

The Relationship between Legislative Research Service and Library Service

: The Case of the Republic of Korea



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I . Introduction

Legislative Supporting Organizations

- **National Assembly Secretariat**
- **National Assembly Library(NAL)**
- **National Assembly Budget Office(NABO)**
- **National Assembly Research Service(NARS)**

Establishment of NARS

- **NARS was separated from NAL and established as an independent organization in 2007**
- **Since then, NARS and NAL have provided their research and library services separately to the MPs, but the segregation of functions is not clear.**



Ⅱ . Services of NARS and NAL

II. Services of NARS and NAL – Overview

Analogous Characteristic

- **The establishment of the two organizations is basically connected with legislative materials or information <NA ACT Article 22(1) & 22-3(1)>.**
- **The information from each organization has only an analogous characteristics in the standpoint of MPs or clients.**

Problems of Overlapping Services

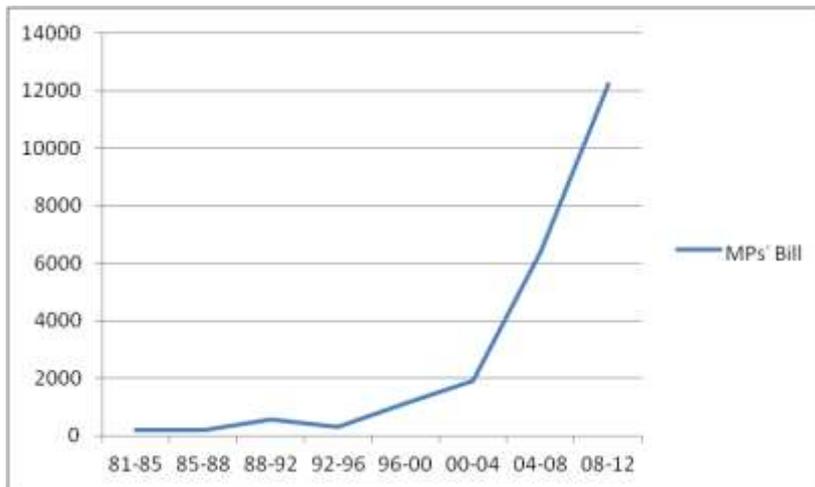
- **It is a general thought that service of NARS is analysis-based whereas that of NAL is fact-based. Frankly speaking, analysis and fact cannot be classified distinctly in some cases.**
- **For this reason, MPs and their staffs often send the same request for inquiry to both organizations at the same time because they wish to collect as much information as they could.**

II. Services of NARS and NAL – Quantitative Analysis

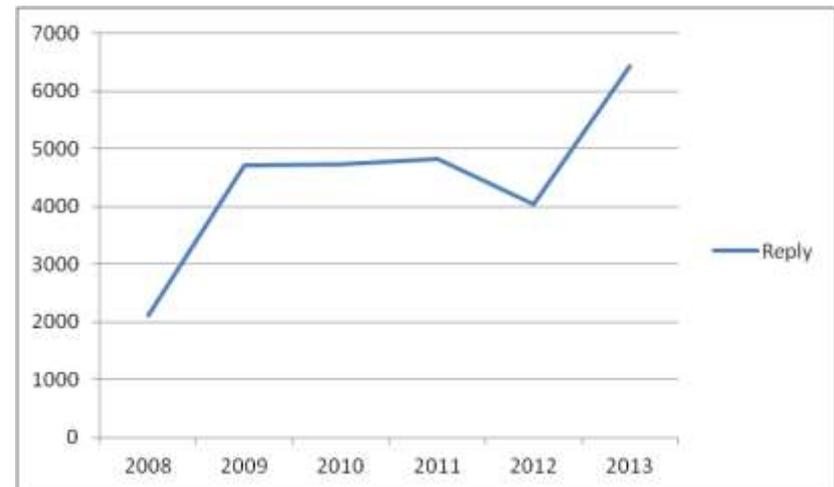
Impact of NARS' Reply

- Though the interrelation between establishment of NARS and increase of MP's bills has not been corroborated in a scientific method, it can be speculated that the service of NARS has significantly influenced a considerable number of MPs' bills.

