



**KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SIXTEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SEVENTH SESSION**

**THE PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE (KARNATAKA AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025
(LA Bill No. 34 of 2025)**

A Bill to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 in its application to the State of Karnataka.

Whereas, it is expedient to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (Central Act 6 of 2007), in its application to State of Karnataka, 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 Prohibition of Child Marriage (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2025.

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

2. Insertion of new section 9A. - In the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (Central Act 6 of 2007) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), after section 9, the following shall be inserted, namely:-

“9A Punishment for attempt and preparation to make child marriage or attempt and preparation to make engagement of a child.- Whoever, make an attempt and preparation to make child marriage or attempt and preparation to make engagement of a child shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both”.

3. Amendment of section 10.- In the principal Act, in section 10,-

- (i) in the heading, for the word “solemnising”, the words “Preparation and solemnising”, shall be substituted; and

- (ii) after the words “abets any child marriage”, the words “or involves in preparation, engagement of child marriage”, shall be inserted.

4. Insertion of new section 12A . - In the principal Act, after section 12, the following shall be inserted, namely:-

“12A engagement of a minor child to be void.- Where a child being a minor is engaged for the purpose of the marriage, such engagement shall be null and void.”

5. Insertion of new section 13A. - In the principal Act, after section 13, the following shall be inserted, namely:-

“13A. Power of court to issue injunction prohibiting child engagement.- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, if, on an application of the Child Marriage Prohibition Officer or on receipt of information through a complaint or otherwise from any person, a Judicial Magistrate of the first class or a Metropolitan Magistrate is satisfied that a child engagement in contravention of this Act has been arranged or is about to be performed, such Magistrate shall issue an injunction against any person including a member of an organisation or an association of persons prohibiting such engagement.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

It is considered necessary to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (Central Act 6 of 2007) in its application to the State of Karnataka,-

- (1) to make provision regarding punishment for attempt and preparation to make a child marriage or attempt and preparation to make engagement of a child;
- (2) to declare engagement of a child being a minor is engaged for the purpose of the marriage to be null and void; and
- (3) to empower judicial magistrate of the first class or a metropolitan magistrate to issue injunction prohibiting child engagement.

Hence, the Bill.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

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

LAKSHMI HEBBALKAR

Minister of Women and Child Development,
Disabled and Senior-Citizens Empowerment of
Karnataka

M.K. VISHALAKSHI

Secretary
Karnataka Legislative Assembly

ANNEXURE
EXTRACT FROM THE PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE ACT, 2006
(CENTRAL ACT NO 06 OF 2007)

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9. Punishment for male adult marrying a child.- Whoever, being a male adult above eighteen years of age, contracts a child marriage shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both.

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10. Punishment for solemnising a child marriage.- Whoever performs, conducts, directs or abets any child marriage shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years and shall be liable to fine which may extend to one lakh rupees unless he proves that he had reasons to believe that the marriage was not a child marriage.

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12. Marriage of a minor child to be void in certain circumstances.- Where a child, being a minor,-

- (a) is taken or enticed out of the keeping of the lawful guardian; or
- (b) by force compelled, or by any deceitful means induced to go from any place; or
- (c) is sold for the purpose of marriage; and made to go through a form of marriage or if the minor is married after which the minor is sold or trafficked or used for immoral purposes, such marriage shall be null and void.

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13. Power of court to issue injunction prohibiting child marriages.- (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, if, on an application of the Child Marriage Prohibition Officer or on receipt of information through a complaint or otherwise from any person, a Judicial Magistrate of the first class or a Metropolitan Magistrate is satisfied that a child marriage in contravention of this

Act has been arranged or is about to be solemnised, such Magistrate shall issue an injunction against any person including a member of an organisation or an association of persons prohibiting such marriage.

(2) A complaint under sub-section (1) may be made by any person having personal knowledge or reason to believe, and a non-governmental organisation having reasonable information, relating to the likelihood of taking place of solemnisation of a child marriage or child marriages.

(3) The Court of the Judicial Magistrate of the first class or the Metropolitan Magistrate may also take suomotu cognizance on the basis of any reliable report or information.

(4) For the purposes of preventing solemnisation of mass child marriages on certain days such as AkshayaTrutiya, the District Magistrate shall be deemed to be the Child Marriage Prohibition Officer with all powers as are conferred on a Child Marriage Prohibition Officer by or under this Act.

(5) The District Magistrate shall also have additional powers to stop or prevent solemnisation of child marriages and for this purpose, he may take all appropriate measures and use the minimum force required.

(6) No injunction under sub-section (1) shall be issued against any person or member of any organisation or association of persons unless the Court has previously given notice to such person, members of the organisation or association of persons, as the case may be, and has offered him or them an opportunity to show cause against the issue of the injunction:

Provided that, in the case of any urgency, the Court shall have the power to issue an interim injunction without giving any notice under this section.

(7) An injunction issued under sub-section (1) may be confirmed or vacated after giving notice and hearing the party against whom the injunction was issued.

(8) The Court may either on its own motion or on the application of any person aggrieved, rescind or alter an injunction issued under sub-section (1).

(9) Where an application is received under sub-section (1), the Court shall afford the applicant an early opportunity of appearing before it either in person or

by an advocate and if the Court, after hearing the applicant rejects the application wholly or in part, it shall record in writing its reasons for so doing.

(10) Whoever knowing that an injunction has been issued under sub-section (1) against him disobeys such injunction shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both:

Provided that, no woman shall be punishable with imprisonment.

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