

L. A. BILL No. LIII OF 2026.

A BILL

*further to amend the Maharashtra Police Act and the Maharashtra
Prohibition of Obscene Dance in Hotels, Restaurants and Bar Rooms and
Protection of Dignity of Women (working therein) Act, 2016.*

XXII of 1951. Mah. XII of 2016. 10 WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Police Act and the Maharashtra Prohibition of Obscene Dance in Hotels, Restaurants and Bar Rooms and Protection of Dignity of Women (working therein) Act, 2016, for the purposes hereinafter appearing ; it is hereby enacted in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. This Act may be called the Maharashtra Police and Maharashtra Short title.
Prohibition of Obscene Dance in Hotels, Restaurants and Bar Rooms and
15 Protection of Dignity of Women (working therein) (Amendment) Act, 2026.

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENTS TO THE MAHARASHTRA POLICE ACT.

Amendment of section 2 of XXII of 1951. **2.** In section 2 of the Maharashtra Police Act (hereinafter in this Chapter referred to as “the Police Act”), after clause (6A), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

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“(6AA) “live music performance (orchestra) ” means a performance of singing either individually or in a group with or without playing music by use of musical instruments or recording devices, held in a hotel, restaurant or bar room ;”.

Amendment of section 33 of XXII of 1951.

3. In section 33 of the Police Act, in sub-section (1),—

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(a) in clause (w), in sub-clause (i), after the words “or entertainment” the words “except a hotel, restaurant or bar room where live music performance (orchestra) is performed” shall be added ;

(b) in clause (wa), in sub-clause (i), after the words “the musical” the words “except live music performance (orchestra) performed in a hotel, restaurant or bar room” shall be inserted.

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CHAPTER III

AMENDMENTS TO THE MAHARASHTRA PROHIBITION OF OBSCENE DANCE IN HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND BAR ROOMS AND PROTECTION OF DIGNITY OF WOMEN (WORKING THEREIN) ACT, 2016.

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Amendment of section 2 of Mah. XII of 2016. **4.** In section 2 of the Maharashtra Prohibition of Obscene Dance in Hotels, Restaurants and Bar Rooms and Protection of Dignity of Women (working therein) Act, 2016 (hereinafter in this Chapter referred to as “the principal Act”), after clause (7), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

Mah. XII of 2016.

“(7A) “live music performance (orchestra) ” means a performance of singing either individually or in a group with or without playing music by use of musical instruments or recording devices, held in a hotel, restaurant or bar room ;”.

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Amendment of section 3 of Mah. XII of 2016.

5. In section 3 of the principal Act, after the word “dances” the words “or live music performance (orchestra)” shall be inserted.

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Section 33 of the Maharashtra Police Act (XXII of 1951) empowers the Commissioner of Police or District Magistrate to frame rules for regulation of traffic and for preservation of order in public places. Clause (*wa*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 33 of the said Act empowers to make rules for licensing or controlling of the musical, dancing or other performances for the public amusement. The licenses for orchestra and live music performances in hotel, restaurant or bar room are also granted under the provision of the Public Amusement Rules framed under the said clause (*wa*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 33 of the said Act.

2. It has been observed that, to evade the restrictions imposed on dance performances in hotel, restaurant or bar room under the Maharashtra Prohibition of Obscene Dance in Hotels, Restaurants and Bar Rooms and Protection of Dignity of Women (working therein) Act, 2016 (Mah. XII of 2016) (hereinafter referred to as “the Prohibition of Obscene Dance Act”), live music performances (orchestra) licenses granted under the Maharashtra Police Act are being used as an alternative for dance performances licenses in hotel, restaurant or bar room under the Prohibition of Obscene Dance Act. To curb this practice, the Government considers it necessary to bring live music performances (orchestra) within the purview of the Prohibition of Obscene Dance Act and to exclude the licences of the live music performances (orchestra) in hotel, restaurant or bar room from the purview of the Police Act.

The Government, therefore, considers it expedient to amend sections 2 and 33 of the Maharashtra Police Act and sections 2 and 3 of the Prohibition of Obscene Dance Act, suitably.

3. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Mumbai,
Dated the 5th July, 2026.

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS,
Chief Minister.

(XXII of 1951)

33. (1) The Commissioner with respect to any of the matters specified in this sub-section, the District Magistrate with respect to any of the said matters [except those falling under clauses (a), (b), (db), (e), (g), (r), (t) and (u) thereof], and the Superintendent of Police with respect of the matters falling under the clauses aforementioned read with clause (y) of this sub-section, in areas under their respective charges or any part thereof, may make, alter or rescind rules or orders not inconsistent with this Act for—

(w) (i) licensing or controlling places of public amusement or entertainment ;

(wa) (i) licensing or controlling in the interest of public order, decency or morality or in the interest of the general public, with such exceptions as may be specified, the musical, dancing, mimetic or the article or other performances for the public amusement, including melas and tamashas ;

(wb) *** **

(x) to (y) *** *** *** ***

(1A) and (1B) *** *** *** ***

(2) to (8) *** *** *** ***

33A. *** *** *** ***

34. to 168. *** *** *** ***

SCHEDULES *** *** *** ***

(Extracts from the Maharashtra Prohibition of Obscene Dance in Hotels, Restaurants and Bar Rooms and Protection of Dignity of Women (working therein Act, 2016)

(Mah. XII of 2016)

3. No person shall start hotel, restaurant, bar room or any other place where dances are staged, without obtaining a licence under this Act and without complying with the conditions and restrictions imposed by the Act and the rules.

4. to 16. *** *** *** ***

**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE
SECRETARIAT**

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Women (working therein) Act, 2016.]**

**[SHRI DEVENDRA FADNAVIS,
Chief Minister.]**

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