<Figure - 1> Increase of MP's Bill



<Figure - 2> Increase of NARS' Reply

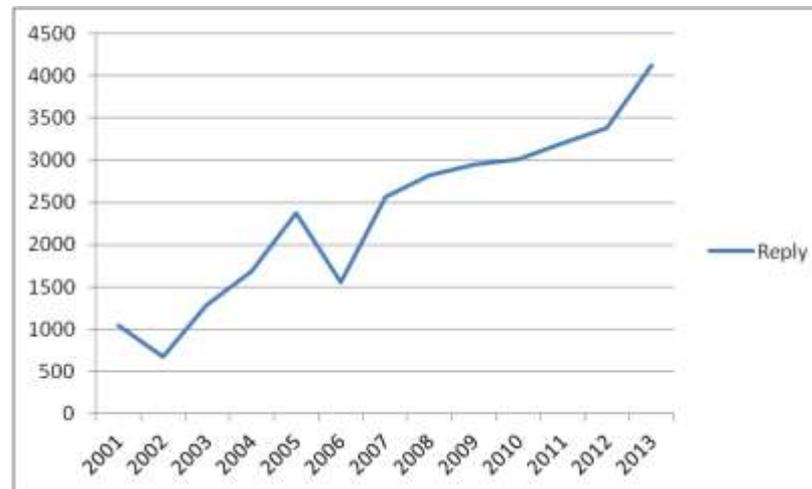


II. Services of NARS and NAL – Quantitative Analysis

Increase of NAL's Reply

- The number of NAL's reply to the MPs' request for inquiry has also gradually increased. It can be assumed that the statistics in the early 2000's, especially before NARS established, shows the necessity of new legislative research service.
- Actually, the bill for establishment of NARS was first proposed in 2005.

<Figure - 3> Increase of NAL's reply

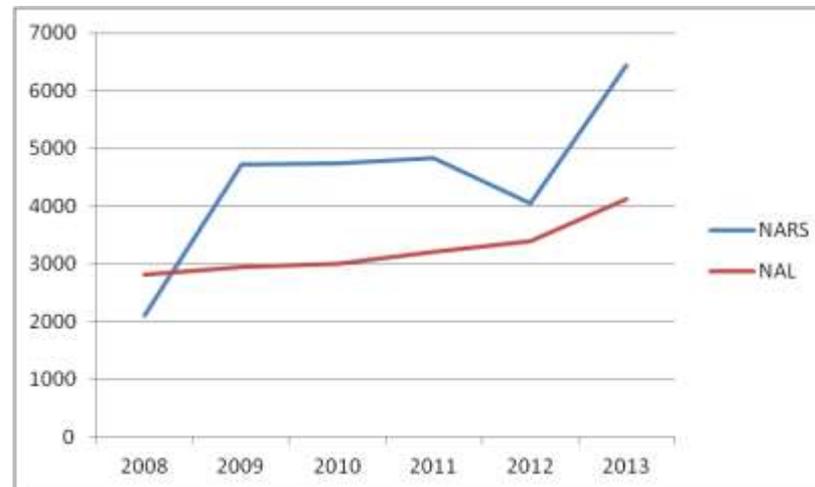


II. Services of NARS and NAL – Quantitative Analysis

Comparison of the Reply Number

- **The comparison of the reply number of NAL and NARS over the same period(2008-2103) shows that the number of NARS’ reply have exceeded that of NAL.**
- **This is an expected result as the major tasks of NAL include more than replying to the MPs’ request.**

<Figure - 4> Comparison of Reply Number



II. Services of NARS and NAL – Quantitative Analysis

Services of NAL

- **Replies to the MPs' request for inquiry are not the only service of NAL. NAL's services are largely divided into two areas, collection and information(reference) services.**
- **Especially, parliamentary information reference is a comprehensive service of research and translation for supporting legislative activities, which mainly relates to the MPs' request for inquiry.**

