred the case shall cooperate as necessary in the implementation of that disclosure.

(Transfer of a Case to the Incorporated Administrative Agency, etc.)

Article 12-2

(1) When there is a justifiable ground for an incorporated administrative agency, etc. to make the disclosure decisions, etc. prescribed in Article 10, paragraph 1 of Incorporated Administrative Agency, etc. Information Disclosure Act, such as when administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request were prepared by an incorporated administrative agency, etc., the head of an administrative organ may, upon consulting with that incorporated administrative agency, etc., transfer the case to that incorporated administrative agency, etc. In this case, the head of the administrative organ who has transferred the case shall notify in writing the requester to the effect that the case was transferred.

(2) When a case has been transferred pursuant to the provision of the preceding paragraph, with regard to the transferred case, the administrative documents are deemed to be corporate documents prescribed in Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, etc. Information Disclosure Act, held by the incorporated administrative agency, etc. which has received the transfer; the disclosure request is deemed to be a disclosure request prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1 of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, etc. Information Disclosure Act submitted to the incorporated administrative agency, etc. which has received the transfer; and the provisions of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, etc. Information Disclosure Act shall apply to that case. In this case, the terms "Article 4, paragraph 2" in Article 10, paragraph 1 of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, etc. Information Disclosure Act shall be deemed to be replaced with "Article 4, paragraph 2 of the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs (Act No. 42 of 1999)"; and the terms "The person who makes a disclosure request and the person who obtains the disclosure of corporate documents," "shall pay respectively" and "a fee for the disclosure request and a fee" in Article 17, paragraph 1 of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, etc. Information Disclosure Act shall be deemed to be replaced respectively with "The person who obtains the disclosure of corporate documents," "shall pay" and "a fee".

(3) When pursuant to the provision of paragraph 1 a case has been transferred and the incorporated administrative agency, etc. which has received the transfer implements disclosure, the head of the administrative organ who has transferred the case shall cooperate as necessary in the implementation of disclosure.

(Granting a Third Party an Opportunity to Submit a Written Opinion, Etc.)

Article 13

(1) When information concerning a person other than the State, an incorporated administrative agency, etc., a local public entity, a local incorporated administrative agency and the requester (Hereinafter in this Article, Article 19, and Article 20 referred to as a "third party.") is recorded in the administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request, the head of an administrative organ, when making disclosure decisions, etc., may notify the third party pertaining to the information of an indication of the administrative documents pertaining to the disclosure request and other matters designated by a Cabinet Order, and may grant an opportunity to submit a written opinion.

(2) In the cases that fall under any of the following items, before making a disclosure decision, the head of an administrative organ shall notify in writing the third party of an indication of the documents pertaining to the disclosure request and other matters designated by a Cabinet Order, and shall grant an opportunity to submit a written opinion. However, this shall not apply to the case that the third party's location is unknown.

(i) When administrative documents in which information concerning a third party is recorded are to be disclosed, and when it is found that the said information falls under the information prescribed in Article 5, item 1, (b) or in the proviso of item 2 of the same Article.

(ii) When administrative documents in which information concerning a third party is recorded are to be disclosed pursuant to the provision of Article 7.

(3) In the case that the third party who was granted an opportunity to submit a written opinion pursuant to the provisions of the preceding two paragraphs submits a written opinion manifesting the intention of opposition to disclosure of the administrative documents concerned, the head of the administrative organ, when making a decision to disclose, shall place at

least two weeks between the day of the disclosure decision and the day that disclosure will be implemented. In this case, upon making the disclosure decision the head of the administrative organ shall immediately notify in writing the third party who submitted the written opinion (In Articles 18 and 19 referred to as an "written opposition opinion.") to the effect that the disclosure decision was made and the grounds for its decision, and the date of implementation of disclosure.

(Implementation of Disclosure)

Article 14

(1) The disclosure of administrative documents shall be implemented by inspection or by the delivery of copies for documents or pictures, and for electromagnetic records by methods designated by a Cabinet Order that takes it into consideration such as their classification and the state of development of information technology. However, when disclosure of an administrative document is to be implemented by the inspection method, if the head of an administrative organ finds that there poses a risk of causing a hindrance to the preservation of the administrative document, or for other justifiable grounds, a copy of that document may be provided for inspection.

