



## ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాజపత్రము

# THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE

## PART IV-A EXTRAORDINARY

### PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 12] AMARAVATI, WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2026.

### ANDHRA PRADESH BILLS ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The following Bill was introduced in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2026.

#### L. A. Bill No. 12 of 2026

#### A BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE ANDHRA PRADESH FIRE SERVICE ACT, 1999.

Be it enacted by the Legislative of the State of Andhra Pradesh in the Seventy-Seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Andhra Pradesh Fire Service (Amendment) Act, 2026.

Short Title and commencement.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2025.

2. In the Andhra Pradesh Fire Service Act, 1999 (herein after referred to as the Principal Act), in section 2,-

Amendment of section 2.

Act No. 15 of 1999.

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

“(a) “Building” shall have the same meaning assigned to it in “the Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017” as amended from time to time.”.

(ii) after clause (b), the following shall be inserted, namely,-

“(b-1) “Building Fire Safety Supervisor” means the person appointed under section 21-A of Chapter-III by the owner or occupier of certain premises and buildings as specified in this behalf to ensure fire prevention and fire safety measures installed in such premises and buildings;

(b-2): “Bye laws” means Fire Safety Regulations or Norms or Guidelines made under National Building Code of India, the Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017, Oil Industry Safety Directorate Guidelines, the Petroleum Act, 1934 and Rules, the Explosive Act, 1884 and Rules and International Standards relating to fire prevention, or any relevant guidelines issued by the State Government or local Authority as amended from time to time.”.

Central Act No. 30 of 1934.

Central Act No. 4 of 1884.

(iii) after clause (c), the following shall be inserted, namely,-

“(c-1): “Director of Fire Services” means an officer appointed to assist the Director General in technical, administrative and other departmental matters relating to the functioning and implementation of fire services.”.

(iv) after clause (d), the following shall be inserted, namely,-

“(d-1) “Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures” means such measures as are necessary in accordance with the National Building Code of India for the containment, control, and extinguishing of fire and for ensuring the safety of life and property in case of fire and as may be prescribed in the Rules made in this behalf.”.

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

“(h) “High-rise building” means a building as defined in the Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017 as amended from time to time subject to the compliance of Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures”,

(vi) after clause (o), the following clause shall be inserted, namely,-

“(o-1) “Qualified agency” means a person or an association of persons having technical specialization in the field of Fire/Civil/Mechanical Engineering/ Technology, Industrial Safety, Disaster Management or Chemical Science from a recognized University and having sufficient domain knowledge and accomplishments in the field of Fire Safety”.

3. In the Principal Act, after the section 3, the following shall be added, namely,-

Insertion of new section 3-A.

“3-A. In order to assist in any disaster, other than resulting due to fire, all Fire Services shall be considered as Emergency Services.

Provided that, in case where the emergency service is not related only to fire, the decisions and directions of the authority in charge of the Member of Service shall prevail”.

4. In the Principal Act, after section 5, the following shall be added, namely,-

Insertion of new section 5-A.

“5-A. Powers, Duties and Functions of the Director General of State Disaster Response and Fire Services : -

- (a) The Director General of State Disaster Response and Fire Services Department shall be subject to the superintendence and control of the State Government, direct and regulate all matters of Fire safety and Fire Prevention, Disaster Response, Firefighting and Rescue equipment, Machinery and appliances, training, observation of persons, events of mutual relations, distribution of duties, study of laws, orders and modes of proceedings and all matters of executive detail or the fulfillment of duties and maintenance of discipline of members of Service and employees of the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response and Fire Services Department under him.
- (b) Without prejudice to the provisions of clause (a) the Director General of State Disaster Response and Fire Services Department shall function as Head of the Department and shall,-
- (i) frame the policies in relation to the development of State Disaster Response and Fire Services and Fire Preventive and Life Safety Measures and, on approval by the State

Government, take steps to implement the same.

