

**L. A. BILL No. XXIX OF 2026.**

*A BILL*

*further to amend the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960.*

Mah. XXIV of 5 1961. WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960, 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 Co-operative Societies Short title. (Amendment) Act, 2026.

Mah. XXIV of 10 1961. 2. In section 73AAA of the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 Amendment of section 73AAA of Mah. XXIV of 1961. (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”), in sub-section (3), —

(1) the first proviso shall be deleted ;

(2) in the second proviso, for the words “the Committee of the Society” the words, letter, figures and brackets “the Committee of the Society, except the Committee of Type “A” Societies prescribed in rule 4 of the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Election to Committee) Rules, 2014,” 5 shall be substituted.

Amendment  
of section 73B  
of Mah. XXIV  
of 1961.

**3.** In section 73B of the principal Act, in sub-section (4), after the words, brackets and figure “sub-section (3);” the words “, by the committee in its meeting which shall be presided over by an officer authorized by the State Co-operative Election Authority” shall be added. 10

Amendment  
of section 73C  
of Mah. XXIV  
of 1961.

**4.** In section 73C of the principal Act, in sub-section (3), after the words, brackets and figure “sub-section (2)” the words “, by the committee in its meeting which shall be presided over by an officer authorized by the State Co-operative Election Authority” shall be added.

Amendment  
of section  
73CB of Mah.  
XXIV of 1961.

**5.** In section 73CB of the principal Act, in sub-section (9), in the 15 *Explanation*, for the words, brackets and figure “the expression ‘persons to whom sub-section (8) applies’ are the”, the words “the term ‘person’ means the Divisional, District, Taluka or Ward Co-operative Election Officers, Observers, Zonal Officers,” shall be substituted.

Substitution  
of section 73F  
of Mah. XXIV  
of 1961.

**6.** For section 73F of the principal Act, the following section shall be 20 substituted, namely :—

Election to  
more than  
one seat on  
committee.

**“73F.** (1) If a person is elected to more than one seat on the committee then, he shall retain one seat and shall resign all other seats within a period of fifteen days from the date of declaration of the result of the election by writing under his hand addressed to the concerned Registrar. In case such 25 person does not resign within the said period, then all such seats shall become vacant.

(2) On receipt of such resignation or on the seats becoming so vacant, the committee shall forthwith communicate the occurrence of such vacancy to the State Co-operative Election Authority and Divisional, District, Taluka 30 or Ward Co-operative Election Officer, as the case may be.

(3) The vacancy so occurred shall be filled in within one month from the date of such communication, by nomination of the members eligible to contest election from the class of members in respect of which the vacancy has arisen, in the meeting of the committee which shall be presided over 35 by an officer authorized by the State Co-operative Election Authority.”.

Amendment  
of section 81  
of Mah. XXIV  
of 1961.

**7.** In section 81 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), in clause (a), in the second proviso, for the words “rupees one lakh” the words “rupees two lakhs” shall be substituted.

Amendment  
of section 157  
of Mah. XXIV  
of 1961.

**8.** In section 157 of the principal Act, after the existing proviso, the 40 following proviso shall be added, namely :—

“Provided further that, the State Government shall not exempt any society or class of societies from the provisions made under section 73 CB.”.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Section 73B of the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 (Mah. XXIV of 1961) provides for reservation of certain seats on committees of societies for members belonging to reserved categories and elections thereto. Sub-section (4) of section 73B of the said Act provides that, if no person is elected to any of the reserved seats, then such seats shall be filled in by nomination from amongst the persons belonging to such reserved categories. Section 73C of the said Act provides for reservation of seats for women members on committees of societies. Sub-section (3) of section 73C of the said Act provides that where no woman member is elected to such reserved seat, then such seat shall be filled in by nomination from amongst the women members.

In order to ensure that such vacant reserved seats are filled from members belonging to such reserved categories, the Government considers it expedient to amend said sections 73B and 73C, with a view to provide that meeting of the committee in which such nominations are to be made shall be presided over by an officer authorized by the State Co-operative Election Authority.

2. The Divisional, District, Taluka or Ward Co-operative Election Officers, Observers and Zonal Officers are discharging the official duties relating to the conduct of election of co-operative societies as per the directions of the State Co-operative Election Authority. Sub-section (9) of section 73CB of the said Act is proposed to be amended with a view to expressly mention the said officers, to clarify that the provisions of protection from filing of legal proceedings against them while discharging the said official duties, are also applicable to them.

3. The Government considers it expedient to provide for nomination of members instead of provision of electing members, to fill the vacancies arisen due to resignation of a person elected to more than one seat, as conducting election for few seats is financially burdensome and time consuming. Section 73F of the said Act is proposed to be amended therefor.

4. Section 73CB provides for constitution of the State Co-operative Election Authority for conduct of elections or committees of the co-operative societies. The Government is of the view that the power to exempt societies from the provisions of the Act under section 157 shall not be used in respect of the provisions contained in section 73CB, relating to elections. Therefore, a proviso is proposed to be inserted in section 157 by amending the same.

5. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Mumbai,  
Dated the 18th March, 2026.

BABASAHEB PATIL,  
Minister for Co-operation.



*ANNEXURE TO THE L.A. BILL No. XXIX OF 2026 –  
THE MAHARASHTRA CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES*

*(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026*

*( Extracts from the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 )*

**( Mah. XXIV of 1961 )**

<b>1. to 73.</b>	*	*	*	*	
<b>73-ID. and 73A.</b>	*	*	*	*	
<b>73AAA. (1) and (2)</b>	*	*	*	*	

Constitution of  
Committee.

