



KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY NINTH SESSION

**THE KARNATAKA GRAM SWARAJ AND PANCHAYAT RAJ
(SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026
(LA Bill No. 21 of 2026)
(As passed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly)**

A Bill further to amend the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 (Karnataka Act 14 of 1993) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

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

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Second Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) Save as otherwise provided, the provisions of this Act shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from 16th day of July, 2026.

2. Amendment of section 2.- In the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 (Karnataka Act 14 of 1993) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) in section 2, for clause (33), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(33) “Public Street” means any street, road, square, court, alley, passage or riding path over which the public have a right of way maintained by the Rural Local Bodies or Government or by any public authorities, whether a thoroughfare or not and includes,-

- (a) the roadway over any public bridge or causeway;
- (b) the footway attached to any such street public bridge or causeway;
and
- (c) the drains attached to any such street, public bridge or causeway and the land, whether covered or not by any pavement verandah or other structure which lies on either side of the roadway upto the boundaries of the adjacent property, whether that property is private property or property belonging to the Government or the Rural Local Bodies.”

3. Insertion of new section 63-A.- In the Principal Act, after section 63, the following shall be inserted, namely:-

“63-A. Power to declare any street as public street.- (1) If a private street including the drains are in such a poor condition that endangers public safety and health, an authority authorized by the Government may, with respect to a private street, on his own accord or upon a request by the owners of the said private street or the owners of the buildings and lands fronting or abutting on such a street, by a public notice and notice to such owners, inform the intention to declare the said private street or part thereof, as a public street. Thereupon, such owners or anyone else interested, may give objections, if any, against the said intention within stipulated time specified in public notice by affixture. Upon considering the objections if any, an authority authorized by the Government may, declare such street or part thereof to be a public street:

Provided that, in case the private street falls in more than one Gram Panchayat then the concerned authority authorized by the Government shall issue the notice and thereupon declare the street or part thereof as a public street in respect to his jurisdiction.

This shall be applicable in such case and for such duration as notified by the Government from time to time.

Provided that, the Private Street to be declared as Public Street shall have connectivity from the public road or Public Street.

Provided further that, such a declaration may also be made with respect to a road which has been laid and constructed using funds from the public exchequer.

(2) Where, street or part of such street which was shown by the erstwhile land owner as road in the registered deed of transfer or conveyance made by the land owner and based upon which the abutting building sites were carved out by the land owner, who has obtained the benefit of such road or street by making the sale or transfer of abutting building sites and such a road is declared as public street under sub-section (1), in that event the land owner, shall not be eligible for any type of compensation under Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act 30 of 2013) or any other law, including Development Rights Certificates under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961 (Karnataka Act 11 of 1963).

4. Insertion of new section 165A.- In the Principal Act, after section 165, the following shall be inserted, with effect from date of publication of this Act in the official gazette, namely:-

“165A. Electoral Registration Officer.- (1) An Electoral Registration Officer shall prepare and renew the voters list with respect to each constituency of a Grama Panchayat, in such manner as may be prescribed and he shall be an officer of the Government or a local authority designated or nominated as such by the State Election Commission.

(2) The Electoral Registration Officer may, subject to such restriction as may be prescribed, depute competent officials or Government employees or employees of local authorities as Booth level officer/Booth level officer Supervisor to prepare and revise the voters the list of the constituencies.

(3) The State Election Commission may designate one or more persons as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers to assist the Electoral Registration Officer to discharge of his functions.

(4) Each Assistant Electoral Registration Officer shall, subject to the control of the Electoral Registration Officer, is competent to discharge all or any of the functions of the Electoral Registration Officer.”

5. Power to remove difficulties.- (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act , the Government may by order, published in the official Gazette, as the occasion may require, do anything which appears to it to be necessary to remove the difficulty.

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is so made, be laid before the both House of the State Legislature.

6. Repeal and savings.- (1) The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (Karnataka Ordinance No. 01 of 2026) is here by repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or deemed to have been done or any action taken or deemed to have been taken under the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (Karnataka Ordinance No. 01 of 2026) shall be deemed to have been done under this Act.

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

Whereas, Grama Panchayats are rural local self Governments, all necessary infrastructures are provided from the taxes collected on buildings and lands. Grama Panchayats are levying and collecting taxes from regular properties.

Whereas, increase in rural population, villages are extending in unplanned manner with the creation of irregular layouts without land conversion and plan approval. There are many unauthorized buildings which are built without sanctioned plan and approval from appropriate authority.

Whereas, to stop growth of unapproved layouts and also to improve the Grama Panchayats resources, it is intended to levy and collect taxes on these properties. Section 199-C was inserted by the Karnataka Grama Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Act, 2025 (Karnataka Act 27 of 2025) which empowered the Grama Panchayat to levy and collect the property tax from every building, vacant land or both, including a building constructed in violation of the provisions of Model building bye-laws or unconverted land or converted land but unapproved layout in a revenue land or from a building occupied without issuance of Occupancy or Completion certificate, only for the property created prior to the date of insertion of section 199-C that is before 07.04.2025.

Whereas, there are lakhs of properties in rural areas which are created without approval of the appropriate authority. It has led to irregular growth without proper drinking water facilities, roads and drainages violating provisions of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961 (Karnataka Act 11 of 1963).

Whereas, similar amendments have been brought to the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024 (Karnataka Act 36 of 2025), the Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964 (Karnataka Act 22 of 1964) and to the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act 1976 (Karnataka Act 14 of 1977).

Whereas, to bring these properties within the regulatory framework of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961 (Karnataka Act 11 of 1963) and to control such properties in the interest of public safety and health, it is necessary to amend clause (33) of section 2 and insert a new section 63A to the Karnataka Grama Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 (Karnataka Act 14 of 1993).

And whereas, the matter was urgent and both Houses of the State Legislature were not in session therefore the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (Karnataka Ordinance No. 01 of 2026) was promulgated.

This Bill seeks to replace the above ordinance.

Certain other consequential amendment is also made.

Hence, the Bill.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

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

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE 77 OF
THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE
KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

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ESHWAR KHANDRE

Minister for Rural Development
and Panchayat Raj

JYOTI

Secretary (I/c)
Karnataka Legislative Council

ANNEXURE**EXTRACT FROM THE KARNATAKA GRAM SWARAJ AND PANCHAYAT RAJ
ACT, 1993 (KARNATAKA ACT 14 OF 1993)****XX****XX****XX****2. Definitions.- XX****XX****XX**

(33) “public street” means any street over which the public have a right of way whether a thoroughfare or not;

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