- (ii) prepare and submit plans and proposals to the State Government with regard to the periodical review of fire and rescue equipment, fire property and fire and rescue manpower for effective functioning of Fire Services.

Substitution of section 13.

5. In the Principal Act, for section 13, the following shall be substituted, namely,-

“13. (1) Issue of Provisional Fire No Objection Certificate:- Any person or entity proposing to construct a building mentioned below (as classified in National Building Code of India) shall apply for a Provisional Fire No Objection Certificate along with such fee as may be prescribed:

- (a) All High rise Buildings as defined under clause (h) of section 2;
- (b) All Educational, Institutional, Assembly, Industrial and Hazardous buildings;
- (c) Special buildings of Business, Mercantile, Storage, Residential other than Apartment Buildings and Mixed occupancies having floor built up area more than 500 square meter on any one or more floors;
- (d) Buildings, having area more than 300 square meter of incidental assembly occupancy on any floor;
- (e) Buildings of all occupancies with two basements or more, or with one basement of area more than 500 square meter;
- (f) Special requests made by the Owner/ Occupier/Government agencies of the Occupancies other than the above clauses (a) to (e).

- (2) The Director General or any member of the service duly authorized by Government in this behalf, shall within **Twenty One (21) days** of receipt of such application, scrutiny by the members of service about

prescribed Fire Prevention and Life Safety measures as stipulated in the National Building Code of India, as amended from time to time or relevant National/ International Code of Practices, and ensuring heights and setbacks as per Andhra Pradesh Building Rules as amended from time to time shall issue a Provisional Fire No Objection Certificate with such conditions as may be considered necessary and if any shortfall, return the same for reasons to be recorded in writing.

- (3) Issue of Fire Safety Certificate: After completion of construction and ensuing of Fire safety installations in compliance with the Provisional Fire No Objection Certificate issued under the provisions of sub-section (1), the builder/occupier shall apply for Fire Safety Certificate along with such fee as may be prescribed from the Director General or any member of the service duly authorized by Government on this behalf, shall within **Thirty (30) days** of receipt of such application, scrutiny, inspection by the member of service and issue Fire Safety Certificate.
- (4) Issue of Renewal of Fire Safety Certificate: - The Fire Safety Certificate issued under sub-section (3) shall be renewed periodically as notified by the government along with such fee as may be prescribed from time to time.
- (5) The authority or officer competent to grant building permission prior to construction and to issue a Building Occupancy Certificate after construction, under the relevant law for the time being in force, shall not accord such approval unless a **Provisional Fire No Objection Certificate** issued under sub-section (2) and a **Fire Safety Certificate** issued under sub-section (3), respectively, are produced, wherever such certificates are required,
- (6) The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, prescribe suitable Fire Prevention and Life Safety measures in respect of buildings or parts thereof whose construction was

completed on or before the date on which this Act comes into force, or which were under construction on that date.

- (7) Any person violating the conditions of Provisional Fire No Objection Certificate and Fire Safety Certificate shall be liable to be proceeded against under the provisions of this Act.

Omission of sections 6. 16, 17 & 18.

6. In the Principal Act, sections 16, 17 and 18, shall be omitted.

Substitution of section 19.

7. In the Principal Act, for section 19, the following shall be substituted, namely,-

“19.(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of National Building Codes of India, Building Bye-laws, any other law or Bye-Law, the owner or the occupier, who are either individually or jointly responsible, of a building as classified by regulations or part thereof, shall provide fire prevention and life safety measures therein:

Provided that the owner or the occupier, as the case may be, shall,-

- (i) provide minimum fire-fighting and life safety installations as provided in section 2 (b2).
  - (ii) maintain the fire prevention and life safety measures in operational condition at all times, in accordance with section 2 (b2).
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, no authority empowered to issue the building occupancy certificate, shall issue the same, unless it is satisfied that the owner or the occupier, either individually or jointly, has complied with the provision as given in sub- section (1),
- (3) No person other than the Qualified agencies, as specified in the rule made under this Act, shall carry out the work of providing fire prevention and life safety measures or performing such other related fire protection activities required to be carried out in any place or building or part thereof. In case the certificate submitted by a qualified agency is found to be false / incorrect, the Director General of State Disaster Response and Fire Services or the officer

authorized by him, shall take action to cancel their Certificate and initiate criminal prosecution against the concerned as-per law in force.

