

L. C. BILL No. XVIII OF 2026.

A BILL

further to amend the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016.

Mah. WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Public
VI of 5 Universities Act, 2016, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; it is hereby
2017. enacted in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. This Act may be called the Maharashtra Public Universities (Fourth Short title.
Amendment) Act, 2026.

Amendment of
section 6 of
Mah. VI of
2017.

2. In section 6 of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”), in sub-section (2),—

Mah.
VI of
2017.

(1) before the existing proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely :—

“Provided that, any institution of the State Government or Central Government or any institute of national importance in India, may be associated with or be admitted to the privileges of a university, even if such institution is situated outside the university area.”;

(2) in the existing first proviso, for the words “Provided that”, the words “Provided further that” shall be substituted;

(3) in the existing second proviso, for the words “Provided further that”, the words “Provided also that” shall be substituted.

Amendment of
section 8 of Mah.
VI of 2017.

3. In section 8 of the principal Act, for sub-section (6), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(6) The State Government shall have right to cause an inspection of any affiliated, conducted or autonomous college, recognized institution or the university and university departments, through an officer duly authorised by it, whenever the State Government deems it necessary to do so.”.

Insertion of
new section 35
A of Mah. VI of
2017.

4. After section 35 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

School of
Studies.

“35A. (1) There shall be the School of Studies under each Faculty in the university.

(2) The university departments and centres conducting courses of studies and research in the relevant subjects or group of subjects shall function under the aegis of the respective School of Studies.

(3) Each School of Study shall be headed by the Director, who shall be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, from amongst the Heads of the Departments who shall have at least five years’ experience of teaching as professor or associate professor in the university, by rotation, for a period of not more than three years.

(4) The functioning and administration of the School of Studies, procedure for nomination of the Director of the School of Studies, terms and conditions of service of the Director including his duties and responsibilities, shall be as prescribed by the Statutes.”.

Amendment of
section 65 of
Mah. VI of
2017.

5. In section 65 of the principal Act, after the words “No person” the words “except an *ex-officio* member” shall be inserted.

Amendment of
section 70 of
Mah. VI of
2017.

6. In section 70 of the principal Act,—

(i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

“(1) When any vacancy of an elected member of any authority, other than the Management Council, occurs before the expiry of his normal term, the vacancy shall be filled by nomination of a person by the Standing Committee constituted under sub-section (3), who is otherwise eligible to be elected on the said authority from the same category.”;

(ii) in sub-section (2), the words “other than an *ex-officio* member” shall be deleted.

7. For section 79 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

Amendment
of section 79
of Mah. VI of
2017.

5 **“79.** (1) There shall be an Ombudsperson in each university to deal with and decide all types of grievances of teachers and other employees of the university, affiliated and autonomous colleges and recognized institutions, other than those managed and maintained by the Central Government, State Government or a local authority. Ombudsperson.

10 (2) The Ombudsperson shall not deal with and decide the grievances against the State Government including its officials and the grievances which are within the jurisdiction of the University and College Tribunal.

15 (3) The Vice-Chancellor shall recommend a panel of three retired Judges not below the rank of the District Judge, for being appointed as the Ombudsperson, for the consideration of the State Government.

 (4) The State Government shall appoint one of the persons included in the panel of three persons recommended by the Vice-Chancellor to be the Ombudsperson for the university.

20 (5) The Ombudsperson shall be appointed for a term of three years from the date of assuming office, and shall be eligible for reappointment for one more term :

 Provided that, no Ombudsperson shall hold office after attaining the age of seventy years.

25 (6) The State Government may remove the Ombudsperson from office, on charges of proven misconduct or misbehaviour.

 (7) No order of removal of Ombudsperson shall be made except after an inquiry made in this regard by a person not below the rank of a retired judge of the High Court, in which a reasonable opportunity of being heard shall be given to the Ombudsperson.

30 (8) The Ombudsperson shall be entitled for remuneration and conveyance charges, as may be determined by the university.

 (9) The Ombudsperson shall decide grievances as mentioned in sub-section (1), after giving reasonable opportunity of being heard to both the parties.

35 (10) The Ombudsperson shall hear, settle and decide grievances as per the law, as far as may be practicable, within three months, from the date of filing of the complaint.

40 (11) The university shall establish a Cell headed by the officer of the university not below the rank of the Assistant Registrar for providing administrative assistance to the Ombudsperson.”.

Amendment
of section 81
of Mah. VI of
2017.

8. In section 81 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1),—

(i) for clause (b), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“ (b) any party aggrieved by the decision of the Ombudsperson appointed under this Act ; ” ;

(ii) in the existing proviso, for the words “Grievances Committee” the word “Ombudsperson” shall be substituted. 5

Amendment
of section 121
of Mah. VI of
2017.

9. In section 121 of the principal Act, the following sub-section shall be added, namely :—

“(9) In the event of the closure of affiliated college, recognized institution, faculty, course of studies or satellite centre, the management shall be solely responsible for all liabilities arising out of establishment and services of teachers, non-teaching employees and other staff affected by such closure, except such liabilities of the teachers, non-teaching employees and other staff appointed on the posts aided by the State Government.”. 10 15

Amendment
of section 137
of Mah. VI of
2017.

10. In section 137 of the principal Act, in sub-section (3), for the words “as a private student of the university or join correspondence course or any other external degree or diploma course of the university” the words “as a student of the degree or diploma programmes offered by the Centre for Distance Education of the university.” shall be substituted. 20

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.

2. For effective academic administration, optimum utilization of human resources and to maintain uniformity in all Universities, it is considered necessary to make new provision for 'School of Studies' under each Faculty of university by inserting a new section 35A in the said Act.

