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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Law (Legislation-C) Department

NOTIFICATION

No. 6827/Leg. C1/2020/Law.                                Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 10th February, 2021
                                                       28th Makaram, 1196
                                                       21st Makha, 1942.

In pursuance of clause (3) of Article 348 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of Kerala is pleased to authorise the publication in the Gazette of the following translation in English language of the Kerala Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (13 of 2021).

By order of the Governor,

ARAVINTHA BABU P. K.,
Law Secretary.
Preamble.—WHEREAS, the Kerala Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (31 of 2020) was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 2nd day of May, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, a Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala during its session which convened on the 24th day of August, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, in order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the Kerala Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance (63 of 2020) was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on 26th day of September, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, the Kerala Municipality (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (70 of 2020) was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 26th day of September, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, in order to keep alive the provisions of the said ordinance with certain amendments the Kerala Municipality (Third Amendment) Ordinance (77 of 2020) was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 19th day of November, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, a Bill to replace the said Ordinances by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala during
its session which convened on the 31st day of December, 2020 and during its session which commenced on the 8th day of January, 2021 and ended on the 22nd day of January, 2021;

   AND WHEREAS, under sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of Article 213 of the Constitution of India, the Kerala Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (63 of 2020) and the Kerala Municipality (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (77 of 2020) will cease to operate on the 11th day of February, 2021;

   AND WHEREAS, difficulties will arise if the provisions of the said Ordinances are not kept alive;

   AND WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala is not in session, and the Governor of Kerala is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 213 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of Kerala is pleased to promulgate the following Ordinance:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Ordinance may be called the Kerala Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021.

   (2) Save as otherwise provided in this Ordinance, section 3 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 4th day of May, 2020 and sub-section (1) of section 4 and section 5 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 30th day of September, 2020 and sub-section (2) of section 4 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 19th day of November, 2020.

2. Act 20 of 1994 to be temporarily amended.—During the period of operation of this Ordinance, the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994 (20 of 1994) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) shall have effect subject to the amendments specified in sections 3, 4 and 5.

3. Amendment of section 6.—In the principal Act, in sub-section (3) of section 6,—

   (a) in clause (a),—
(i) in sub-clause (i), for the words “twenty six”, the words “twenty five” shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-clause (ii), for the words “twenty six”, the words “twenty five” and for the words “fifty three”, the words “fifty two” shall be substituted;

(b) in clause (b),

(i) in sub-clause (i), for the words “fifty six”, the words “fifty five” shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-clause (ii), for the words “fifty six”, the words “fifty five” and for the words “one hundred and one”, the words “one hundred” shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 126.—In section 126 of the principal Act,—

(1) the existing provision shall be numbered as sub-section (1) thereof, and in the proviso to sub-section (1) as so numbered, for the figures, word and letters “7 a.m. and 5 p.m.” the figures, word and letters “7 a.m. and 6 p.m.” shall be substituted;

(2) after sub-section (1) as so numbered, and the proviso thereunder, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:

“(2) The last one hour of the time fixed under sub-section (1) shall be used for voting by such classes of persons as specified under section 130 A.”.

5. Insertion of new section after section 130.—In the principal Act, section 130A shall be renumbered as section 130B, and before section 130B as so renumbered, the following section shall be inserted, namely:

“130 A. Special provision for postal ballot to certain classes of persons.—(1) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions contained in section 130, the following classes of voters shall have the opportunity to give their vote by postal ballot in such manner, as may be prescribed, namely:

(a) any person who is affected by epidemic disease;
(b) any person in quarantine;

Explanation.—For the purpose of this section,—

(i) “epidemic disease” means epidemic disease as defined under clause (a) of section 2 of the Kerala Epidemic Diseases Ordinance, 2020 (57 of 2020) and notified by the Government under section 3 of the said Ordinance from, time to time;

(ii) “person in quarantine” means a person who is in quarantine as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, from time to time, to prevent the spread of epidemic diseases.

(2) A voter as specified in any of the classes under sub-section (1) may give his vote by postal ballot or may give his vote directly at the polling station, in such manner as may be prescribed, at the time fixed under sub-section (2) of section 126.

Note:—The provisions in sub-section (2) shall be deemed to have come into force on the 19th day of November, 2020.”.

6. Repeal and saving.—(1) The Kerala Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (63 of 2020), The Kerala Municipality (Third Amendment) Ordinance (77 of 2020) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or deemed to have been done or any action taken or deemed to have been taken under the principal Act as amended by the said Ordinances shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act as amended by this Ordinance.

ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN,

GOVERNOR.