

L. A. BILL No. LXI OF 2026.

A BILL

further to amend the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000.

(As passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 9th July, 2026.)

(As passed by the Legislative Council on the 10th July, 2026.)

Mah.
XXIII of
2001.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (*Vimukta Jatis*), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; 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 Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (*Vimukta Jatis*), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate (Amendment) Act, 2026. Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment
of section 2 of
Mah. XXIII of
2001.

2. In section 2 of the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (*Vimukta Jatis*), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”), after clause (d), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :—

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2001.

“(d-1) “fake Caste Certificate” means the Caste Certificate purporting to have been issued by the Competent Authority but which in fact is not issued by the said Authority;

(d-2) “fake validity certificate” means the validity certificate purporting to have been issued by the Scrutiny Committee but which in fact is not issued by the Scrutiny Committee;

(d-3) “false Caste Certificate ” means the Caste Certificate obtained by furnishing false information or filing false statements or documents or by any other fraudulent means;

(d-4) “false validity certificate” means the validity certificate obtained by furnishing false information or filing false statements or documents or by any other fraudulent means;”.

Deletion of
section 4A of
Mah. XXIII of
2001.

3. Section 4A of the principal Act shall be deleted.

Amendment
of section 5 of
Mah. XXIII of
2001.

4. In section 5 of the principal Act, in the marginal note, for the word “Appeal”, the words “Appeal against order of Competent Authority” shall be substituted.

Insertion of
new sections
6A and 6B in
Mah. XXIII of
2001.

5. After section 6 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely :—

Review.

“6A. (1) Where,—

(i) the Scrutiny Committee has received any adverse evidence in respect of claim of any person belonging to a particular caste, tribe, classes or category; or

(ii) blood relatives of any person has obtained the validity certificate by fraud or misrepresentation or concealing the material facts; or

(iii) the Scrutiny Committee has come to conclusion that while granting the validity certificate to any person or his blood relatives, the Scrutiny Committee has, ignored the material facts, substantial or vital evidence or there is an error apparent on the face of the record, or has not conducted proper enquiry or not recorded reasons therefor or not followed the due process of law,

the Scrutiny Committee may, *suo motu* review the orders of granting the validity certificates to any person or his blood relatives or family members of such person :

Provided that, the Scrutiny Committee shall not pass any order in review, unless an opportunity of being heard is given to the person affected.

(2) The Scrutiny Committee may after review, by an order after recording reasons therefor, either retain the validity certificate or cancel and confiscate the validity certificate and the Caste Certificate and communicate the same to the concerned person and to the concerned appointing authority or educational institution or any other concerned authority.

6B. (1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the Scrutiny Committee under section 6, 6A or 7 may, within ninety days from the date of receipt of such order, file an appeal before the Appellate Authority, as specified by the Government, by notification in the *Official Gazette*. Appeal against order of Scrutiny Committee.

(2) The Appellate Authority shall within a period of three months from the date of receipt of an appeal and after giving the appellant an opportunity of being heard pass such orders as it deems fit.

(3) The order passed by the Appellate Authority under this section shall be final and shall not be challenged before any authority or court, except the High Court under article 226 of the Constitution of India.”

6. In section 7 of the principal Act,—

(1) in sub-section (1), for the words “certificate was obtained fraudulently,”, the words “certificate is fake or false,” shall be substituted; Amendment of section 7 of Mah. XXIII of 2001.

(2) sub-section (2) shall be deleted;

(3) in the marginal note, after the words “false Caste Certificate”, the words “or fake Caste Certificate” shall be added.

7. After section 7 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :— Insertion of section 7A in Mah. XXIII of 2001.

“7A. (1) Where the Scrutiny Committee has passed an order that the Caste Certificate is fake or false then it shall direct the concerned Competent Authority to file the First Information Report against the person who has submitted such fake or false Caste Certificate to the concerned police station within jurisdiction of Competent Authority. Complaint against holder of fake and false certificate.

(2) The Competent Authority or the officer authorised by it in this behalf shall file the First Information Report against the holder of false Caste Certificate or fake Caste Certificate.

(3) The Member-Secretary of the Scrutiny Committee or officer authorized by him shall file the First Information Report against the holder of fake validity certificate or false validity certificate.”

8. In section 9 of the principal Act, after clause (e), the following clauses shall be added, namely :— Amendment of section 9 of Mah. XXIII of 2001.

