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THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE

PART IV-A EXTRAORDINARY

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 14] AMARAVATI, WEDNESDAY, 19th AUGUST, 2026.

**ANDHRA PRADESH BILLS
ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The following Bill was introduced in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 19th August, 2026.

L. A. Bill No. 27 of 2026

A BILL TO FURTHER AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT, 1955 AND THE ANDHRA PRADESH MUNICIPALITIES ACT, 1965.

Be it enacted by the Legislature 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 Municipal Laws (Fourth Amendment) Act, 2026. Short title and commencement.

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

2. In the Municipal Corporations Act, 1955, for section 90, the following shall be substituted, namely,- Substitution of section 90.

“90. Election and term of office of the Mayor and Election of Deputy Mayor: Act No.II of 1956.

- (1) (a) The Mayor of the Corporation shall be elected by the persons whose names appear in the electoral roll for the Corporation from among themselves, in the manner prescribed;
- (b) if at any election held under this sub-section no Mayor is elected, a fresh election shall be held:

Provided that if a Member of either House of the Legislature of the State or of either House of Parliament is elected as Mayor, he shall cease to hold the said office of Mayor unless, within fifteen days from the date of election to the said office, he ceases to be a Member of either House of the Legislature of the State or as the case may be, of either House of Parliament, and if a Mayor subsequently becomes a Member of either House of the Legislature of the State or as the case may be, of either House of Parliament, he shall cease to hold the said office of Mayor unless, within fifteen days from the date on which he so becomes such Member, he ceases to be a Member of either House of the Legislature of the State, or as the case may be, of either House of Parliament.

- (c) Where ordinary elections are held to the office of Members the election of the Mayor may also be held at the same time and in the same place, as the ordinary election of the Members of the Corporation.
- (d) Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, the term of office of the Mayor who is elected at an ordinary election shall be five years from the date of the first meeting held under clause (b) of section 88.
- (e) Subject to the provisions of clause (f), any casual vacancy in the office of the Mayor shall be filled at a casual election and a person elected as Mayor in any such vacancy shall enter upon office forthwith and hold office only so long as the person in whose place he is elected would have been entitled to hold office, if the vacancy had not occurred.
- (f) No casual vacancy in the office of the Mayor shall be filled within six months before the date on which the ordinary election of the Mayor under sub-section (1) is due.
- (g) The provisions of sections 20, 20-A, 20-B, 21, 21-A, 22 and 23 shall, as far as may be apply in relation to the office of the Mayor, as they apply in relation to the office of an elected Member.
- (h) The Mayor shall, by virtue of his office, be a Member of the Corporation and shall have all the rights and privileges of an elected member of the Corporation and he shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of the Corporation.
- (i) The provisions of the Act relating to the conduct of election to the office of Members shall, so far as may be, apply in relation to the election of Mayor under this section.

- (2) (a) The elected members referred to in sub-section (1) as well as ex-officio members referred to in sub-section (1-A) of section 5 of this Act, shall elect one (1) of its elected members to be its Deputy Mayor at the first meeting of the Corporation or at any other subsequent meeting to be held within two weeks(2) of the first meeting, after the ordinary elections by show of hands on party basis duly obeying the party whip given by such functionary of the recognised political party, in the manner prescribed. At an election held for that purpose, if Deputy Mayor is not elected, fresh election shall be held on the next day. The name of the Deputy Mayor so elected shall be published in the prescribed manner. Any casual vacancy in the said office shall be filled, in the same manner at a casual election and a person elected as the Deputy Mayor in any such vacancy shall enter upon office forthwith and hold office only so long as the person in whose place he is elected would have been entitled to hold office, if the vacancy had not occurred.

Provided that a member voting under this sub-section in disobedience of the party whip shall cease to hold office in the manner prescribed and the vacancy caused by such cessation shall be filled as a casual vacancy.

- (b) The Deputy Mayor shall be deemed to have assumed office on his being declared as such and shall hold office in accordance with the provisions of this Act and as long as he continues to be an elected member, unless resigned or removed from such office by no- confidence motion or for any other reason in accordance with the provisions of this Act.”.

3. In the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1965, for section 23, the following shall be substituted, namely,-

Substitution of
section 23.

“23. Election of Chairperson and Vice-chairperson:

Act No.6 of
1965.

- (1) (a) In the case of every municipality, the Chairperson shall be elected by the persons whose names appear in the electoral roll for the municipality, from among themselves, in the manner prescribed. A person shall not be qualified to stand for election as Chairperson unless he is not less than twenty-one years of age.
- (b) If at any election held under this sub-section no Chairperson is elected, a fresh election shall be held:

Provided that if a member of either House of the Legislature of the State or of either House of Parliament is

elected as Chairperson, he shall cease to hold the said office of Chairperson unless within fifteen days from the date of election to the said office, he ceases to be a member of either House of the Legislature of the State or as the case may be, of either House of Parliament and if a Chairperson subsequently becomes a Member of either House of the Legislature of the State or as the case may be, of either House of Parliament, he shall cease to hold the said office of the Chairperson unless, within fifteen days from the date on which he so becomes such Member he ceases to be Member of either House of the Legislature of the State or as the case may be, of either House of Parliament .