3. The existing composition of the Grievances Committee includes the University of College Officials such as Registrar, Dean, Law Officer, one teacher belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes (*Vimukta Jatis*) or Nomadic Tribes or Other Backward Classes and one non-teaching employee of the college nominated by the Senate, who are the members of the Grievances Committee. The grievances of employees of universities as well as of colleges or institutions are filed before the Grievances Committee. Due to involvement of university or college officials in redressal of grievances, it becomes difficult to ensure impartial redressal. Therefore, it is proposed to replace the Grievances Committee with an Ombudsperson to ensure impartial, speedy and effective disposal of grievances of employees of the universities, affiliated and autonomous colleges and recognize institutions by substituting section 79 in the said Act.

4. Also, to facilitate association of Government institutions with universities, to enable the State Government to inspect universities, university departments and affiliated institutions through an officer duly authorised by the State Government, to rationalise provisions relating to university authorities, to provide for appeals against the decisions of the Ombudsperson and to make certain consequential amendments, the Government considers it expedient to amend sections 6, 8, 65, 70, 81, 121 and 137 the said Act, suitably.

5. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Mumbai,
Dated the 2nd July 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 4(4).—Under this clause, power is taken to the University to prescribe by statutes the functioning and administration of the School of Studies, procedure for nomination of the Director of the School of Studies, terms and conditions of service of the Director including his duties and responsibilities.

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

(Mah. VI of 2017)

6. (1) * * * *

Jurisdiction
and
admission to
privileges of
University.

Provided further that, if a university, the jurisdiction of which is not restricted to any State or area, wishes to establish a centre or other unit of research in the university area on its own or in collaboration with any public or private Indian or foreign university or institution, it may do so with the sanction of the State Government and also with the Central Government, if the collaboration is with the foreign university or institution.

7. * * *

(6) The State Government through any officer not below the rank of D

Control of State Government on Universities

9. to 64. * * * *

Ineligibility
for second
consecutive
term.

HB 768-3a

66. to 69.

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Casual
vacancy and
standing
committee to
fill vacancies.

70. (1) When any vacancy occurs in the office of a member, other than an ex-officio member or, a member nominated by the Chancellor, of any authority or other body of the university except Management Council before the expiry of his normal term, the vacancy shall be filled by nomination of a person by the Standing Committee constituted under sub-section (3) who is otherwise eligible to be elected on the said authority or body from the same category.

(2) In case, any vacancy occurs in the office of a member, other than an ex-officio member of Management Council of the university, it shall be filled as soon as possible, by nomination or election or co-option, as the case may be, of a person by the authority, body or the officer concerned. The person so nominated, elected or co-opted shall be a person who is otherwise eligible to be nominated, elected or co-opted on the said authority or body from the same category. The person so nominated, elected or co-opted shall hold office only so long as the member in whose place he has been nominated, elected or co-opted shall have held it, if the vacancy had not occurred.

(3) and (4)

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71. to 78.

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Grievances
Committee.

79. (1) There shall be a Grievance Committee in each university to deal with all types of grievances; except grievances against the State Government including its officials, of teachers and other employees of the university, affiliated and autonomous colleges and recognized institutions, other than those managed and maintained by the State Government, Central Government or a local authority; which are not within the jurisdiction of the University and College Tribunal.

(2) The university shall establish a Grievances Redressal Cell headed by the officer of the university not below the rank of the Assistant Registrar for providing administrative assistance to the Grievances Committee.

(3) The Grievances Committee shall consist of the following members, namely :—

(a) retired Judge not below the rank of the District Judge, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor - Chairperson ;

(b) one Dean, nominated by the Vice - Chancellor;

(c) Chancellor's nominee on the Management Council;

(d) Registrar;

(e) one teacher belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis) or Nomadic Tribes or Other Backward Classes and one non-teaching employee nominated by the Senate from amongst its members;

(f) Law Officer of the University – Member-Secretary.

(4) The nomination of a retired Judge as the Chairperson and of a Dean as the member of the Grievances Committee, shall be for such period, not exceeding three years in aggregate, as the Vice-Chancellor may from time to time, in each case decide.

(5) The retired Judge nominated as the Chairperson of the Grievances Committee shall be entitled for remuneration and conveyance charges, as may be determined by the university.

(6) The Grievances Committee shall hear, settle and decide grievances as per the law, as far as may be practicable, within three months, from the date of filing of the complaint.

(7) It shall be lawful for the Grievances Committee to entertain and decide grievances or complaints relating to service of the employee, which are not within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal, after giving reasonable opportunity of being heard to both the parties.

80. * * * *

81. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law or contract for the time being in force, any teacher or other employee in the university governed by this Act or in affiliated college or recognized institution of any of these universities, other than that managed and maintained by the State Government, Central Government or a local authority, who is— Right of appeal.

(a) * * * *

(b) aggrieved by the decision of the Grievances Committee established under this Act;

shall have a right of appeal and any appeal against any such order or decision shall lie to the Tribunal :

Provided that, no such appeal shall lie to the Tribunal in any case where the matter has already been decided or pending before a Court or Tribunal on the date of Commencement of this Act or where the order of dismissal, removal, otherwise termination of service, compulsory retirement or reduction in rank, or decision of the Grievances Committee was passed at any time before the date on which this Act comes into force and in which case the period for filing an appeal has expired.

(2) to (4) * * * *

82. to 136. * * * *

137. (1) and (2) * * * *

(3) Any female student from any part of the State of Maharashtra or any other territory may register as a private student of the university or join correspondence course or any other external degree or diploma course of the university. Special provisions for Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University.

(4) to (9) * * * *

138. to 148. * * * *

SCHEDULE * * * *

**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE
SECRETARIAT**

[L. C. BILL No. XVIII OF 2026.]

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

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

**DR. VILAS ATHAWALE,
Secretary (III),
Maharashtra Legislative Council.**