(2) The person who will obtain disclosure of administrative documents based upon a disclosure decision, pursuant to the provision of a Cabinet Order, shall offer his or her requesting method of implementation of disclosure and other matters designated by a Cabinet Order to the head of the administrative organ who has made the disclosure decision.

(3) The offer pursuant to the provision of the preceding paragraph shall be made within thirty days from the date of the notice prescribed in Article 9, paragraph 1. However, this shall not apply to the cases that there is a justifiable ground for being unable to make the offer within this period of time.

(4) The person who has obtained disclosure of administrative documents based upon a disclosure decision, within thirty days from the date of obtaining the first disclosure, may offer to the head of the administrative organ to the effect of obtaining once more disclosure. To this case the proviso of the preceding paragraph shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

(Coordination with Disclosure Implemented by Other Laws and Regulations)

Article 15

(1) In the case that, pursuant to the provisions of other laws and regulations, administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request are to be disclosed to any person by a method the same as the method prescribed in paragraph 1 of the preceding Article (When the period of time for disclosure is provided for, limited to within that period of time.), notwithstanding the main clause of the same paragraph, the head of the administrative organ shall not disclose those administrative documents by that same method. However, this shall not apply to the case that there is a provision in other laws and regulations to the effect that in specific circumstances disclosure shall not be implemented.

(2) When the disclosure method designated by the provisions of the other laws and regulations is public inspection, the said public inspection shall be deemed to be inspection set forth in the main clause of paragraph 1 of the preceding Article, and the preceding paragraph shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to this case.

(Fees)

Article 16

(1) The person who makes a disclosure request, and the person who obtains the disclosure of administrative documents, pursuant to the provisions of a Cabinet Order, shall pay respectively a fee pertaining to the disclosure request or a fee pertaining to the implementation of disclosure of an amount specified within the limits of actual costs by a Cabinet Order.

(2) In determining the amount of the fee set forth in the preceding paragraph, consideration shall be given to see that it is as affordable an amount as possible.

(3) When it finds that there is economic hardship or other special grounds, pursuant to the provisions of a Cabinet Order, the

head of an administrative organ may reduce or release the fee set forth in paragraph 1.

(Delegation of Authority or Affairs)

Article 17

The head of an administrative organ, pursuant to the provisions of a Cabinet Order (In the case of organs under the jurisdiction of the Cabinet and the Board of Audit, orders of those organs.), may delegate to an employee of that administrative organ the authority or affairs prescribed in this Chapter.

Chapter 3 Appeals, Etc.

(Consulting the Review Board)

Article 18

When there is an appeal against a disclosure decision, etc. pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Appeal Act (Act No. 160 of 1962), the head of the administrative organ who is expected to make a determination or decision on the appeal, except the cases that fall under any of the following items, shall consult the Information Disclosure and Personal Information Protection Review Board (When the head of the administrative organ who is expected to make a determination or decision on the appeal is head of the Board of Audit, a review board separately provided for by an Act

- (i) When the appeal is illegitimate and is to be dismissed.
- (ii) When, by a determination or decision, the disclosure decision, etc. (Excluding the decisions to the effect of disclosing all the administrative documents pertaining to a disclosure request. Hereinafter the same shall apply in this item and in Article 20.) pertaining to the appeal is rescinded or altered, and all the administrative documents pertaining to the appeal are to be disclosed. However, this shall exclude the cases in which a written opposition opinion regarding the disclosure decision, etc. has been submitted.

(Notice of the Fact of Consultation)

Article 19

The head of an administrative organ who has made a consultation pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Article shall notify the following persons to the effect that the consultation was made.

- (i) The appellant and intervenor.
- (ii) The requester (Excluding the cases in which the requester is the appellant or intervenor.).
- (iii) A third party who has submitted a written opposition opinion regarding the disclosure decision, etc. that is pertaining to the appeal (Excluding the cases in which the third party is the appellant or an intervenor.).

(Procedures in the Case that an Appeal from a Third Party is Dismissed, Etc.)

Article 20

The provision of Article 13, paragraph 3, shall apply mutatis mutandis to the cases in which the determination or decision falls under any of the following items.

