



**KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY SIXTH SESSION**

**THE KARNATAKA GROUND WATER (REGULATION AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT  
AND MANAGEMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025**

**(LA Bill No. 43 of 2025)**

**(As passed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly)**

A Bill further to amend the Karnataka Ground water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Act, 2011.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Karnataka Ground water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Act, 2011 (Karnataka Act 25 of 2011), for the purposes hereinafter appearing.

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the seventy-sixth year of the Republic of India as follows:

**1. Short title and commencement.** (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Ground Water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 3.** In the Karnataka Ground Water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Act, 2011 (Karnataka Act 25 of 2011) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 3, in sub section (3),-

(i) for clause (a), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(a) The Secretary to Government incharge of the Minor Irrigation and Ground water development, Government of Karnataka who shall be the chair person."

(ii) for clause (b), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(b) The Director, Groundwater Directorate, who shall be the Member Secretary."

(iii) for clause (f), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(f) The Chief Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department."

(iv) for clause (h), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(h) The Chief Engineer of south zone, Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department."

**3. Amendment of section 11.-** In the principal Act, in section 11,-

(i) For the heading, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

**“11. Grant of permit to extract and use of Ground Water in Notified and Non-Notified Areas.”,**

(ii) For sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(1) Subject to the provisions of any other law for time being in force relating to the protection of public sources of drinking water, no ground water user, except those exempted under sub-section (1-A), shall drill or dig a well or extract, for any purpose in a notified and Non notified area without obtaining permit or No Objection Certificate from the Authority.

(1-A). Categories of consumers who are exempted from obtaining permission or No Objection Certificate. The following categories of consumers shall be exempted from Obtaining Permit for drilling new Borewell and seeking No Objection Certificate for ground water extraction namely:-

- (i) Individual domestic consumers in both rural and urban areas for drinking water and domestic uses;
- (ii) Rural drinking water supply schemes;
- (iii) Armed Forces Establishments and Central Armed Police Forces establishments in both rural and urban areas;
- (iv) Agricultural activities;
- (v) All industries or mining projects or infrastructure projects drawing ground water only for drinking or domestic purposes up to 5 Cum per day in all assessment units, and
- (vi) Residential apartments and group housing societies who drill or dig,-
  - (a) For drinking water and domestic uses, drawing ground water up to 20 m<sup>3</sup> per day subject to the conditions specified in the guidelines; and
  - (b) Dwelling units for Economically Weaker Sections under the Government schemes.

(1-B) All private tankers abstracting ground water and use it for supply as bulk water suppliers shall have No Objection Certificate for ground water abstraction from the concerned authority as notified by the Government.”

**4. Amendment of section 17.-** In the Principal Act, in section 17, in sub-section (1), after clause (j), the following new clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

“(j-1) to issue, adopt and notify the guidelines issued by central groundwater authority for regulating and controlling the ground water extraction with suitable modifications;

(j-2) to constitute the district committee or any committee for any area to implement the purpose of this Act; and

(j-3) to constitute a sub-committee consist of one or more members, experts from among themselves or outsiders to suggest or advice the authority in proper regulation or use of ground water or in any other matter.”

**5. Amendment of section 18.-** In the Principal Act, in section 18, for sub-section (3), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(3) The authority may impose appropriate charges on the quantum of ground water extracted for the use of commercial, industrial, mining projects, infrastructure projects and bulk water supply as notified by the Government on the basis of guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority.”

**6. Amendment of section 32.-** In the Principal Act, in section 32,-

- (i) in sub-section (1), for clause (b), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(b) having been required to furnish any information or return under clause (f) of sub-section (1) of section 17 of this Act:

- (i) Willfully refuses or without lawful excuse, neglects to furnish such information or return; or
- (ii) Willfully furnishes or causes to be furnished any information or return which he knows to be false:

- Shall be liable for punishment with penalty which may extend to Fifty thousand rupees. In the case of continuing and subsequent failure or contravention, an additional Penalty which may extend to one thousand rupees for every day during which such failure or contravention continues, shall be imposed.”

- (ii) in sub-section (2), for the words "five thousand," the words "twenty five thousand", shall be substituted;
- (iii) in sub-section (4), for the words "ten thousand", the words "twenty five thousand", shall be substituted; and
- (iv) after sub-section (4), the following shall be inserted, namely:-

“(5) Any person extracts the water without obtaining valid No Objection Certificate and violates the provisions of this Act and said No Objection Certificate, punishable with penalty as notified by the Government on the basis of guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority, with suitable modifications.”

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS****(As appended to at the time of introduction)**

It is considered necessary to amend the Karnataka Ground water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Act, 2011(Karnataka Act 25 of 2011) to,-

- (i) give effect to the Budget Speech of Budget 2025-26;
- (ii) carry out the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission-2;
- (iii) adopt the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority, New Delhi; and
- (iv) adopt the provisions on the lines of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 (Central Act 18 of 2023).

Hence, the Bill.

**FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM**

There is no extra expenditure involved in the proposed legislative measure.