Services of NARS

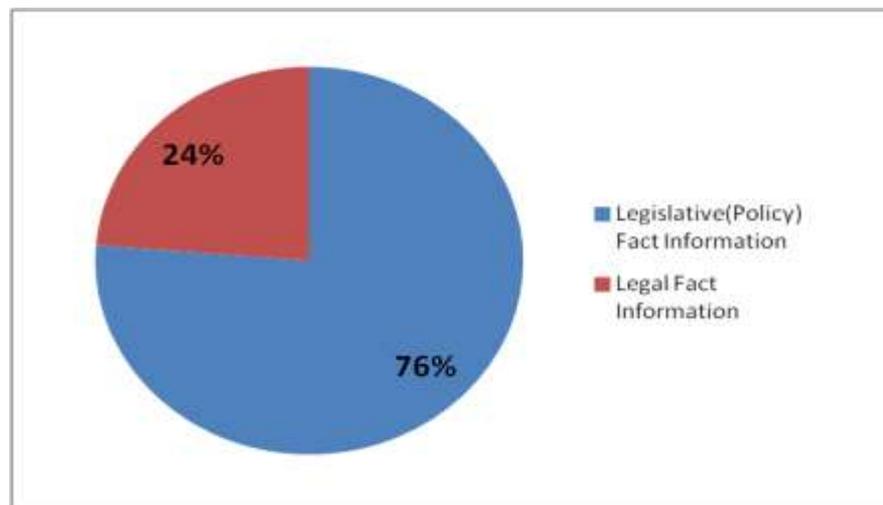
- **On the contrary, NARS' services are mainly about replying to the MPs' request for inquiry. NARS' services also have two dimensions, legislative research(or information) and publication of report services.**
- **The major duty of NARS is to reply to the requests from MPs by research and analysis. This service is based upon the needs of MPs(strict client system), and employing scientific methods.**

II. Services of NARS and NAL – Qualitative Analysis

Fact-based Service of NAL

- **Parliamentary information reference service(reply service to the MPs' request) of NAL is composed of two sections, legislative(policy) fact and legal fact information.**
- **These kinds of services are focused on fact finding relating to legislation or policy making, and carried by data-search or translation.**

<Figure - 5> Component Ratio of NAL's Reply of 2013

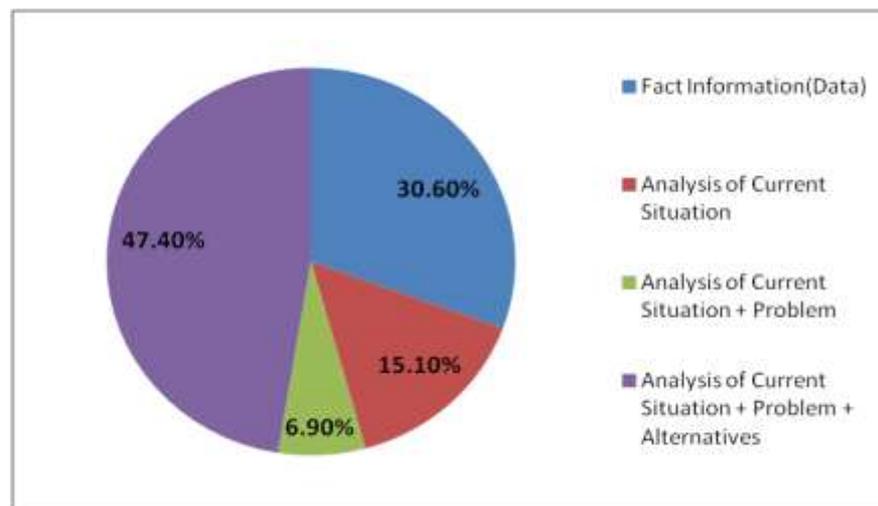


II. Services of NARS and NAL – Qualitative Analysis

Analysis-based Service of NARS

- **Component ratio of NARS' Replies shows a different aspect. MPs request NARS mainly for legislative or policy alternatives analysis.**
- **Actually, a considerable number of MPs and their staffs frequently use NARS' analysis as their arguments for justification and defense of legislative or parliamentary activities.**

<Figure - 6> Component Ratio of NARS' Reply of 2013





Ⅲ. Alternatives for Cooperation

III. Alternative for Cooperation – Steps for Legislative Decision Making

Normative Decision Making

- **Legislative decision making is a kind of activity that generates a legal norm for adjudication and administration, especially in civil law tradition. In this, it also has the characteristic of normative decision making.**
- **Normative decision making is generally comprised of two steps. Judgement of fact is one, that of norm(or value) is another.**

