

L. A. BILL No. XXII OF 2026.

A BILL

further to amend the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016.

Mah. VI of
2017.

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 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 Public Universities (Second Amendment) Act, 2026.

Short title.

Mah. VI of
2017.

2. In section 2 of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act"), after clause (36), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

Amendment of
section 2 of Mah.
VI of 2017.

"(36A) "MahaSARC" means the Maharashtra State Academic and Research Council as specified under section 77A;"

Amendment
of section 5 of
Mah. VI of 2017.

3. In section 5 of the principal Act,—

(1) after clause (80), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“(80A) to take necessary steps for effective implementation of any Educational Policy prescribed by the Central Government and adopted by the State Government, from time to time;”;

5

(2) in clause (81), after the words “of the university” the words “and any other directives issued under this Act” shall be inserted.

Amendment
of section 13
of Mah. VI of
2017.

4. In section 13 of the principal Act, in sub-section (12), for the word “Chancellor” the words “Management Council” shall be substituted.

Amendment
of section 15 of
Mah. VI of 2017.

5. In section 15 of the principal Act, after sub-section (4), the following 10 sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

“(4A) The Vice-Chancellor may appoint, a suitable person qualified to be appointed as Dean when the office of the Dean falls vacant or when the Dean is by reason of illness or absence or any other cause, unable to perform the duties of his office, for a period not exceeding six months, to officiate as 15 Dean, till the Dean resumes his office, or a new Dean assumes duty, as the case may be.”.

Amendment
of section 62 of
Mah. VI of 2017.

6. In section 62 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2), for the words “three months” the words “six months” shall be substituted.

Insertion of new
section 77A in
Mah.
VI of 2017.

7. After section 77 of the principal Act, the following section shall be 20 inserted, namely :—

Maharashtra
State Academic
and Research
Council.

“77A. (1) There shall be a Council to be called as the Maharashtra State Academic and Research Council (MahaSARC) to advise the Commission and its Board of Management for framing policies in respect of academic and research matters in higher education and also to give directives to the university in 25 academic matters.

(2) The composition, functions and duties of the MahaSARC and procedure for conduct of business of its meetings and such other matters as may be prescribed by the State Government.

(3) The MahaSARC shall submit a yearly report of its activities, to the 30 Commission.

(4) The directives of the MahaSARC in respect of all academic matters shall be binding upon the Academic Council, Faculty and Board of Studies of the university.”.

Amendment of
section 100 of
Mah. VI of 2017.

“8. In section 100 of the principal Act, in sub-section (5), in clause (a), in 35 proviso, for the words “the Chancellor” the words “the Government” shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (Mah. VI of 2017) is enacted, to provide for academic autonomy and excellence, adequate representation through democratic process, transformation, strengthening and regulating higher education and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. For effective implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020 and to strengthen the governance, structure of university and make it able to improve the quality of higher education and research, the Government considers it expedient to amend the said Act.

2. The salient features of the proposed amendments are as follows, namely :—

(i) section 5 of the said Act is amended to provide the university to take necessary steps for effective implementation of any Educational Policy prescribed by the Central Government and adopted by the State Government;

(ii) sub-section (12) of section 13 of the said Act is amended to provide for removal of Pro-Vice-Chancellor by the Management Council on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor;

(iii) section 15 of the said Act, is amended to insert sub-section (4A) to provide for appointment of Dean for the period not exceeding six months, in case the office of the Dean falls vacant by the reason of illness or absence or any other cause;

(iv) section 77A is inserted in the said Act to provide for provision of the constitution of the Maharashtra State Academic and Research Council to advise the Maharashtra State Commission for Higher Education and Development and its Board of Management.

The Government also considers it expedient to amend section 2, sub-section (2) of section 62 and section 100 of the said Act, suitably.

3. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Mumbai,

Dated the 13th March 2026.

CHANDRAKANT (DADA) PATIL,

Minister for Higher and
Technical Education.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

The Bill involves the following proposal for delegation of legislative power, namely :—

Clause 7(2).- Under this clause, power is taken to the State Government to prescribe by rules the composition, functions and duties of the MahaSARC and procedure for conduct of business of its meeting.

2. The above-mentioned proposal for delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

ANNEXURE TO THE L. A. BILL No. XXII OF 2026 - (81)
 THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
 (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026. 18 of 21

(Extracts from the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016)

(Mah. VI of 2017)

1. to 4. * * *

5. The university shall have the following powers and duties, namely :— Powers and
 duties of
 university.
 (1) to (80) * * *

(81) to comply with and carry out any directives issued by the State Government, from time to time, with reference to above powers, duties and responsibilities of the university;

(82) and (83) * * *

6. to 12. * * *

13. (1) to (11) * * *

Pro-Vice
 Chancellor.

(12) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor may be removed from his office by the Chancellor on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, if he is satisfied that the incumbent,—

(a) has become insane and stands so declared by a competent court; or

(b) has been convicted by a court for any offence involving moral turpitude;
 or

(c) has become an undischarged insolvent and stands so declared by a competent court; or

(d) has been physically unfit and incapable of discharging functions due to protracted illness or physical disability; or

(e) has willfully omitted or refused to carry out the provisions of this Act or has committed breach of any of the terms and conditions of service or any other conditions, prescribed by the State Government under sub-section (5) or has abused the powers vested in him or if, the continuance of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor in the office is detrimental to the interests of the university; or

(f) is a member of, or is otherwise associated with, any political party or any organization which takes part in politics, or is taking part in, or subscribing in aid of, any political movement or activity.

Explanation.— For the purposes of this clause, whether any party is a political party, or whether any organization takes part in politics or whether any movement or activity falls within the scope of this clause, the decision of the Vice-Chancellor thereon shall be final:

Provided that, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor shall be given a reasonable opportunity to show cause by the Vice-Chancellor before taking recourse for his removal under clauses (d), (e) and (f).

Term of office
of members of
Authority.

(13)	*	*	*	*
14. to 61.	*	*	*	*
62. (1)	*	*	*	*

(2) The process of election, nomination and co-option shall be commenced at least three months before expiry of the term of the authority and shall be completed not later than 30th November in that year:

Provided that, for the initial term of the authorities of the Universities, immediately after the commencement of this Act, the process of election, nomination and co-option shall be completed not later than 31st May 2018.

63. to 99.	*	*	*	*
99A.	*	*	*	*
Building and Works Committee. 100. (1) to (4)	*	*	*	*

(5) The Buildings and Works committee shall,—

(a) under direction and overall superintendence of the Management Council, be responsible for the execution of all types of works, including major works to be executed through the agency of the Public Works Department or the Public Sector Undertakings of the Government of Maharashtra or Government of India:

Provided that, if the work is executed through the Public Sector Undertakings of the Government of Maharashtra or Government of India, the Chancellor shall select such Public Sector Undertakings from the panel of three experienced and reputed Public Sector Undertakings of the Government of Maharashtra or Government of India, prepared by the university with prior approval of the Management Council;

(b) to (n)	*	*	*	*
(6) to (8)	*	*	*	*
101. to 148.	*	*	*	*
SCHEDULES	*	*	*	*

**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE
SECRETARIAT**

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

**[A Bill further to amend the Maharashtra
Public Universities Act, 2016.]**

**[SHRI CHANDRAKANT (DADA) PATIL,
Minister for Higher and Technical Education.]**

**JITENDRA BHOLE,
Secretary-1,
Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.**