8. In the principal Act, after section 21, the following section shall be added, namely,-

Insertion of new section 21 - A.

**“21-A. Appointment and Functions of Building Fire Safety Supervisor:**

To ensure effective fire prevention and life safety measures for buildings or premises and maintenance of Fire Prevention and Life safety measures in the buildings or premises as may be specified by an order by the Government in this behalf, every owner and occupier or occupiers individually or jointly shall appoint a Building Fire Safety Supervisor, having such qualifications as may be prescribed by the Government from time to time.”.

9. In the Principal Act, for section 26, the following shall be substituted, namely,-

Substitution of section 26.

**“26. Penalty for violation of duty etc.,:**

Notwithstanding any action which may be taken under the provisions of this Act, any member of Service who,-

- (1) is found to be guilty of any violation of duty or willful breach of any provision of this Act or any rule or order made there under; or
- (2) is found to be guilty of cowardice; or
- (3) withdraws or abstains from the duties of his office without permission or without having given previous notice for fifteen (15) days or more; or
- (4) being absent on leave fails without reasonable cause to report himself for duty on expiration of such leave; or
- (5) accepts any other employment or office or engages himself in business in contravention of the provision of the Andhra Pradesh

Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three (3) months or with fine which may extend to an amount not exceeding three (3) months pay of such member, or with both”.

- Amendment of section 27. **10.** In the Principal Act, in section 27, for the words “five hundred” the words “ten thousand” shall be substituted.
- Amendment of section 28. **11.** In the Principal Act, in section 28, for the words “five hundred” the words “ten thousand” shall be substituted.
- Amendment of section 29. **12.** In the Principal Act, in section 29, for the words “five hundred” the words “ten thousand” shall be substituted.
- Amendment of section 31. **13.** In the Principal Act, In section 31, in the proviso, for the words “one hundred rupees per day” the words “one thousand rupees per day” shall be substituted.
- Insertion of new section 37 - A. **14.** In the Principal Act, after section 37, the following shall be inserted, namely,-  
  
“37-A; Declaration of State Disaster Response and Fire Services as Technical Service:  
  
Without Prejudice to the provisions of any other law on the subject for the time being in force, the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare the State Disaster Response and Fire Services as Technical Services.”.
- Substitution of certain expressions by certain other expressions. **15.** In the Principal Act, wherever the words “license/ license” occurs, the words “Fire Safety Certificate” shall be substituted.
- Repeal and savings. **16.** (1) The Andhra Pradesh Fire Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 is hereby repealed.  
  
(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act.
- Ordinance No. 9 of 2025.

## **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The existing Andhra Pradesh Fire Services Act, 1999 has been in force for over 26 years. Over this period, significant changes have taken place in the roles, responsibilities, and legitimate duties of fire service officials, both operationally and administratively. Furthermore, due to rapid urbanisation and the adoption of modern technologies, an amendment to the Act has become essential.

Currently, the Act does not provide a provision for the issuance of fire safety certificates. As per the MODEL BILL TO PROVIDE FOR MAINTENANCE OF A FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE-2019 FOR THE STATE” of Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt, of India fire safety certificates are issued across the country in place of No Objection Certificates (NOC) or licenses. To bring uniformity and alignment with national standards, the term “fire safety certificate” is now proposed to replace the existing terminology i.e., No Objection Certificates (NOC) or licenses.

