The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2020

- **Ordinance Summary**

**Key features of the Ordinance are:**

- **Extension of time limit:** The Act prescribes certain time limits for the societies to get its accounts audited and for calling annual general body meeting after the end of the financial year. For the financial year 2019-20, the Ordinance extends the time limit relating to certain actions specified in the Act: (i) the time limit for societies to get their accounts audited after the end of the financial year has been extended from four months to nine months; (ii) the time limit for calling the annual general body meeting has been extended from six months to 12 months.

- **Voting powers of members:** Under the Act, only active members of the society are eligible to vote in its affairs. A member may cease to be an active member if they don’t participate in the society’s affairs, and avail minimum level of services as specified in the by-laws. The Ordinance amends the Act to relax the requirements for members to be eligible to vote in the election of the society. It provides that members may be allowed to vote: (i) if the elections are scheduled to be held on or before March 31, 2021; and (ii) if they are part of the voter’s list that was finalised before the commencement of this Ordinance.

- **Term of office:** The Act provides for the constitution of the Committee for the co-operative housing societies. It prescribes that the tenure of the elected members and the office bearers of the Committee will be five years from the date of the first meeting of the newly constituted Committee. The tenure of the office-bearers will end with the term of the Committee. The Ordinance provides that if elections to the Committee cannot be held due to reasons not caused by the members, the existing members of the Committee will continue until a new Committee is formed.

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