

L. A. BILL No. II OF 2026.

A BILL

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

5 WHEREAS both houses of the State Legislature were not in session ;

Mah. V of 1962. Mah. 10 Ord. XIV of 2025. AND WHEREAS the Governor of Maharashtra was satisfied that circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate action further to amend the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis* Act, 1961, for the purposes hereinafter appearing ; and, therefore, promulgated the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis* (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 on the 26th December 2025 ;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to replalce the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature ; it is hereby enacted in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows :-

Short title and commencement. **1.** (1) This Act may be called the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis* (Amendment) Act, 2026. 5

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 26th December 2025.

Amendment of section 14 of Mah. V of 1962. **2.** In section 14 of the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis* Act, 1961, (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”), for sub-section (2), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :-

“(2) The State Government shall make rules for the conduct of such 10 elections and the election shall be conducted in accordance with those rules.

(3) The decision of a Returning Officer accepting or rejecting the nomination papers shall be final and it shall not be called in question in any Court.”.

Repeal of Mah. Ord. XIV of 2025 and saving. **3.** (1) The Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis* 15 Mah. Ord. XIV of 2025. (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken (including any notification, rules or order issued) under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done, taken or, as the case may be, issued under the 20 corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Article 243K of the Constitution of India and section 9A of the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961* (Mah. V of 1962) provides that, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis* shall be vested in the State Election Commission.

2. Section 14(2) of the said Act provides that, the State Government shall make rules for the conduct of such elections including for an appeal to the District Court against the decision of Returning Officer, accepting or rejecting nomination papers. Accordingly, rule 20 of the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads (Electoral Divisions and Conduct of Election) Rules, 1962* and rule 19A of the Maharashtra *Panchayat Samitis (Electoral Colleges and Conduct of Election) Rules, 1962* provided for filing of an appeal before the District Court against the decision of the Returning Officer of accepting or rejecting nomination papers and District Court is required to hear such appeals on day to day basis and dispose off the same as expeditiously as possible.

3. The State Election Commission had communicated to the State Government that such appeals remain pending in different District Courts for different period and it is also not certain when such appeals will be disposed off. The Commission had also communicated that article 243O of the Constitution provides for bar to interference by Courts in electoral matters. Therefore, the Commission has with a view to complete elections in time bound manner forwarded to the State Government a proposal to make suitable amendments in aboveresferred Rules for deleting the provisions relating to such appeals. It was, therefore, considered expedient to amend section 14 of the said Act, suitably.

4. As both Houses of the State Legislature were not in session and the Governor of Maharashtra was satisfied that circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate action further to amend the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961*, for the purposes aforesaid, the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025* (Mah. Ord. XIV of 2025), was promulgated by the Governor of Maharashtra on the 26th December 2025.

5. The Bill is intended to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature.

Mumbai,
Dated the 17th February, 2026.

JAYKUMAR GORE,
Minister for Rural Development.

**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE
SECRETARIAT**

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**[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.