The existing Act was based on the MODEL BILL TO PROVIDE FOR MAINTENANCE OF A FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE-1958 FOR THE STATE” of MHA, Govt, of India, issued by the Government of India. However, the Government of India has since issued a revised MODEL BILL TO PROVIDE FOR MAINTENANCE OF A FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE-2019 FOR THE STATE” of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, which recommends that states adopt legislation in line with the new model, adjusted to their specific needs and circumstances. The Government of India has been actively following up with States regarding the status of adoption, with the aim of promoting reforms and providing assistance to States for implementation.

The Andhra Pradesh continues to be recognized as one of India’s top-performing States in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB). Currently, a new initiative Speed of Doing Business (SoDB) is being promoted as part of ongoing reforms. To align with this, the proposed amendment to the Act seeks to streamline processes, ensure timely service delivery, and reduce ambiguity through user- friendly provisions.

The penalties prescribed under the existing Act are outdated and nominal, remaining unchanged for over 25 years. Such leniency may lead to non-compliance and undermine public safety. Considering inflation and rising costs, there is a need to enhance penalties in line with the MODEL BILL TO PROVIDE FOR MAINTENANCE OF A FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE-2019 FOR THE STATE” of MHA, Govt, of India to act as a deterrent and ensure stricter compliance.

The definition of high-rise buildings varies between the National Building Code (NBC) and local laws, leading to confusion between departments. To eliminate this inconsistency, the definition provided in the local municipal law will be adopted. Additionally, with rising land costs, urban development is moving from horizontal to vertical structures. As such, there is a need to redefine high-rise buildings and update associated safety mechanisms to meet the demands of rapid urbanization and industrialization.

With the construction of high-rise and super high-rise buildings in the capital city of Amaravati, modern and advanced firefighting technologies must be implemented to ensure structural safety. The current Act focuses on conventional firefighting methods, and an upgrade is necessary to accommodate evolving technologies. Furthermore, the National Building Code (NBC) 2005 has been revised to National Building Code (NBC) 2016, and National Building Code (NBC) 2025 is currently under development to address contemporary challenges in fire prevention and firefighting. Since building and fire safety standards evolve approximately every ten years, it is necessary to update the Act after 26 years to adopt these advanced measures.

And whereas, to ensure safety at all times and protect lives and property, the appointment of a Fire Safety Supervisor is proposed, in accordance with the Model Fire Force Bill. This role will ensure both maintenance and quality control of fire safety installations, thereby reducing potential losses of life and property.

In view of the above, it is essential to amend the Andhra Pradesh Fire Service Act, 1999 to address the current conditions and evolving requirements of the State.

Accordingly, the Government have decided to amend the Andhra

Pradesh Fire Services Act, 1999 suitably.

The Legislature of the State was not then in session and having been prorogued and it has been decided to give effect to the above provisions immediately, the Governor has promulgated the Andhra Pradesh Fire Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 and the same has been published in Telugu and English in Part IV-B, extraordinary of the Andhra Pradesh Gazette, dated 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2025 (Andhra Pradesh Ordinance No.9 of 2026).

The Bill seeks to replace the said Ordinance and to give effect to the above decision.

**ANITHA VANGALAPUDI**  
**MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

**MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION**

Clauses 2 (iv), 5 (1), (3), (4), (6), 7 (3), 8 and 14 of the Bill authorizes the Government to issue notification in respect of the matters specified therein and generally to carry out the purposes of the Act,

All such the notifications issued, which is intended to cover matters mostly of procedural in nature is to be laid on the table of the both Houses of the State Legislature and will be subject to any modifications made by the Legislature.

The above provision of the Bill regarding delegated legislation are thus of normal type and mainly intended to cover matters of procedure.

**ANITHA VANGALAPUDI**

**MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**



**MEMORANDUM UNDER RULE 95 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE ANDHRA PRADESH  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

The Andhra Pradesh Fire Service (Amendment) Bill, 2026, after it is passed by the Legislature of the State may be submitted to the Governor for his assent under Article 200 of the Constitution of India,

**ANITHA VANGALAPUDI**  
**MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

**PRASANNA KUMAR SURYADEVARA**  
Secretary-General to Legislature.