

L. C. BILL No. I OF 2026.

A BILL

further to amend the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016.

(As passed by the Legislative Council on the 4th March, 2026)

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

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 Public Universities Act, 2016, for the
purposes hereinafter appearing; and, therefore, promulgated the Maharashtra
Public Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, on the 18th February 2026;

Mah. VI
of 2017.

Mah. 10
Ord. I of
2026.

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to replace 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 :—

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

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 18th February 2026.

Amendment
of section 109
of Mah. VI of
2017.

2. In section 109 of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”), in sub-section (3),—

Mah. VI
of 2017.

(1) in clause (d), after the existing proviso, the following proviso shall be added, namely :—

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“Provided further that, for the academic year 2026-2027, the State Government may grant Letter of Intent on or before 15th March 2026.”;

(2) in clause (g), second proviso and Table shall be deleted.

Repeal of
Mah. Ord. I of
2026 and
saving.

3. (1) The Maharashtra Public Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, is hereby repealed.

10 Mah.
Ord. I of
2026.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken (including any notification 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 corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Section 109 of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (Mah. VI of 2017), provides for the procedure for permission for opening new college or new course, subject, faculty, division or satellite centre. Clause (d) of sub-section (3) of said section 109 provides that, out of the applications recommended by the university, the State Government may grant a Letter of Intent on or before 31st January of the immediately following year after the recommendations of the university under clause (c) of said section 109.

2. Due to Code of Conduct for elections of local authorities the Government was not able to grant Letter of Intent within the prescribed period. The Government, therefore, considered expedient to amend clause (d) of sub-section (3) of section 109, suitably, so as to extend the date for grant of Letter of Intent by the State Government for opening a new college or institution of higher learning for the academic year 2026-2027.

3. As both Houses of the State Legislatures 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 Public Universities Act, 2016, for the aforesaid purposes, the Maharashtra Public Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (Mah. Ord. I of 2026), was promulgated by the Governor of Maharashtra on the 18th February 2026.

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

Mumbai,
Dated the 27th February, 2026.

CHANDRAKANT (DADA) PATIL,
Minister for Higher and
Technical Education.

**ANNEXURE TO THE L. C. BILL No. I OF 2026—
THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2026.**

(Extracts from the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016)

(Mah. VI of 2017)

1. to 108.	*	*	*	*
109. (1) and (2)	*	*	*	*
(3) (a) to (c)	*	*	*	*

(d) out of the applications recommended by the University, the State Government may grant a Letter of Intent on or before 31st January of the immediately following year after the recommendations of the University under clause (c). The Letter of Intent may be granted to such institutions as the State Government may consider fit and proper in its absolute discretion, taking into account the relevant factors, the suitability of the management seeking Letter of Intent, state Level priority with regard to location of institutions of higher learning, etc. The Letter of Intent shall be communicated by the State Government to the University, on or before the date specified in this clause :

Procedure for permission for opening new college or new course, subject, faculty, division.

Provided, however, that in exceptional cases and for the reasons to be recorded in writing any application not recommended by the University may be approved by the State Government for grant of a Letter of Intent to college or institutions of higher learning;

(e) and (f)	*	*	*	*
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(g) after considering the report of the University under clause (f), the State Government may grant final approval to such management as it may consider fit and proper in its absolute discretion, taking into account the State Government's budgetary resources, and other relevant factors, the suitability of managements seeking permission to open new institution, etc. The final approval under this clause may be granted on or before 15th June, of the year in which such new college or institutions are proposed to be started. Such approval from the State Government shall be communicated to the University. Approval granted thereafter shall be given effect by the University only in the subsequent academic year :

Provided however that, in exceptional cases and for the reasons to be recorded in writing any compliance report on the Letter of Intent, which is not recommended by the University, may be approved by the State Government.

Provided further that, to extend the date of grant of final approval by the State Government, for the academic year 2024-2025, the date referred to in clause (g) of sub-section (3) as specified in column (2) of the Table given below, shall be read as provided in column (3) of the said Table : —

Clause	Date provided in existing provision	Date provided for Academic Year 2024-2025
(1)	(2)	(3)
(g)	on or before the 15th June of the year in which such new college or institution is proposed to be started.	on or before 15th July 2024 ;

(4) to (9)	*	*	*	*
110. to 148.	*	*	*	*
SCHEDULES.	*	*	*	*

**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE
SECRETARIAT**

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

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

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

**[As passed by the Legislative Council
on the 4th March, 2026.]**

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