The Maharashtra Local Authority Members Disqualification Act, 1986

Act 20 of 1987

Keyword(s): Aghadi, Collector, Commissioner, Councillor, Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, Municipal Party, Original Political Party, Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad

MAHARASHTRA ACT No. XX OF 1987

[THE MAHARASHTRA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS’ DISQUALIFICATION ACT, 1986.]

(This Act received assent of the Governor on the 28th July 1987; assent first published in the Maharashtra Government Gazette, Part IV, Extraordinary, on the 29th April 1987.)

Amended by Mah. 8 of 1997 (29-4-1996)*

An Act to provide for disqualification of members of certain local authorities on ground of defection and for matters incidental and connected therewith.

WHEREAS, it is expedient to provide for disqualification of members of certain local authorities on the ground of defection and for matters incidental and connected therewith; It is hereby enacted in the Thirty-seventh Year of the Republic of India, as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Short title Disqualification Act, 1986.

(2) It shall come into force on such date* as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “agadi” or “front” means a group of persons who have formed themselves into party for the purpose of setting up candidates for election to a local authority;

(b) “Collector” means the Collector of a district;

(c) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of a revenue division appointed under section 6 of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966;

(d) “councillor” means a councillor of a Municipal Corporation, or a Municipal Council, or a Zilla Parishad.

(e) “local authority” means—

(i) a Municipal Corporation,
(ii) a Municipal Council,
(iii) a Zilla Parishad, or
(iv) a Panchayat Samiti;

(f) “member” means a member of a Panchayat Samiti;

(g) “Municipal Corporation”, means a Municipal Corporation constituted under a relevant municipal law;

(h) “Municipal Council” means a Municipal Council constituted under the Maharashtra Municipalities Act, 1965;

(i) “municipal party” in relation to the councillor belonging to any political party or agadi or front in accordance with the Explanation to section 3, means,—

(i) in the case of a councillor of a Municipal Corporation, the group consisting of all councillors of the Municipal Corporation for the time being belonging to that political party or agadi or front in accordance with the said Explanation;

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* This indicates the date of commencement of Act.
(ii) in the case of a councillor of a Municipal Council, the group consisting of all the councillors of the Municipal Council for the time being belonging to that political party or aghadi or front in accordance with the said Explanation;

(j) "original political party", in relation to a councillor or a member, means the political party to which he belongs for the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 3;

(k) "Panchayat Samiti" means a Panchayat Samiti constituted under the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961:

(l) "Panchayat Samiti party", in relation to a member belonging to any political party or aghadi or front in accordance with the Explanation to section 3, means the group consisting of all the members of the Panchayat Samiti for the time being belonging to that political party or aghadi or front in accordance with the said Explanation;

(m) "relevant municipal law",—

(i) in relation to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay, means the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act,

(ii) in relation to the Corporation of the City of Nagpur, means the City C. P. and Berar of Nagpur Corporation Act, 1948;

(iii) in relation to the Municipal Corporation of any other City, means the Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporations Act, 1949;

(n) "Schedule " means the Schedule appended to this Act;

(o) "Zilla Parishad" means a Zilla Parishad constituted under the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961;

(p) "Zilla Parishad party", in relation to a councillor of a Zilla Parishad belonging to any political party or aghadi or front in accordance with the Explanation to section 3, means the group consisting of all the members of the Zilla Parishad for the time being belonging to that political party or aghadi or front in accordance with the said Explanation.

Disqualification

3. (1) Subject to the provisions of sections 4 and 5, a councillor or a member belonging to any political party or aghadi or front shall be disqualified for being a councillor or a member—

(a) if he has voluntarily given up his membership of such political party or aghadi; or front; or

(b) if he votes or abstains from voting in any meeting of a Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, Zilla Parishad or, as the case may be, Panchayat Samiti contrary to any direction issued by the political party or aghadi or front to which he belongs or by any person or authority authorised by any of them in this behalf, without obtaining, in either case, the prior permission of such political party or aghadi or front, person or authority and such voting or abstention has not been condoned by such political party or aghadi or front, person or authority within fifteen days from the date of such voting or abstention:
Provided that, such voting or abstention without prior permission from such party or aghadi or front, at election of any office, authority or committee under V of any relevant municipal law or the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat 1962. Samities Act, 1961 shall not be condoned under this clause.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section—

(a) a person elected as a councillor, or as the case may be, a member shall be deemed to belong to the political party or aghadi or front, if any, by which he was set up as candidate for election as such councillor or member;

(b) a nominated or co-opted councillor or member shall—

(i) where he is a member of any political party or aghadi or front on the date of his nomination, or as the case may be, co-option as such councillor, or as the case may be, member be deemed to belong to such political party or aghadi or front.