(3) The term of the office of the elected members of the committee and its office bearers shall be five years from the date of election and the term of the office bearers shall be co-terminus with the term of the committee and on the expiry of the term of the committee, the members shall be deemed to have vacated their offices as members of the committee.

“Provided that, if the term of office of the elected members of the committee and its office bearers has expired, and if the election to the committee of the society could not be held due to the orders issued by the Government, from time to time, or any reason not attributable to the members of the committee of the society, such members and office bearers of the committee shall be deemed to have continued as members and office bearers of the committee till new committee is duly constituted.”;

“Provided further that, if the election to the Committee of the society could not be held for any reason not attributable to the members of the Committee of such Society, the existing members of the Committee shall be deemed to have continued till new committee is duly constituted.”

(4) and (5)	*	*	*	*	
<b>73B. (1) to (3)</b>	*	*	*	*	

Reservation of  
certain seats on  
committees of  
societies and  
election thereto.

(4) Where no person is elected to any of the three reserved seats, then such seat or seats shall be filled in by nomination from amongst the persons entitled to contest the election under sub-section (3);

*Explanation.*—For the purposes of this section,—

(a) a general or special order, if any, issued by the State Government under section 73-B as it existed before the date of commencement of the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 1983 shall be deemed to have been issued under sub-section (1) of this section and shall continue to be in force until duly repealed or amended ;

(b) the expression “Scheduled Castes” includes “Nav-Boudhas”

(b-1) the expression “Other Backward Classes, De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis) and Nomadic Tribes and Special Backward Classes ” means such classes or parts of or groups within such classes as are declared, from time to time, by the State Government to be Other Backward Classes, De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis) and Nomadic Tribes and Special Backward Classes;

<b>73C. (1) and (2)</b>	*	*	*	*	
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Reservation for  
women.

(3) Where no woman member or, as the case may be, women members are elected to such reserved seats, then such seat or seats shall be filled in by nomination from amongst the women members eligible to contest the election under sub-section (2).

(4) \* \* \* \*

**73CA.** \* \* \*

State Co-operative Election Authority. **73CB.** (1) to (8) \* \* \*

(9) (a) If any person to whom sub-section (8) applies is, without reasonable cause, guilty of any act or omission in discharge of his official duty, he shall, on conviction, be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

(b) No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against any such person for damages in respect of any such act or omission as aforesaid.

*Explanation.*—For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression “persons to whom sub-section (8) applies” are the Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and any other persons appointed to perform any duty in connection with the receipt of nominations or withdrawal of candidatures, or the recording or counting of votes at an election ; and the expression “official duty” shall be construed accordingly, but shall not include duties imposed otherwise than by or under this Act.

(10) to (15) \* \* \*

**73CC. and 73D.** \* \* \*

Election to more than one seat on the committee of society. **73F.** If a person is elected to more than one seat on the committee then, unless within a period of thirty days from the date of declaration of the result of the election he resigns all but one of the seats by writing under his hand addressed to the Election Officer, or as the case may be, the officer authorised by the State Co-operative Election Authority in this regard, all the seats shall become vacant. On receipt of such resignation or on the seats becoming so vacant, the Election Officer, or as the case may be, the officer authorised by the State Co-operative Election Authority in this regard shall cause to hold the election for filling the vacancy.

**73I.** \* \* \*

**74. to 80.** \* \* \*

Audit. **81.** (1) (a) The society shall cause to be audited its accounts atleast once in each financial year and also cause it to be completed within a period of four months from the close of financial year to which such accounts relate by auditor or auditing firm from a panel prepared by the Registrar and approved by the State Government or an authority authorised by it in this behalf, possessing required qualifications and experience as may be prescribed, to be eligible for auditing accounts of societies, appointed by the general body of a society, as provided in sub-section (2A) of section 75 or by the Committee, as provided in sub-section (2B) thereof and shall lay such audit report before the annual general body meeting. In case of apex society, the audit report shall also be laid before both Houses of the State Legislature, in such manner, as may be prescribed :

Provided that, if the Registrar is satisfied that the society has failed to intimate and file the return as provided by sub-section (2A) of section 75 and sub-section (1B) of section 79, by order, for the reasons to be recorded in writing,

he may cause its accounts to be audited, by an auditor from the panel of the auditors approved by the State Government or an authority authorised by it in this behalf :

Provided further that, no auditor shall accept audit of more than twenty societies for audit in a financial year excluding societies having paid up share capital of less than rupees one lakh :

Provided also that, the Registrar shall maintain a panel of auditors and auditing firms as approved by the State Government or an authority authorised by it in this behalf

Provided also that, for the financial year 2019-2020 and year 2020-2021 the society shall cause its audit to be completed within a period of nine months from the close of the financial year 2019-2020 and year 2020-2021.

(b) to (g)	*	*	*	*
(2) to (7)	*	*	*	*
<b>82. to 156.</b>	*	*	*	*

**157.** The State Government may, by general or special order exempt any society or classes of societies from any of the provisions of this Act, or of the rules made thereunder, or may direct that such provisions shall apply to such society or class of societies with such modifications not affecting the substance thereof as may be specified in the order :

Power to exempt societies from provisions of Act.

Provided that, no order to the prejudice of any society shall be passed, without an opportunity being given to such society to represent its case :

<b>158. to 168.</b>	*	*	*	*
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**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE  
SECRETARIAT**

**[L. A. BILL No. XXIX OF 2026.]**

**[A Bill further to amend the  
Maharashtra Co-operative  
Societies Act, 1960.]**

[SHRI BABASAHEB PATIL,  
Minister for Co-operation.]

JITENDRA BHOLE,  
Secretary-1,  
Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.