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LEGISLATIVE SUPPLEMENT

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PART-II

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, PUNJAB

NOTIFICATION

The 13th July, 2026

No. 11-Leg./2026.- The following Ordinance of the Governor of Punjab, promulgated under clause (1) of article 213 of the Constitution of India on the 09th day of July, 2026, is hereby published for general information :-

THE PUNJAB REGULATION OF FEE OF UN-AIDED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2026

(Punjab Ordinance No. 2 of 2026)

AN

ORDINANCE

further to amend the Punjab Regulation of Fee of Un-aided Educational Institutions Act, 2016.

Promulgated by the Governor of Punjab in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India.

Whereas the Legislative Assembly of the State of Punjab is not in session and the Governor 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 Punjab is pleased to promulgate the following Ordinance, namely:-

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the Punjab Regulation of Fee of Un-aided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026. Short title and commencement.
- (2) It shall come into force at once.
2. In the Punjab Regulation of Fee of Un-aided Educational Institutions Act, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 2,- Amendment in section 2 of Punjab Act 47 of 2016.
 - (i) after clause (ff), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(fff) 'cumulative fee enhancement' means the aggregate percentage increase in the total fee charged by an Unaided Educational Institution over the last thirty-six months from the month of notification of the Punjab Regulation of Fee of Unaided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 in the Official Gazette, calculated by comparing the fee charged in the earliest of those three academic

years with the fee charged in the latest academic year;"

(ii) for existing clause (g), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(g) 'fee' means the total of all amounts charged by or on behalf of an Unaided Educational Institution or its associated body (Trust, Society, Company or any such entity) directly or indirectly from a student or parent, by whatever name called, including tuition fee, development fee, annual charges, activity charges, smart class or technology charges, transportation charges (where not separately contracted), laboratory and library charges, examination charges, any other funds, and any other compulsory monetary contribution or indirect collections and amounts collected through affiliated entities, and includes both recurring and non- recurring charges but excludes amounts collected as refundable security deposit, provided such deposit is actually refunded in full on the student's departure;" and

(iii) after clause (g), so substituted, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(ga) 'fee enhancement' means any increase proposed by an Unaided Educational Institution or its associated body in the total fee chargeable for a given academic year over the total fee charged in the immediately preceding academic year, expressed as a percentage of such preceding year's fee;"

3. In the principal Act, in section 3, in sub-section (2), for clause (d) and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(d) two members, to be Nominated
nominated by the Government Members"
from amongst the educationists
or financial experts or Chartered
Accountants; and

Amendment in
section 3 of
Punjab Act 47
of 2016.

4. In the principal Act, for section 5, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

"5. (1) An Unaided Educational Institution shall be competent to fix its
Power to fix fee and increase fee. fee and it may also increase the same after taking
into account the need to generate funds to run the
Unaided Educational Institution and to provide facilities necessary for

Substitution of
section 5 of
Punjab Act 47
of 2016.

the benefits of students:

Provided that while fixing or increasing fee, the factors mentioned in sub-section (1) of section 6, shall be kept in view by the Unaided Educational Institution:

Provided further that no Unaided Educational Institution shall enhance its fee by more than five per cent of the fee charged by it during the immediately preceding academic year:

Provided further that any such enhancement shall be deemed to have been validly effected only if the Unaided Educational Institution has displayed the revised fee structure at a conspicuous place within the school premises and on its official website not less than ninety days prior to the commencement of the academic year:

Provided further that the Unaided Educational Institution shall also ensure that the parents or guardians of the students are duly informed of the revised fee structure through appropriate modes of communication, including email, electronic message including WhatsApp messages, circulars, parent-teacher meetings, or any other mode that may ensure effective notice:

Provided further that while fixing or increasing fee, an Unaided Educational Institution shall not indulge in profiteering and it shall not charge capitation fee.

5. In the principal Act, after section 5, so substituted, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:-

"5-A. Where the proposed fee enhancement for an academic year exceeds five per cent of the fee charged in the immediately preceding academic year, the Unaided Educational

Institution shall submit the proposal before the Regulatory Body of the concerned District not later than one hundred and eighty days before the start of the academic year for which the enhancement is sought.

(2) Fee enhancement shall not be effected unless prior written approval is obtained from the Regulatory Body.

(3) The Regulatory Body shall also direct a forensic audit to satisfy itself that the proposed enhancement is justified on the basis of the factors specified in sub-section (1) of section 6 and is not motivated by the desire to profiteer. The forensic audit shall include an audit of

Insertion of
sections 5-A
and 5-B in
Punjab Act 47
of 2016.

the Unaided Educational Institution or its associated body.

(4) The Regulatory Body shall dispose of the application for approval within ninety days from the date of receipt of all the required documents, and the existing fee structure shall continue during the pendency of the decision by the Regulatory Body.

5-B. Where the cumulative fee enhancement charged by an Unaided Educational Institution over the last thirty-six months from the month of notification of the Punjab Regulation of Fee of Unaided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 in the Official Gazette, exceeds fifteen per cent of the fee charged in the earliest of those three academic years, the Unaided Educational Institution shall refund to every affected student or, as the case may be, to his or her parent or guardian, the amount collected in excess of the said permissible cumulative ceiling within ninety days from the date of such notification."

6. In the principal Act, for section 8, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

Substitution of section 8 of Punjab Act 47 of 2016.

"8. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Regulatory Body may, either suo motu or on receipt of information, on being satisfied that an Unaided Educational Institution has contravened or is contravening any of the provisions of this Act, cause a forensic audit of the Unaided Educational Institution or its associated body to be conducted and may also call for the relevant record of such Unaided Educational Institution or its associated body, in order to verify the information."

7. In the principal Act, in section 14,-

Amendment in section 14 of Punjab Act 47 of 2016.

- (i) in sub-section (1), for the words, "thirty thousand rupees", "rupees fifty thousand" and "rupees one lac", the words "rupees fifty thousand", "rupees one lac" and "rupees two lac" shall, respectively, be substituted;
- (ii) in sub-section (2), for the words, "sixty thousand rupees", "rupees one lac" and "rupees two lac", the words "rupees one lac", "rupees three lac" and "rupees five lac" shall, respectively, be substituted;
- (iii) after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

"(3-A) For the purposes of this section, and for determining first, second and third contraventions, only violations committed within the preceding five years shall be taken into consideration.";

(iv) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

"(4) The Regulatory Body shall direct the Un-aided Educational Institution to refund the fee in excess of the fee as displayed by such institution to the affected students or their parents:

Provided that where an Unaided Educational Institution fails to comply with a refund order within thirty days from the date of such order, the Regulatory Body may, in addition to any penalty imposed under this section, levy a further fine of rupees ten thousand per day:

Provided further that if the Unaided Educational Institution fails to deposit the abovesaid fine and refund within the specified period, the recognition and/or affiliation granted to the Unaided Educational Institution may be withdrawn for non-compliance with the order of the Regulatory Body."; and

(v) after sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

"(5) No order withdrawing recognition and/or affiliation under this section shall be passed unless the concerned Unaided Educational Institution has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard."

GULAB CHAND KATARIA,

Governor of Punjab.

Sd/-

B.B.S. TEJI,

Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Legal and Legislative Affairs.