

Bill Summary

The Punjab Learning of Punjabi and other Languages (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- The Punjab Learning of Punjabi and other Languages (Amendment) Bill, 2021, was introduced on November 11, 2021, in the Punjab Assembly. The Bill amends the Punjab Learning of Punjabi and other Languages Act, 2008. The Act provides that from 2009-10 onwards: (i) Punjabi must be taught as a compulsory subject from Classes I to X, and (ii) Hindi must be taught as a compulsory subject from Classes III to VIII. This provision applies to all schools in Punjab.
- **Penalty:** The Act specifies the penalties to be recovered from schools that do not adhere to the Act. The Bill increases the penalty for schools

violating the Act or the Rules made under it (see Table 1). Note that the violation is counted (first time, second time and third time) only if it occurs for a month. The Bill also empowers the state government to enhance or reduce the penalty, if necessary.

Table 1: Penalty amount (in rupees)

Offence	2008 Act	2021 Bill
First time	25,000	50,000
Second time	50,000	1,00,000
Third time	1,00,000	2,00,000

Sources: Punjab Learning of Punjabi and other Languages (Amendment) Bill, 2021; PRS.

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