(ii) in any other case, be deemed to belong to the political party or aghadi or front of which he becomes, or as the case may be, first becomes a member of such party or aghadi or front before the expiry of six months from the date on which he is nominated or co-opted as such councillor, or as the case may be member;

(c) a “nominated member”, in relation to a Panchayat Samiti, includes an associate member, referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 57 of the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961.

(2) An elected councillor, or as the case may be, member who has been elected as such otherwise than as a candidate set up by any political party or aghadi or front shall be disqualified for being a councillor, or as the case may be, a member if he joins any political party or aghadi or front after such election.

(3) A nominated or co-opted councillor, or as the case may be, member shall be disqualified for being a councillor, or as the case may be, a member, if he joins any political party or aghadi or front after the expiry of six months from the date on which he is nominated or co-opted as such councillor, or as the case may be, member.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this section a person who on the commencement of this Act, is a councillor, or as the case may be, a member (whether elected or nominated or co-opted as such councillor or member) shall—

(a) where he was a member of a political party or aghadi or front immediately before such commencement, be deemed, for the purposes of sub-section (1), to have been elected as a councillor, or as the case may be, a member as a candidate set up by such political party or aghadi or front;

(b) in any other case, be deemed to be an elected councillor, or as the case may be, member who has been elected as such otherwise than as a candidate set up by any political party or aghadi or front for the purpose of sub-section (2), or as the case may be, be deemed to be a nominated or co-opted councillor, or as the case may be, a member for the purposes of sub-section (3).

4. (7) Where a councillor, or as the case may be, a member makes a claim that he and any other member of the municipal party, Zilla Parishad party, or as the case may be, the Panchayat Samiti party constitute the group representing a faction which has arisen as a result of a split in his original political party or aghadi or front and where the total strength of the councillors, or, as the case may be members—

(A) does not exceed twenty and such group consists of one-half, or
(B) exceeds twenty and such group consists of one-third, of the councillors of such municipal party, Zilla Parishad party, or as the case may be, the members of such Panchayat Samiti party—

(a) he shall not be disqualified under sub-section (1) of section 3 on the ground—

(i) that he has voluntarily given up membership of his original political party or aghadi or front or;

(ii) that he has voted or abstained from voting in the meeting of such Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, Zilla Parishad, or as the case may be, Panchayat Samiti, contrary to any direction issued by such party or aghadi or front or by any person or authority authorized by any of them in that behalf without obtaining the prior permission of such party, aghadi, front, person or authority and such voting or abstention has not been condoned by such party, aghadi, front person or authority within fifteen days from the date of such voting or abstention; and

(b) from the time of such split, such faction shall be deemed to be the political party or aghadi or front to which he belongs for the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 3 and to be his original political party or aghadi or front for the purposes of this section.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), a councillor or, as the case may be, member shall be precluded from making such a claim as referred to in sub-section (1) for more than once during his term of office under the relevant municipal law or, as the case may be, the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961.

Disqualification on ground of defection not to apply in case of merger.

5. (1) A councillor or a member shall not be disqualified under sub-section (1) of section 3 where his original political party or aghadi or front merges with another political party or aghadi or front and he claims that he and any other members of his original political party or aghadi or front—

(a) have become members of such other political party, or aghadi or front, or as the case may be, of a new political party formed by such merger; or

(b) have not accepted the merger and opted to function as a separate group, and from the time of such merger, such other political party or new political party or aghadi or front or group, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be the political party or aghadi or front or group, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be the political party or aghadi or front to which he belongs for the purpose of sub-section (1) of section 3 and to be original political party or aghadi or front for the purpose of this sub-section.

(2) For the purpose of sub-section (1), the merger of the original political party or aghadi or front of a councillor, or as the case may be, a member shall be deemed to have taken place if, and only if, not less than two-thirds of the members of municipal party, Zilla Parishad party, or as the case may be, Panchayat Samiti party, concerned, have agreed to such merger.

6. A councillor, or as the case may be, member claiming such split or merger as referred to in section 4 or 5, as the case may be, shall,—

(a) if holding any office other than such councillor or member under any relevant municipal law, or as the case may be, the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961 shall be deemed to vacate such office on the date of such split or merger and shall, on and from that date, cease to hold such office.