- (c) The election of the Chairperson may be held ordinarily at the same time and in the same place, as the ordinary election of the Members of the municipality.
 - (d) Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, the term of office of the Chairperson who is elected at an ordinary election shall be five years from the date, appointed by the election authority for the first meeting of the council.
 - (e) Subject to the provisions of clause (f), any casual vacancy in the office of the Chairperson shall be filled at a casual election and a person elected as Chairperson in any such vacancy shall enter upon office forthwith and hold office only so long as the person in whose place he is elected would have been entitled to hold office, if the vacancy had not occurred.
 - (f) No casual vacancy in the office of the Chairperson shall be filled within six months before the date on which the ordinary election of the Chairperson under sub-section (1) is due.
 - (g) The provisions of sections 13-A to 17 (both inclusive) shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to the office of the Chairperson, as they apply in relation to the office of an elected member.
 - (h) The Chairperson shall, by virtue of his office be a member of the municipality and shall have all the rights and privileges of an elected member of municipality and he shall be entitled to vote all the meetings of the Council.
- (2) (a) The elected members referred to in clause (i) as well as ex-officio members referred to in clauses (ii) to (iv-a)"] of sub-section (2) of section 5 of this Act, shall elect one(1) of its elected Members to be its Vice-Chairperson at the first meeting of the Council or at any other subsequent meeting to be

held within two weeks of the first meeting, after the ordinary elections by show of hands on party basis duly obeying the party whip given by such functionary of the recognised political party, in the manner prescribed. At an election held for that purpose, if Vice-Chairperson is not elected, fresh election shall be held on the next day. The name of Vice-Chairperson so elected shall be published in the prescribed manner. Any casual vacancy in the said office shall be filled, in the same manner at a casual election and a person elected as Vice-Chairperson in any such vacancy shall enter upon office forthwith and hold office only so long as the person in whose place he is elected would have been entitled to hold office, if the vacancy had not occurred.

Provided that a member voting under this sub-section in disobedience of the party whip shall cease to hold office in the manner prescribed and the vacancy caused by such cessation shall be filled as a casual vacancy.

- (b) The Vice-Chairperson shall be deemed to have assumed office on his being declared as such and shall hold office in accordance with the provisions of this Act and as long as he continues to be an elected member, unless resigned or removed from such office by no- confidence motion or for any other reason in accordance with the provisions of the Act.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The NITI Aayog in its recent report on Effective City Governance framework has recommended amendment of State Municipal Acts to provide for direct election of the Mayor by all voters whose names appear in the municipal electoral roll, observing that such a system gives the Mayor a direct democratic mandate rather than one derived indirectly through Corporators. The reform model also identifies a directly elected Mayor with a five-year term as an important element of strengthened city governance. The present proposal, insofar as the office of Mayor is concerned, is substantially aligned with this reform direction.

The Government has reviewed the functioning of Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporations in the State and has proposed a system of direct election to the office of Mayor in Municipal Corporations and to the office of Chairperson in Municipalities and Nagar Panchayats, based on the following considerations:

- (i) A directly elected Mayor/Chairperson represents the entire Corporation/Municipality. Such broad-based representation ensures that the concerns and interests of all sections of the population are taken into consideration, thereby promoting more inclusive urban governance.
- (ii) A fixed tenure for the Mayor/Chairperson provides continuity and stability in municipal administration. This enables the Mayor/Chairperson to focus on long-term goals and objectives and provide a clear direction for municipal governance. It also gives citizens certainty regarding the tenure of their elected representative.
- (iii) The head of the civic body is elected directly by the people, thereby providing the Mayor/Chairperson with a clear public mandate. Citizens can therefore feel that their vote has a direct bearing on the selection of the leadership of the civic body.
- (iv) Direct election strengthens democratic legitimacy and ensures that the Mayor/Chairperson is directly accountable to the citizens rather than being primarily dependent on political alignments or internal dynamics within the Council.
- (v) A directly elected Mayor/Chairperson can be accountable to the entire Corporation/Municipality and can pursue city-wide priorities such as the Master Plan, zoning regulations and long-term infrastructure development without being unduly constrained by the competing demands of individual Ward Members.
- (vi) Direct election provides clear accountability, as citizens know whom to hold responsible for the overall delivery of civic services and the performance of the urban local body.

(vii) Direct election reduces the need for post-election political negotiations or internal political arrangements for securing or retaining the position of Mayor/Chairperson and can enhance electoral transparency by reducing the scope for post-election manipulation or political bargaining in the selection of the Mayor/Chairperson,

(viii) Decisions relating to waste management, environmental protection and other city-wide civic services can be taken on the basis of overall coverage, efficiency and public interest across the entire Corporation/Municipality, rather than being influenced by the need to accommodate the political interests of particular wards.

In view of the above, it is decided to amend the relevant provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1955 and the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1965, to provide for the direct election of the Mayor/Chairperson by the electorate, with a view to strengthening democratic legitimacy, ensuring institutional stability and accountability, and promoting effective urban governance.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above decision.

PONGURU NARAYANA

Minister for Municipal Administration &
Urban Development

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clauses 1(2), 2 and 3 of the Bill authorizes the Government to issue notifications in respect of the matters specified therein and generally to carry out the purposes of the Act.

All such notifications issued, which are intended to cover the matters mostly of procedural in nature are 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 provisions of the Bill regarding delegated legislation are thus of normal type and mainly intended to cover matters of procedure.

PONGURU NARAYANA

Minister for Municipal Administration &
Urban Development

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

The Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Fourth 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.

PONGURU NARAYANA

Minister for Municipal Administration &
Urban Development

PRASANNA KUMAR SURYADEVARA

Secretary-General to Legislature.