

The Impact of Internal Dynamics of Standing Committees on Legislative Productivity in the Korean National Assembly

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Abstract : The purpose of this study is to explore the relation between the internal dynamics of standing committees and legislative productivity of the Korean National Assembly using statistical methods. Studies on legislation in South Korea have been largely revolved around political parties due to the uniqueness of its political context including strong party cohesion and party's nomination right. However, as standing committees have been at the center of legislatures since the 6th National Assembly, there is a growing need for studying the operation and effectiveness of standing committees in legislation process. Thus, through panel data analysis for the sixteen standing committees across the four terms of the Korean National Assembly from the 16th to the 19th this article attempts to reveal that legislators' bill passing rate is not a sole function of factors pertaining to political party as the existing studies have believed. By measuring the ideological distribution within a committee and the bill passing rate, this article provides differentiated interpretation from established theories of standing committees and presents compelling evidence describing complex interactions and independent operation of the standing committees with the subsequent legislative results.

Keywords : collective decision-making, lawmaking, legislation, political polarization, standing committees

Conference Title : ICLPT 2018 : International Conference on Legal and Political Theory

Conference Location : San Francisco, United States

Conference Dates : June 06-07, 2018