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1[*] Clause (b) was deleted by Mah. 8 of 1997, s. 2 with effect from the 29th April 1996.
In pursuance of clause (3) of article 348 of the Constitution of India, the following translation in English of the Maharashtra Local Authority Members' Disqualification (Amendment) Act, 2006 (Mah. Act No. L of 2006), is hereby published under the authority of the Governor.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

A. M. SHINDEKAR,
Secretary to Government,
Law and Judiciary Department.

MAHARASHTRA ACT No. L of 2006.
(First published, after having received the assent of the Governor, in the "Maharashtra Government Gazette", on the 29th December 2006).

An act further to amend the Maharashtra Local Authority Members' Disqualification Act, 1986.

WHEREAS both Houses of the State Legislature were not in session;
AND WHEREAS the Governor of Maharashtra was satisfied that circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate action further to amend the Maharashtra Local Authority Members' Disqualification Act, 1986, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; and therefore, promulgated the Maharashtra Local Authority Members' Disqualification (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006, on the 19th October 2006;

(१०४)
[किमत : रूपये २.००]
AND WHEREAS it is expedient to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature; it is hereby enacted in the Fifty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification (Amendment) Act, 2006.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 19th October 2006.

2. In section 3 of the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”),—

(a) in sub-section (1),—

(1) for the words and figures “section 4 and 5” the word and figure “section 5” shall be substituted;

(2) in the Explanation,—

(A) in clause (b),—

(i) for the words “or co-opted councillor or member” the word “councillor” shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-clause (i), the words “or as the case may be, co-option as such councillor, or as the case may be, member” shall be deleted;

(iii) in sub-clause (ii), the words “or co-opted as such councillor, or as the case may be, member” shall be deleted;

(B) clause (c) shall be deleted;

(b) sub-section (3) shall be deleted;

(c) in sub-section (4),—

(1) the word “or co-opted” shall be deleted;

(2) in sub-clause (b), for the words “or as the case may be, be deemed to be a nominated or co-opted councillor, or as the case may be, a member for the purposes of sub-section (3)” shall be deleted.

3. After section 3 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:

3A. A councillor or, as the case may be, a member belonging to any political party, agadi or front who is disqualified for being a councillor or, as the case may be, a member, under section 3 shall also be disqualified to hold any remunerative political post for duration of the period commencing from the date of his disqualification till the date on which the term of his office as such councillor or, as the case may be, a member expires or till the date on which he contests an election to a local authority and is declared elected, whichever is earlier.
Explanation.—For the purpose of this section, the expression “ remunerative political post ” means any office,—

(i) under the State Government where the salary or remuneration for such office is paid out of the public revenue of the State Government or Consolidated Fund of the State; or

(ii) under a body, whether incorporated or not, which is wholly or partially owned by the State Government and the salary or remuneration for such office is paid by such body; or

(iii) under a local authority, where the salary or remuneration for such office is paid by the local authority out of such local authority’s fund,

except where such salary or remuneration paid is compensatory in nature."

4. Section 4 of the principal Act shall be deleted.

5. In section 6 of the principal Act,—

(a) for the words and figures “ such split or merger as referred to in section 4 or 5 as the case may be ” the words and figure “ merger referred to in section 5 ” shall be substituted;

(b) in sub-clause (a), the words “ split or ” shall be deleted;

(c) in the marginal note, the words “ split or ” shall be deleted;

6. (1) The Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006, is hereby repealed.

(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.
MAHARASHTRA ACT No. XXXVII OF 2016.

(First published, after having received the assent of the Governor in the “Maharashtra Government Gazette”, on the 16th December 2016).

An Act further to amend the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification Act, 1986.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification Act, 1986, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; it is hereby enacted in the Sixty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Short title. Disqualification Act, 2016.

2. In section 3 of the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Amendment of section 3 of Disqualification Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”),

(i) in sub-section (1), after clause (b),—

(1)
(a) before the existing proviso, the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

“Provided that, if a councillor or a member belonging to any political party or aghadi or front is disqualified under clause (b), he shall be disqualified for being a councillor or a member, for six years, from the date of his disqualification:”;

(b) in the existing proviso, for the words “Provided that” the words “Provided further that” shall be substituted;

(ii) after sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5) The period of disqualification under this section, shall be counted from the date of order of the officer referred to in section 7.”.

