

**THE ODISHA DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022**

A

BILL

**FURTHER TO AMEND THE ODISHA DISTRICT PLANNING
COMMITTEES ACT, 1998**

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Odisha in the Seventy-third Year of the Republic of India as follows: -

Short title 1. This Act may be called the Odisha District Planning Committees (Amendment) Act, 2022.

Amendment of section 2. 2. In the Odisha District Planning Committees Act, 1998 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 2, after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely: -

“(a-1)“Councillor” means the Councillor or , as the case may be , the Corporator and includes the Chairperson or the Mayor of a Municipality.”

Amendment of section 8 3. In the principal Act, in section 8, after clause (iii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely: -

“(iv) is, in the opinion of the State Government, found to be involved in any act of misdemeanour or immoral activities which render his continuance in the office of the committee as detrimental to the interest of public.”

THE STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In accordance with the mandates of the Constitution, the state Legislature enacted a law called the Odisha District Planning Committee Act, 1998 (Odisha Act 8 of 1998) for the Constitution of the District Planning Committees at the District Level to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and Municipalities in the Districts and to prepare development plan for a District.

Section 3 of the said Act provides for Constitution of the District Planning Committee for every district and sub-section (3) thereof inter alia provides that as nearly as but not less than eighty percentage of the members shall be elected in the prescribed manner by and from among the Members of the Zilla Parisad and elected councilors of the Municipalities in the district in proportion to the ratio between the population of the Rural areas and Urban areas of the district. After amendment of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950 as amended by Odisha Act 15 of 2018 and amendment of the Odisha Municipal Corporation Act, 2003 as amended by Odisha Act 16 of 2018, the "Chairperson" and the "Mayor" are directly elected to such office instead of being elected from amongst the councilors and the corporators. Therefore, in order to enable the "chairperson" of a Municipality and the "Mayor" of a Municipal Corporation to participate in the process of election as Member of the District Planning Committee, the word "Councilor" has been proposed to define to mean councilor or as the case may be the corporator and includes the "Chairperson" or the "Mayor" of the Municipality.

With the objective to make the members of District Planning Committee more responsible and disciplined, the removal clause under section 8 of the Act has been expanded by insertion of another clause in addition to the existing three clauses so that functioning of the District Planning Committee shall not be detrimental to the interest of the public.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

RAJENDRA DHOLAKIA
Member in Charge

ANNEXURE

**[Extract from the Odisha District Planning Committees Act, 1998
(Odisha Act, 8 of 1998)]**

Definitions

2. In the Act, unless the context otherwise requires ---

* * * *

(a) "Committee" means a District Planning Committee constituted under section 3;

3.	*	*	*	*
4.	*	*	*	*
5.	*	*	*	*
6.	*	*	*	*
7.	*	*	*	*

Removal
of
members

8.

*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*

(iii) is found to be guilty of corrupt practice upon the trail of an election petition.