



TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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Part IV—Section 1

Tamil Nadu Bills

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Under Rule 130 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, the following Bill which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu on 9th January, 2020 is published together with Statement of Objects and Reasons for general information:—

L.A. Bill No. 8 of 2020

A Bill further to amend the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

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|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994. | 1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Act, 2020. | Short title and commencement. |
| | (2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 19th day of November 2019. | |
| Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994. | 2. In section 53 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in clause (b), after the expression “as a member of the panchayat union council”, the expression “or on being elected as chairman of the panchayat union council” shall be inserted. | Amendment of section 53. |
| | 3. After section 57 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely: — | Insertion of new section 57-A. |
| | <p>“57-A. Voting machine at elections.—Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the rules made thereunder, the giving and recording of votes by voting machines may be adopted in such ward or wards of a village panchayat, panchayat union and district panchayat and for election of president of such village panchayat or village panchayats as the State Election Commission may, having regard to the circumstances of each case, specify.</p> <p>Explanation.— For the purpose of this section, “voting machine” means any machine or apparatus whether operated electronically or otherwise used for giving or recording of votes and any reference to a ballot box or ballot paper in this Act or the rules made thereunder shall, save as otherwise provided, be construed as including a reference to such voting machine wherever such voting machine is used at any election.”.</p> | |
| Tamil Nadu Ordinance 7 of 2019. | 4. (1) The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fourth Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 is hereby repealed. | Repeal and saving. |
| | (2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the Principal Act, as amended by this Act. | |

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The Tamil Nadu State Election Commission had suggested to make suitable provisions in the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994) so as to facilitate the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the elections to rural local bodies on the lines of the provisions contained in the laws relating to the Town Panchayats, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations.

2. Further, as there is no provision in the said Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994 for the cessation of the office of the Vice-Chairman of Panchayat Union or District Panchayat, on being elected as Chairman of Panchayat Union or District Panchayat, as the case may be, in any casual vacancy, the said Commission had also suggested to amend section 53 of the said Act for the said purpose.

3. The Government, after careful consideration, decided to accept the aforesaid suggestions of the Tamil Nadu State Election Commission and to amend the said Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994, suitably. Accordingly, the Governor promulgated the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fourth Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 (Tamil Nadu Ordinance 7 of 2019) on the 16th November 2019 and the same was published in the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette*, Extraordinary, dated the 19th November 2019.

4. The Bill seeks to replace the said Ordinance.

S.P. VELUMANI,
*Minister for Municipal Administration
Rural Development, Implementation of
Special Programme.*

K. SRINIVASAN,
Secretary.