“(f) requiring the discovery and production of any document from any office or authority from other State;

(g) any other matter as may be prescribed.”

9. In section 10 of the principal Act,—

Amendment of section 10 of Mah. XXIII of 2001.

(1) in sub-section (1), for the words “false Caste Certificate ,”, the words “fake Caste Certificate or false Caste Certificate ” shall be substituted;

(2) in sub-section (3), for the word “false”, the words “fake or false” shall be substituted ;

(3) in sub-section (4), for the words “false Caste Certificate ,” at both the places where it occurs, the words “fake Caste Certificate or false Caste Certificate” shall be substituted ;

(4) after sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be added, namely :—

“(5) After Caste Certificate has been cancelled and confiscated by the Scrutiny Committee, the concerned Appointing Authority, Local Authority, Government, Educational Institution, Statutory Body or Agency shall take action for withdrawal of benefits given to such person,—

(a) within thirty days from the date of order of the Appellate Authority if appeal is filed, and it is rejected by the Appellate Authority;

(b) within thirty days from the lapse of appeal period specified in sub-section (1) of section 6B, if appeal is not filed.” ;

(5) in the marginal note, after the words “false Caste Certificate ”, the words “, fake Caste Certificate ” shall be inserted.

10. In section 11 of the principal Act,—

(1) in sub-section (1),—

(i) after clause (a), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

“(a-1) obtains a false validity certificate by furnishing false information or filing false statement or documents or by any other fraudulent means ; or

(a-2) submits the fake Caste Certificate or fake validity certificate ; or” ;

(ii) in clause (b), for the words “false Caste Certificate”, the words “fake Caste Certificate or false Caste Certificate” shall be substituted;

(iii) for the words “two thousand rupees, but which may extend upto twenty thousand rupees or both”, the words “twenty thousand rupees, but which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both” shall be substituted;

(2) for sub-section (2), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“(2) No court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under this section except,—

(a) upon a complaint in writing made by the Competent Authority or Scrutiny Committee or any officer duly authorized by the Competent Authority or Scrutiny Committee, for this purpose; or

(b) upon a police report of facts which constitute an offence :

Provided that, such police report is based on the First Information

Report filed by an officer who is authorized to file a First Information Report under section 7A.

(3) If any officer duly authorized by the Competent Authority or Scrutiny Committee, fails to file a First Information Report or willfully delays in filing a First Information Report against the person who has obtained benefits based on a fake Caste Certificate or false Caste Certificate, such officer shall be liable for penalty of twenty thousand rupees and also be liable for disciplinary action, under the service rules applicable to him.”.

11. In section 12 of the principal Act,—

Amendment
of section 12
of Mah. XXIII
of 2001.

2 of
1974.
46 of
2023.

(1) for the words and figures “the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973” the words and figures “the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023” shall be substituted ;

(2) in clause (b), for the words, figures and brackets “sections 262 except sub-section (2) to 265 both inclusive of that Code” the words, figures and brackets “sections 285 (except sub-section (2) thereof), 286 to 288 (both inclusive) of the said Sanhita” shall be substituted.

12. In section 13 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), for the words “two thousand rupees, but which may extend upto twenty thousand rupees or both” the words “twenty thousand rupees, but which may extend to fifty thousand rupee, or with both” shall be substituted.

Amendment
of section 13
of Mah. XXIII
of 2001.

13. In section 16 of the principal Act, for the words “any person for anything”, the words “Competent Authority or members of Scrutiny Committee or Appellate Authority or any person in respect of anything” shall be substituted.

Amendment
of section 16
of Mah. XXIII
of 2001.

14. In section 18 of the principal Act, to sub-section (1), the following proviso shall be added, namely :—

Amendment
of section 18
of Mah. XXIII
of 2001.

“Provided that, if the State Government is of the opinion that any rules should be brought into force at once, such rules may be made without previous publication.”.

Power to
remove
difficulties.

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

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

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

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE
SECRETARIAT

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

**[A Bill further to amend the Maharashtra
Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes,
De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis),
Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward
Classes and Special Backward Category
(Regulation of Issuance and Verification
of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000.]**

**[DR. ASHOK WOOIKE,
Minister for Tribal Development.]**

**[As passed by the Legislative Assembly
on the 9th July, 2026.]**

**(As passed by the Legislative Council
on the 10th July, 2026.)**

DR. VILAS ATHAWALE,
Secretary-3,
Maharashtra Legislative Council.