- (i) A determination or decision to dismiss without prejudice or dismiss with prejudice on the merits an appeal from a third party against a disclosure decision.
- (ii) A determination or decision altering the disclosure decision, etc. pertaining to an appeal to the effect of disclosing administrative documents pertaining to that disclosure decision, etc. (Limited to the case in which an intervenor who is a

third party has manifested an intention to oppose the disclosure of the administrative documents.).

(Special Provisions for the Transfer of Lawsuits)

Article 21

(1) In case lawsuits demanding the rescission of a disclosure decision, etc. or the rescission of a determination or decision regarding the appeal against a disclosure decision, etc. (In the following paragraph and in paragraph 2 of the Supplementary Provisions referred to as an "information disclosure lawsuit.") are brought to the court of special jurisdiction prescribed in the provision of Article 12, paragraph 4 of the Administrative Case Litigation Act (Act No. 139 of 1962), notwithstanding the provision of Article 12, paragraph 5 of the same Act, when a protest lawsuit (meaning a protest lawsuit prescribed in Article 3, paragraph 1 in the same Act. The same shall apply in the following paragraph.) pertaining to a disclosure decision etc. regarding the same, or the same type or similar administrative documents or pertaining to a determination or decision regarding the appeal against a disclosure decision etc., is pending in another court, the said court of special jurisdiction, when it finds appropriate having given consideration to the addresses or locations of the parties, the addresses of witnesses who shall be examined, characteristics common to the points at issue or the evidence, and other circumstances, may in response to a petition or on its own authority transfer the whole lawsuit or a part of it to the other court or a court prescribed Article 12, paragraphs 1 to 3 of the same Act.

(2) The preceding paragraph shall apply mutatis mutandis to the case when a protest lawsuit pertaining to a disclosure decision etc. or pertaining to a determination or decision regarding the appeal against a disclosure decision etc., excluding an information disclosure lawsuit, is brought to the court of special jurisdiction prescribed in the Article 12, paragraph 4 of the Administrative Case Litigation Act.

Chapter 4 Auxiliary Provisions

(Management of Administrative Documents)

Article 22

(1) To contribute to the proper and smooth operation of this Act, the heads of administrative organs shall properly manage administrative documents.

(2) The heads of administrative organs shall establish the rules regarding the management of administrative documents pursuant to the provisions of a Cabinet Order, and shall make the rules available for inspection by the public.

(3) The Cabinet Order set forth in the preceding paragraph shall provide for standards for the classification, preparation, preservation and disposal of administrative documents, and other necessary matters concerning the management of administrative documents.

(The Provision, Etc. of Information to Persons Who Intend to Request Disclosure)

Article 23

(1) So that it is possible for persons who intend to request disclosure to do so easily and accurately, the heads of administrative organs shall provide information helpful in specifying the administrative documents held by the administrative organs and take other appropriate measures that take into account the convenience of the persons intending to request disclosure.

(2) In order to ensure the smooth operation of this Act, the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications shall provide for comprehensive inquiry offices concerning a disclosure request.

(Publication of the State of Enforcement)

Article 24

(1) The Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications may request reports on the state of enforcement of this Act from the

heads of the administrative organs.

(2) The Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications shall annually collect and arrange the reports set forth in the preceding paragraph, and make public a summary of them.

(Enhancement of Measures for the Provision of Information Held by Administrative Organs)

Article 25

In order to comprehensively promote disclosure of the information it holds, the Government shall endeavor to enhance measures concerned with the provision of information held by administrative organs, so as to make clear to the citizens through timely and appropriate methods the information that administrative organs hold.

(Information Disclosure by Local Public Entities)

Article 26

In accordance with the purpose of this Act, local public entities shall endeavor to formulate and implement measures necessary for the disclosure of the information that they hold.

(Delegation to a Cabinet Order)

Article 27

In addition to what is provided for in this Act, necessary matters concerning implementation of this Act shall be prescribed by a Cabinet Order.

Supplementary Provisions

(1) This Act shall come into force as from the date specified by a Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding two years from the day of promulgation. However, the provisions of the part of Article 23, paragraph 1, concerning receiving of the consent of both Houses, and provisions of Article 40 to Article 42 inclusive and the following paragraph, shall come into force as from the day of promulgation.

(2) Approximately four years after this Act comes into force, the Government shall examine the state of enforcement of this Act and the manner of jurisdiction for information disclosure lawsuits, and shall take necessary measures based upon those results.