3. Section 3A of the principal Act shall be re-numbered as sub-section (1) thereof; and in sub-section (1) as so re-numbered,—

(a) for the words and figure “under section 3” the words, brackets, letter and figures “under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 3” shall be substituted;

(b) before the Explanation, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2) A councillor or, as the case may be, a member belonging to any political party, aghadi or front, who is disqualified for being a councillor or, as the case may be, a member under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 3, shall also be disqualified to hold any remunerative political post for duration of the period of six years commencing from the date of his disqualification.”.

4. In section 7 of the principal Act, at the end, the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

“Provided that, the Commissioner or, as the case may be, the Collector shall take such decision within a period of ninety days.”.
An Act further to amend the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’
Disqualification Act, 1986.

WHEREAS the Governor of Maharashtra had promulgated the
Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification (Amendment)
Ordinance, 2017 on the 1st July 2017;

AND WHEREAS upon the re-assembly of the State Legislature on the
24th July 2017, the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification
(Amendment) Bill, 2017 (L. A. Bill No. XXXVIII of 2017), for converting the
said Ordinance into an Act of the State Legislature was passed by the
Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on 27th July 2017 and was transmitted
to the Maharashtra Legislative Council;

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

RAJENDRA G. BHAGWAT,
I/c Secretary (Legislation) to Government,
Law and Judiciary Department.

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MAHARASHTRA ACT No. I OF 2018

(First published, after having received the assent of the Governor in the “Maharashtra
Government Gazette”, on the 15th January 2018.)
AND WHEREAS thereafter, as the session of the Maharashtra Legislative Council was prorogue on the 11th August 2017, the said Bill could not be passed by the Maharashtra Legislative Council;

AND WHEREAS as provided by artical 213 (2)(a) of the Constitution of India, the said Ordinance will be ceased to operate at the expiration of six weeks from the date of re-assembly of the State Legislature, that is, after the 3rd September 2017;

AND WHEREAS both Houses of the State Legislature were not in session; and the Governor of Maharashtra was satisfied that circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate action to continue the operation of the provisions of the said Ordinance, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; and, therefore, promulgated the Maharashtra Local Authority Members' Disqualification (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as “the said Continuance Ordinance”) on the 1st September 2017;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to replace the said Continuance Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature; it is hereby enacted in the Sixty-eighth year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. (I) This Act may be called the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification (Amendment) Act, 2017.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on 1st July 2017.

2. (a) Section 7 of the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”), shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of that section and in sub-section (1) as so renumbered, for the portion beginning with brackets, letters and words “ (ii) in the case of any other councillor or” and ending with the words “ Collector shall be final ”, the following portion shall be substituted, namely:

“ (ii) in the case of any other councillor or member, to the Collector,

for his decision: ”;

(b) after sub-section (1) as so-renumbered the following subsections shall be added, namely:

“(2) The decision of the Commissioner or the Collector, as the case may be, shall forthwith be communicated to all concerned.

(3) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Commissioner or Collector may, prefer an appeal to the State Government within a period of thirty days from the date of such order.”.
3. (1) The Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 2017, is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken (including any notification or order issued) under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done, taken or issued, as the case may be, under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act as amended by this Act.
Maharashtra Act  No. XXXV OF 2019.

(First published, after having received the assent of the Governor in the “Maharashtra Government Gazette”, on the 26th December 2019).

An Act further to amend the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification Act, 1986.

WHEREAS, both Houses of the State Legislature were not in session;

AND WHEREAS, the Governor of Maharashtra was satisfied that circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate action further to amend the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification Act, 1986, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; and, therefore, promulgated the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 on the 6th August 2019;

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra, RAJENDRA G. BHAGWAT, Secretary (Legislation) to Government, Law and Judiciary Department.
AND WHEREAS, it is expedient to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature; it is hereby enacted in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification (Amendment) Act, 2019.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 6th August 2019.

2. In section 2 of the Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification Act, 1986, (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”),—

(i) for clause (h), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(h) “Municipal Council” means a Municipal Council constituted under the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships Act, 1965 and also includes the Nagar Panchayat constituted under the said Act;”;

(ii) in clause (m), after sub-clause (iii), the following sub-clause shall be added, namely:—

“(iv) in relation to the Municipal Council, means the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships Act, 1965;”.

3. (1) The Maharashtra Local Authority Members’ Disqualification (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019, is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken (including any notification or order issued) under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done, taken or issued, as the case may be, under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act.