

**KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY****SIXTEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY****SIXTH SESSION****THE KARNATAKA LAND GRABBING PROHIBITION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025****(LA Bill No. 15 of 2025)**

A Bill further to amend the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act, 2011.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act, 2011 (Karnataka Act 38 of 2014), 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 Land Grabbing Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 2.-** In the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act, 2011 (Karnataka Act 38 of 2014), (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act) in section 2, in clause (d), in sub-clause (i), after the proviso, the following shall be inserted, namely:-

“Provided further that, where any action has been initiated on lands under sections 39, 104 or 67 of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964 (Karnataka Act No. 12 of 1964) by any competent authority, the same shall be excluded.

Provided also that, the distances herein shall be reckoned aerially and in no other manner.”

**3. Amendment of section 4.-** In the Principal Act, in section 4, in sub-section (3), for the words “twenty five thousand rupees”, the words “fifty thousand rupees”, shall be substituted.

**4. Amendment of section 5.-** In the Principal Act, in section 5, in clause (e), for the words “twenty five thousand rupees”, the words “fifty thousand rupees”, shall be substituted.

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**5. Amendment of section 9.-** In the Principal Act, in section 9,-

(i) for sub-section (2), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(2) The Special Court shall for the purpose of taking cognizance of the case, consider the location or extent or ownership of the land alleged to have been grabbed or of the nature of the illegality involved or in the interest of justice or any other relevant matter”.

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(3) In respect of an alleged act of land grabbing or the determination of questions of title and ownership to, or lawful possession of any land grabbed under this Act and offences specified in Chapter XIV-A of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964 (Karnataka Act No. 12 of 1964) may be tried in the Special Court constituted for the area in which the land grabbed is situated and the decision of the Special Court shall be final.”

**6. Substitution of section 12.-** In the Principal Act, for section 12, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

**“12. Staff of the special court.-**(1) The Government shall appoint officers and other employees required to assist the Special Court in the discharge of its functions under this Act.

(2) The categories of officers and employees who may be appointed under subsection (1), their salaries, allowances, method of recruitment and other conditions of service shall be such as may be prescribed. The administrative powers of officers and employees appointed under sub-section (1) may be specified by the Chairman of the Special Court.”

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act (Karnataka Act 38 of 2014) was enacted to establish a "Special Court" in the State for speedy trial of any act alleged as 'land grabbing' and to prosecute the offences related to land grabbing, ownership of the grabbing land, cases related possession of land legally and such offenses specified in Chapter XIV(A) of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964 (Karnataka Act 12 of 1964).

Whereas the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964 (Karnataka Act 12 of 1964) has been amended to streamline the provisions for the protection of Government Land and land meant for public purposes. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Hinch

Lal Tiwari vs Kamala Devi, Jagpal Singh vs State of Punjab and others and Joginder vs State of Haryana and others in reportable judgements has repeatedly emphasized the responsibility of the State Government in protecting the Government and public lands. This amendment will enable to protect the Government land and ensure the revenue officials do not strike from their primary responsibility. To introduce the accurate way of measuring distance while filing case against encroachment of the Government lands.

And whereas appointment of staff and employees is a prerogative of the Government and governed by the rules, norms and economy orders. Hence, supervision of the Government is required for any recruitment. Enhancement of penalty in other cases of Land grabbing.

Hence, the Bill.

### **FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM**

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

### **MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION**

<b>Clause: 6</b>	sub-section (2), of section 12 proposed to be substituted empowers the State Government to prescribe rules the salaries, allowances, method of recruitment and other condition of service of officers and other employees of the special court.
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The proposed delegation of legislative power is normal in character.

**KRISHNA BYREGOWDA**  
Minister for Revenue

**M.K. VISHALAKSHI**  
Secretary  
Karnataka Legislative Assembly

**ANNEXURE**  
**Extract from the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act, 2011**  
**(Karnataka Act 38 of 2014)**

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**2. Definitions.-** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

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(d) “Land” includes,- 2 [(i) Land falling in all urban areas of the State and also land falling within 18 kms from the Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike limits, land falling within 10 kms from the city limits notified under the provisions of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, land falling within 5 kms from the City Municipal Council limits, land falling within 3 kms from the Town Municipal Council limits and Town Panchayat limits belonging to the Government, Wakf or the Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments, a local authority, a statutory or nonstatutory body owned, controlled or managed by the Government: Provided that, excluding the land specified above in all other areas the cases pending related to land grabbing shall stand abated forthwith.

**4. Prohibition of land grabbing.-XXX**

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(3) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but which may extend to three years, and with fine which may extend to twenty five thousand rupees.

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**5. Penalty for other offences in connection with land grabbing.-** Whoever, with a view to grabbing land in contravention of the provisions of this Act or in connection with any such land grabbing,-

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(e) causes or procures or attempts to procure any person to do any of above mentioned acts;

shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but which may extend to three years and with fine which may extend to twenty five thousand rupees.

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**9. Procedure and powers of the Special Courts.-XXX**

**XXX XXX**

(2) The Special Court shall for the purpose of taking cognizance of the case, consider the location, or extent or value of the land alleged to have been grabbed

or of the substantial nature of the evil involved or in the interest of justice required or any other relevant matter.

(3) All alleged acts of land grabbing shall be tried only by the Special Court constituted for the area in which the land is situated, or where there are more Special Courts than one for such area, by such one of them as may be specified in this behalf by the Government.

Provided that if, in the opinion of the Special Court, any application filed before it, is prima facie frivolous or vexatious, it shall reject the same without any further enquiry.

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**12. Staff of the Special Court.-** (1) The chairman of the Special Court may appoint officers and other employees required to assist the Special Court in the discharge of its functions under this Act.

(2) The categories of officers and employees who may be appointed under subsection (1), their salaries, allowances, method of recruitment and other conditions of service and the administrative powers of the Chairman of the Special Court shall be such as may be prescribed, after consultation with the Chairman.

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