

L. A. BILL No. XV OF 2026.

A BILL

*further to amend the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and
Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961.*

Mah. V 5 WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra *Zilla*
of 1962. *Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961*, for the purposes hereinafter
appearing ; it is hereby enacted in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of
India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat* Short title.
10 *Samitis (Second Amendment) Act, 2026.*

Amendment
of section 9
of Mah. V of
1962.

2. In section 9 of the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis* Act, 1961 (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act"), in sub-section (1), after clause (b), the following clause shall be added, namely :-

Mah. V
of 1962.

“(c) ten per cent. of the total number of elected Councillor or minimum five persons, whichever is higher, having special knowledge or experience in respect of the administration of *Zilla Parishads* to be nominated by the Collector as nominated Councillors: 5

Provided that, the nominated Councillors referred to in clause (c) shall have no right to,—

(i) vote at any meeting of the *Zilla Parishad* and Committees of the *Zilla Parishad*; and 10

(ii) get elected as a President or Vice-President of a *Zilla Parishad* or Chairperson of any of the committees of the *Zilla Parishad*.”.

Amendment
of section 10
of Mah. V of
1962.

3. In section 10 of the principal Act, after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be added, namely:- 15

“(4) The term of the office of the nominated Councillor shall be co-terminus with the duration of the *Zilla Parishad*.”.

Insertion of
new section
10-1A in Mah.
V of 1962.

4. After section 10 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :-

Nomination of
Councillors.

“**10-1A.** (1) After election of President, the Collector shall call a special meeting for the purpose of nominating Councillors. 20

(2) The nomination of the Councillors under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 9 shall be made in the prescribed manner.

(3) The meeting called under sub-section (1) shall be presided over by the Collector or such officer as the Collector may by order in writing appoint in this behalf. The Collector or such officer when presiding over such meeting shall have the same powers as the President of the *Zilla Parishad* when presiding over a meeting of the *Zilla Parishad* has, but shall have no right to vote : 25

Provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, for regulating the procedure at meetings (including the quorum required thereat), the Collector or the officer presiding over such meeting may, for reasons which in his opinion are sufficient, refuse to adjourn such meeting. 30

(4) While nominating the Councillors, the Collector shall take into account the relative strength of recognized parties or registered parties or groups and nominate Councillors, as nearly as may be, in proportion to the strength of such parties or groups in the *Zilla Parishad* after consulting the leader of each such party or group: 35

Provided that, for the purpose of deciding the relative strength of the recognized parties or registered parties or groups under this sub-section, the recognized parties or registered parties or groups, or elected Councillor not belonging to any such party or group, may, notwithstanding anything contained in the Maharashtra Local Authority Members Disqualification Act, 1986, within a period of not more than three months from the date 40

Mah.
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1987.

of notification of election results, from the *aghadi* or front, and, on its registration, the provisions of the said Act shall apply to the members of such *aghadi* or front, as it is a pre-poll *aghadi* or front.

(5) The names of the nominated Councillors shall also be published
5 by the State Election Commission in the *Official Gazette*.”.

5. In section 57 of the principal Act, for sub-section (1), the following
sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

Amendment
of section 57
of Mah. V of
1962.

“(1) Every *Panchayat Samiti* shall consist of,—

(a) members elected by direct one each from each electoral college
10 in accordance with the provisions contained in section 58 and the
rules in that behalf :

Provided that, the ratio between the population of the territorial
area of a *Panchayat Samiti* and the number of seats in such *Panchayat
Samiti* to be filled in by election shall, as far as practicable, be the
15 same throughout the State;

(b) twenty per cent. of the total number of elected member or
minimum one person, whichever is higher, having special knowledge
or experience in respect of the administration of *Zilla Parishads* or
Panchayat Samitis to be nominated by the Collector as nominated
20 members:

Provided that, the nominated members referred to in clause (b)
shall have no right to,—

(i) vote at any meeting of the *Panchayat Samiti* and committees
of the *Panchayat Samiti*; and

(ii) get elected as a Chairman or Deputy Chairman of a
25 *Panchayat Samiti* or Chairperson of any of the committees of the
Panchayat Samiti.”.

6. In section 59 of the principal Act, after sub-section (3), the following
sub-section shall be added, namely:-

Amendment
of section 59
of Mah. V of
1962.

“(4) The term of the office of the nominated member shall be
30 co-terminus with the duration of the *Panchayat Samiti*.”.

7. After section 59 of the principal Act, the following section shall be
inserted, namely:-

Insertion of
new section
59A in Mah.
V of 1962.

“**59A.** (1) After election of Chairman, the Collector shall call a special
35 meeting for the purpose of nominating members.

Nomination of
members.

(2) The nomination of the members under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of
section 57 shall be made in the prescribed manner.

(3) The meeting called under sub-section (1) shall be presided over by the
Collector or such officer as the Collector may by order in writing appoint in this
40 behalf. The Collector or such officer when presiding over such meeting shall
have the same powers as the Chairman of a *Panchayat Samiti* when presiding
over a meeting of the *Panchayat Samiti* has, but shall have no right to vote:

Provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, for
regulating the procedure at meetings (including the quorum required thereat),
45 the Collector or the officer presiding over such meeting may, for reasons which
in his opinion are sufficient, refuse to adjourn such meeting.