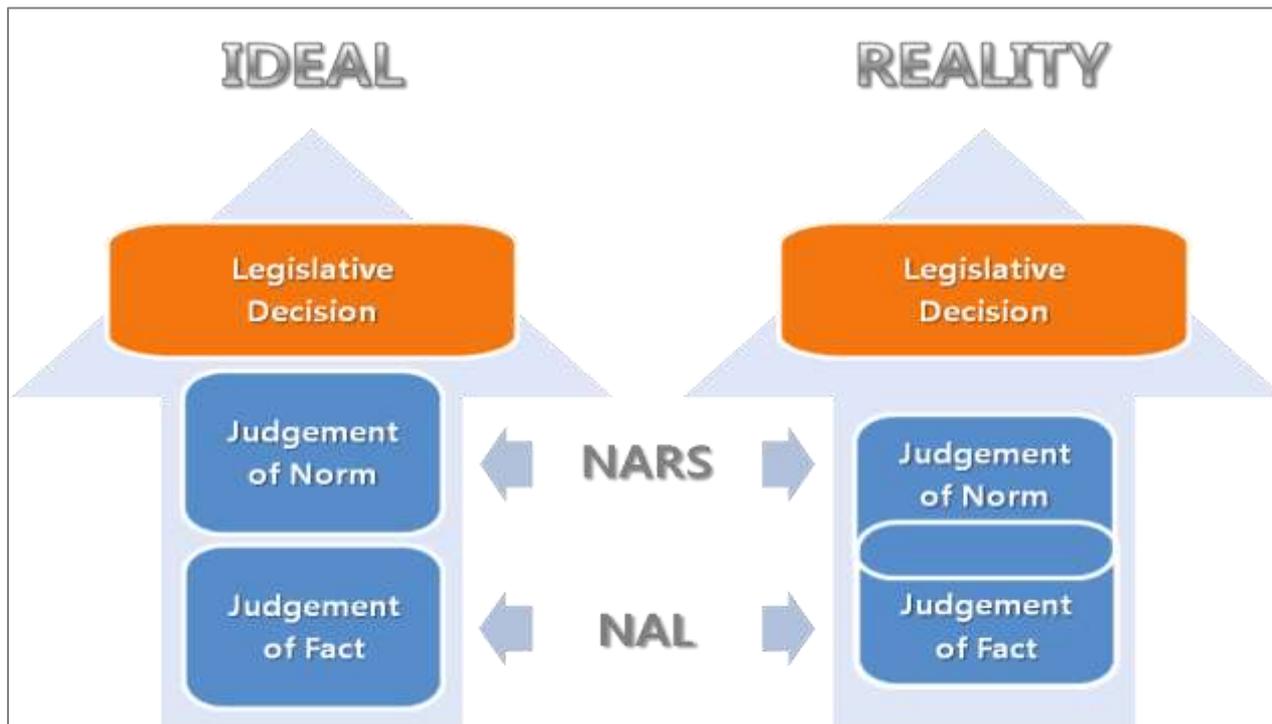
Legislative Decision Making

- **Accordingly, legislative decision making also has the same steps. Ultimately, legislative supporting organizations such as NARS and NAL should take a role for providing information or analysis which can be used in each step.**

III. Alternative for Cooperation – Steps for Legislative Decision Making

Ideal and Reality

- In an ideal point of view, information about fact is for NAL and alternative relating to normative decision is for NARS. However, demarcation between fact and norms is not so clear. This problem is a philosophical question which could not be solved.



III. Alternative for Cooperation

Need for Cooperation

- In Korea, number of bills from the MPs(legislative branch) exceeded that of the executive branch. This situation demands a larger role of legislative supporting organizations than other countries.

<Table - 1> Bills' Number of Executive and Legislative Branch

Countries	Terms	Executive Branch	Legislative Branch(MPs)
US	2011-2012		10,439
UK	2006-2010	127	384
France	2007-2012	762	6,070
Germany	2005-2009	539	431
Japan	2009-2012	295	253
Korea	2008-2012	1,693	12,220

III. Alternative for Cooperation

For the MPs' Perspective

- **This distinct institutional and cultural environment requires that legislative supporting organizations should contribute to not only professional services but also to the efficiency of those services.**

Possible Alternative for Cooperation

- (1) Both organizations need to provide a co-work system or platform for the MPs, for the purpose of minimizing duplication of services between judgement of fact and norms.**
 - **One of the possible solutions is to improve electronic request systems of both organizations and to construct a consultative group for co-classification of requests.**
- (2) Both organizations should amend categories or contents of reports.**
 - **Especially, the reports of NARS should be concentrated on the analysis for legislative and policy alternatives rather than gathering and disseminating legislative fact.**

Thank you for kind attention.