**N.S. BOSERAJU**

Minister for Minor Irrigation and  
Science and Technology

**K.R. MAHALAKSHMI**

Secretary  
Karnataka Legislative Council

**ANNEXURE**  
**THE KARNATAKA GROUND WATER (REGULATION AND CONTROL OF**  
**DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT) ACT, 2011**

**KARNATAKA ACT NO 25 OF 2011**

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**3. Establishment of Groundwater Authority.- XXX XXX XXX**

(3) The Authority shall consist of the following members, namely:-

- (a) The Secretary to Government in charge of the Department of Water resources, Minor Irrigation, Government of Karnataka who shall be the chairperson.
- (b) The Commissioner or Director of Mines and Geology, who shall be the Member Secretary.
- (c) A representative of the Finance Department, Government of Karnataka.
- (d) The Regional Director, Central Groundwater Board, Government of India.
- (e) One representative from the Electrical Supply Company having jurisdiction over the area, not below the rank of a Chief engineer.
- (f) The Chief Engineer, RDED, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- (g) The Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources Development Organization of Water Resources Department.
- (h) The Chief Engineer, Minor Irrigation, nominated by the Government.
- (i) The Chairman of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.
- (j) The Commissioner/Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture.
- (k) The Chief General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Bangalore.
- (l) Four representative of farmers to be nominated by the Government.
- (m) The Chief Engineer, the KUWS&DB.
- (n) The Chief Engineer, the BWSSB.
- (o) Two members who have special knowledge or practical experience in matters relating to groundwater to be nominated by the Government.

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**11. Grant of permit to extract and use groundwater in the notified area.-** (1) Subject to the provisions of any law relating to protection of public sources of drinking water, any user of ground water desiring to drill or dig a well in the notified area for any purpose either on personal or community basis shall apply to the authority for grant of permit for this purpose and shall not proceed with any activity connected with such drilling or digging unless a permit has been granted by the authority.

(2) Every application under sub-section (1) shall be made in such form, shall contain such particulars and in such manner accompanied by such fee for

different purposes like industrial, commercial entertainment, agricultural and domestic etc., and for different areas, as may be prescribed.

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**17. Powers Of The Authority.-** (1) The authority or any person authorized by it in writing in this behalf shall have power,-

- (a) to enter at any reasonable time on any property and to investigate and take any measurement concerning the land or water located on the surface or underground;
- (b) to inspect the well which is being constructed or drilled or has been drilled and the soils and other materials excavated there from;
- (c) to take the specimens of such soils or other materials or of water extracted from such well;
- (d) to order in writing the person drilling or digging a well to keep and preserve in the prescribed manner specimen of soil or any material excavated there from for such period not exceeding three months from the date of completion or abandonment of the work as may be specified by the authority and thereupon such person shall comply with such requisition;
- (e) to inspect and to take copies of the relevant record or documents and to ask any question necessary for obtaining any information (including, diameter or depth of the well which is being or has been sunk, the level at which the water is or was struck and subsequently restored or rested the types of strata encountered in the drilling or digging of the well and quality of the water struck etc.,) required for carrying out the purposes of this Act;
- (f) to serve or cause to be served a notice requiring any user of groundwater or drilling or digging agency to furnish such information or returns in such form, at such intervals and with such particulars, as may be prescribed and thereupon such user or drilling or digging agency shall comply with such requisition;
- (g) to require the user of groundwater to install water measuring, devices if it is necessary to properly administer the water or there is reason to believe that the user of groundwater does not comply with the provisions of this act or the rules made thereunder or for any other sufficient reason:

provided that, where the user of groundwater does not comply with the direction issued to him within a period of thirty days, from the date of issue of such requisition the authority itself may install such water-measuring device and recover the cost from the defaulting user of groundwater;

- (h) to seize any mechanical equipment or device utilized for illegal drilling or digging of well and extraction of groundwater and to demolish the work executed fully or partly;

- (i) to direct any user of groundwater who does not comply with the provisions of this act and the rules framed there under to close down the extraction of ground water, disconnect its power supply or confiscate any hydraulic work found to be illegal according to the provisions of this act and the rules made thereunder:

provided that, where the user of groundwater does not comply with the direction issued to him within a period of sixty days, from the date of issue of such requisition the authority itself may carry out the necessary work and recover the cost from the illegal user of groundwater;

- (j) to enter and search at all reasonable times with such assistance, if any, as it considers necessary, any place in which it has reason to believe that offence under this act has been or is being committed and to order in writing the person who has or is committing the offence not to extract or use the groundwater for a specified period not exceeding thirty days;
- (k) to exercise such other powers as may be prescribed or as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this act or any rules made thereunder.

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### **18. Funds of the Authority.-XXX XXX XXX**

(3) The Authority may impose appropriate charges on the quantum of ground water extracted for industrial, commercial and entertainment purposes with the approval of the government in such manner as may be prescribed.

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### **32. Offences and penalties.- (1) any person or drilling or digging agency who,-**

(a) obstructs the authority or any other person authorized by it to exercise any of the powers under this act; or

(b) having been required to furnish any information or return under clause (f) of sub-section (1) of section 17:

(i) wilfully refuses or without lawful excuse, neglects to furnish such information or return; or

(ii) wilfully furnishes or causes to be furnished any information or return which he knows to be false;

shall be liable for punishment with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees and/or imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or both. in the case of continuing and subsequent failure or contravention, an additional fine which may extend to one hundred rupees for every day during which such failure or contravention continues, shall be imposed.

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