(4) While nominating the members, the Collector shall take into account the relative strength of recognized parties or registered parties or groups and nominate members, as nearly as may be, in proportion to the strength of such parties or groups in the *Panchayat Samiti*, after consulting the leader of each such party or group: 5

Provided that, for the purpose of deciding the relative strength of the recognized parties or registered parties or groups under this sub-section, the recognized parties or registered parties or groups, or elected member not belonging to any such party or group, may, notwithstanding anything contained Mah. XX of 1987. in the Maharashtra Local Authority Members Disqualification Act, 1986, within 10 a period of not more than three months from the date of notification of election results, form the *aghadi* or front, and, on its registration, the provisions of the said Act shall apply to the members of such *aghadi* or front, as it is a pre-poll *aghadi* or front.

(5) The names of the nominated members shall also be published by the 15 State Election Commission in the *Official Gazette*.”.

Amendment
to section 274
of Mah. V of
1962.

8. In section 274 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2),–

(1) after clause (i), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:–

“(i-a) under sub-section (2) of section 10-1A, prescribing the manner of the nomination of the Councillor;”. 20

(2) after clause (xiii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:–

“(xiv) under sub-section (2) of section 59A, prescribing the manner of the nomination of the member;”.

Power to
remove
difficulties.

9. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act, the State Government may, by order, 25 published in the *Official Gazette*, give such direction, not inconsistent with the provisions of the principal Act, as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing the difficulty:

Provided that, no such order shall be made after the expiry of the period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act. 30

(2) Every order made under sub-section (1) shall be laid, as soon as may be, after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

As per section 9 of the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961* (Mah. V of 1962), *Zilla Parishad* consist of Councillors chosen by direct election from the electoral divisions in the District and the Chairman of all *Panchayat Samitis* in the District. Similarly, as per section 57, *Panchayat Samitis* consist of members directly elected from the electoral college.

2. At present, only elected Councillors and members participate in the functioning of *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis*. However, many social workers and experts from various fields are actively engaged in rural development activities across the State. The Government has received several representations seeking the inclusion of nominated Councillors in *Zilla Parishads* and nominated members in *Panchayat Samitis*. Therefore, the Government has considered it expedient to give an opportunity to the persons having knowledge or experience in administration of *Zilla Parishad* or *Panchayat Samiti* to participate in the administration of *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis* and to use their knowledge and experience for development of rural area by making provision to nominate ten per cent. of total number of elected Councillor or minimum five persons, whichever is higher, as Councillors of *Zilla Parishad* and twenty per cent. of elected member or minimum one person, whichever is higher, as member of the *Panchayat Samiti*. For the above purpose, it is considered expedient to amend the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961*, suitably.

3. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Mumbai,
Dated the 10th March 2026.

JAYKUMAR GORE,
Minister for Rural Development.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

The Bill involves the following proposals for delegation of legislative powers, namely:—

Clause 4.—Under this clause, which seeks to insert section 10-1A in the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis* Act, 1961,-

(a) in sub-clause (2), power is taken to the State Government to prescribe the manner of nomination of the Councillors;

(b) in sub-clause (4), power is taken to the State Election Commission to publish the names of the nominated Councillors in the *Official Gazette*.

Clause 7.—Under this clause, which seeks to insert section 59A in the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis* Act, 1961,-

(a) in sub-clause (2), power is taken to the State Government to prescribe the manner of nomination of the Members;

(b) in sub-clause (4), power is taken to the State Election Commission to publish the names of the nominated Members in the *Official Gazette*.

Clause 9.—Under this clause, power is taken to the State Government to remove, by an order published in the *Official Gazette*, any difficulty which may arise in giving effect to the provisions of the Act, within a period of two years from the commencement of this Act.

2. The above mentioned proposal for delegation of legislative powers are of normal character.

ANNEXURE TO THE L. A. BILL No. XV OF 2026

THE MAHARASHTRA ZILLA PARISHADS AND PANCHAYAT SAMITIS
(SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026(Extracts from The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and
Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961)

(Mah. V of 1962)

1. to 56. * * * *

57. (1) Every *Panchayat Samiti* shall consist of members elected by direct one each from each electoral college in accordance with the provisions contained in section 58 and the rules in that behalf : Constitution of Panchayat Samitis.

Provided that, the ratio between the population of the territorial area of a *Panchayat Samiti* and the number of seats in such *Panchayat Samiti* to be filled in by election shall, as far as practicable, be the same throughout the State.

(3) * * * *

(3A) * * * *

(5) * * * *

58. to 289. * * * *

SCHEDULES * * * *

**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE
SECRETARIAT**

[L. A. BILL No. XV OF 2026.]

**[A Bill further to amend the
Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and
Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961.]**

[SHRI JAYKUMAR GORE,
Minister for Rural Development.]

JITENDRA BHOLE,
Secretary-1,
Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.