

L. A. BILL No. XV OF 2026.

A BILL

*further to amend the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and
Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961.*

(As passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 17th March, 2026.)

(As passed by the Legislative Council on the 23rd March, 2026.)

Mah. V
of 1962.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961, 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 *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis* (Second Amendment) Act, 2026. Short title.

Amendment
of section 9
of Mah. V of
1962.

2. In section 9 of the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis* Act, 1961 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”), in sub-section (1), after clause (b), the following clause shall be added, namely :—

Mah. V
of 1962.

“(c) ten per cent. of the total number of elected Councillor or minimum five persons, whichever is higher, having special knowledge or experience in respect of the administration of *Zilla Parishads* to be nominated by the Collector as nominated Councillors:

Provided that, the nominated Councillors referred to in clause (c) shall have no right to,—

(i) vote at any meeting of the *Zilla Parishad* and Committees of the *Zilla Parishad*; and

(ii) get elected as a President or Vice-President of a *Zilla Parishad* or Chairperson of any of the committees of the *Zilla Parishad*.”.

Amendment
of section 10
of Mah. V of
1962.

3. In section 10 of the principal Act, after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be added, namely:—

“(4) The term of the office of the nominated Councillor shall be co-terminus with the duration of the *Zilla Parishad*.”.

Insertion of
new section
10-1A in Mah.
V of 1962.

4. After section 10 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

Nomination of
Councillors.

“10-1A. (1) After election of President, the Collector shall call a special meeting for the purpose of nominating Councillors.

(2) The nomination of the Councillors under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 9 shall be made in the prescribed manner.

(3) The meeting called under sub-section (1) shall be presided over by the Collector or such officer as the Collector may by order in writing appoint in this behalf. The Collector or such officer when presiding over such meeting shall have the same powers as the President of the *Zilla Parishad* when presiding over a meeting of the *Zilla Parishad* has, but shall have no right to vote :

Provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, for regulating the procedure at meetings (including the quorum required thereat), the Collector or the officer presiding over such meeting may, for reasons which in his opinion are sufficient, refuse to adjourn such meeting.

(4) While nominating the Councillors, the Collector shall take into account the relative strength of recognized parties or registered parties or groups and nominate Councillors, as nearly as may be, in proportion to the strength of such parties or groups in the *Zilla Parishad* after consulting the leader of each such party or group:

Provided that, for the purpose of deciding the relative strength of the recognized parties or registered parties or groups under this sub-section, the recognized parties or registered parties or groups, or elected Councillor not belonging to any such party or group, may, notwithstanding anything contained in the Maharashtra Local Authority Members Disqualification Act, 1986, within a period of not more than three months from the date

Mah.
XX of
1987.

of notification of election results, from the *aghadi* or front, and, on its registration, the provisions of the said Act shall apply to the members of such *aghadi* or front, as it is a pre-poll *aghadi* or front.

(5) The names of the nominated Councillors shall also be published by the State Election Commission in the *Official Gazette*.”.

5. In section 57 of the principal Act, for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

Amendment of section 57 of Mah. V of 1962.

“(1) Every *Panchayat Samiti* shall consist of,—

(a) members elected by direct one each from each electoral college in accordance with the provisions contained in section 58 and the rules in that behalf :

Provided that, the ratio between the population of the territorial area of a *Panchayat Samiti* and the number of seats in such *Panchayat Samiti* to be filled in by election shall, as far as practicable, be the same throughout the State;

(b) twenty per cent. of the total number of elected member or minimum one person, whichever is higher, having special knowledge or experience in respect of the administration of *Zilla Parishads* or *Panchayat Samitis* to be nominated by the Collector as nominated members:

Provided that, the nominated members referred to in clause (b) shall have no right to,—

(i) vote at any meeting of the *Panchayat Samiti* and committees of the *Panchayat Samiti*; and

(ii) get elected as a Chairman or Deputy Chairman of a *Panchayat Samiti* or Chairperson of any of the committees of the *Panchayat Samiti*.”.

6. In section 59 of the principal Act, after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be added, namely:-

Amendment of section 59 of Mah. V of 1962.

“(4) The term of the office of the nominated member shall be co-terminus with the duration of the *Panchayat Samiti*.”.

7. After section 59 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:-

Insertion of new section 59A in Mah. V of 1962.

“59A. (1) After election of Chairman, the Collector shall call a special meeting for the purpose of nominating members.

Nomination of members.

(2) The nomination of the members under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 57 shall be made in the prescribed manner.

(3) The meeting called under sub-section (1) shall be presided over by the Collector or such officer as the Collector may by order in writing appoint in this behalf. The Collector or such officer when presiding over such meeting shall have the same powers as the Chairman of a *Panchayat Samiti* when presiding over a meeting of the *Panchayat Samiti* has, but shall have no right to vote:

Provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, for regulating the procedure at meetings (including the quorum required thereat), the Collector or the officer presiding over such meeting may, for reasons which in his opinion are sufficient, refuse to adjourn such meeting.

(4) While nominating the members, the Collector shall take into account the relative strength of recognized parties or registered parties or groups and nominate members, as nearly as may be, in proportion to the strength of such parties or groups in the *Panchayat Samiti*, after consulting the leader of each such party or group:

Provided that, for the purpose of deciding the relative strength of the recognized parties or registered parties or groups under this sub-section, the recognized parties or registered parties or groups, or elected member not belonging to any such party or group, may, notwithstanding anything contained in the Maharashtra Local Authority Members Disqualification Act, 1986, within a period of not more than three months from the date of notification of election results, form the *aghadi* or front, and, on its registration, the provisions of the said Act shall apply to the members of such *aghadi* or front, as it is a pre-poll *aghadi* or front.

Mah. XX
of 1987.

(5) The names of the nominated members shall also be published by the State Election Commission in the *Official Gazette*.”.

Amendment
to section 274
of Mah. V of
1962.

8. In section 274 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2),—

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

“(i-a) under sub-section (2) of section 10-1A, prescribing the manner of the nomination of the Councillor;”.

(2) after clause (xiii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(xiv) under sub-section (2) of section 59A, prescribing the manner of the nomination of the member;”.

Power to
remove
difficulties.

9. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act, the State Government may, by order, published in the *Official Gazette*, give such direction, not inconsistent with the provisions of the principal Act, as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing the difficulty:

Provided that, no such order shall be made after the expiry of the period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under sub-section (1) shall be laid, as soon as may be, after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature.

**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE
SECRETARIAT**

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

**[A Bill further to amend the
Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and
Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961.]**

[SHRI JAYKUMAR GORE,
Minister for Rural Development.]

**[As passed by the Legislative Assembly
on the 17th March, 2026.]**

**[As passed by the Legislative Council
on the 23rd March, 2026.]**

DR. VILAS ATHAWALE,
Secretary (3),
Maharashtra Legislative Council.