

**BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU**

Under Rule 130 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, the following Bill which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu on 17th October, 2025 is published together with Statement of Objects and Resasons for general information:-

L.A.Bill No. 36 of 2025

**A Bill further to amend the Tamil Nadu
Panchayats Act, 1994.**

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Short title and
commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fifth Amendment) Act, 2025.

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

Amendment of
section 144-A.

2. In section 144-A of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act),—

Tamil Nadu Act
21 of 1994

(1) in sub-section (1), —

(a) for the expression “the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998 (Tamil Nadu Act 9 of 1999)”, the expression “sub-section (1-B)” shall be substituted;

(b) after the proviso, the following proviso shall be added, namely: —

“Provided further that any person who holds a licence granted under section 179-B of the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998 (Tamil Nadu Act 9 of 1999), may collect and transport faecal sludge or septage within the panchayat limits in case the disposal of the same is permissible within the municipal limits to which the said licence is related.”;

(2) after sub-section (1) as so amended, the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1-A) Any person who intends to collect, transport or dispose faecal sludge or septage shall apply to the licensing authority for grant of licence in such form, containing such particulars, documents and with such fee as may be prescribed.

(1-B) Within thirty days from the date of receipt of an application under sub-section (1-A), the licensing authority may either grant the licence subject to such terms and conditions, as may be prescribed or refuse to grant licence, by recording the reason therefor.

(1-C) The licence granted under sub-section (1-B) shall be valid for a period of two years from the date of issue.

(1-D) Application for renewal of licence shall be made to the licensing authority, thirty days before the date of its expiry, in such form together with such fee as may be prescribed.

(1-E) The time limit and procedure contained in sub-section (1-B) shall equally apply for renewal of licence.”;

(3) in sub-section (3), —

(a) for clause (a), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(a) follow the terms and conditions in regard to the time, route and decantation place, as may be specified in the licence;”;

(b) in clause (b), the expression “not exceeding five hundred rupees per trip” shall be omitted;

(c) in clause (c), for the expression “the Inspector”, the expression “the licensing authority” shall be substituted;

(d) after clause (c) as so amended, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(d) ensure that the specified vehicle is equipped with a Global Positioning System as may be prescribed and also ensure that the Global Positioning System instrument is functional and transmitting the data without any interruption.”.

(4) in sub-section (4),—

(a) in clause (a),—

(i) for the expression “The Inspector”, the expression “The licensing authority” shall be substituted;

(ii) for item (i), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(i) the places for decanting the faecal sludge or septage;”;

(b) in clause (b), for the expression “the executive authority”, the expression “the licensing authority” shall be substituted;

(c) in clause (c), for the expression “The District Level Monitoring Committee consisting of such officers, as may be prescribed, shall monitor the movement of the specified vehicles”, the expression “The licensing authority shall appoint such officers not lower in rank than that of Deputy Block Development Officer, to monitor the activities of the licensees” shall be substituted.

(5) in sub-section (5), after the expression “If any person contravenes or fails to comply with this section”, the expression “or the rules made under this Act or of the terms and conditions subject to which the licence has been granted” shall be added.

(6) in sub-section (6),—

(a) in clause (a), for the expression “The District Level Monitoring Committee may request the licensing authority to”, the expression “The licensing authority may” shall be substituted;

(b) in clause (b), for the expression “The District Level Monitoring Committee may request the licensing authority to”, the expression “The licensing authority may” shall be substituted;

(c) after clause (b) as so amended, the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

“Provided that before passing an order of cancellation of licence, an opportunity of making a representation within a period of fifteen days shall be given to the licensee.”.

(7) for the Explanation, the following Explanation shall be substituted, namely:—

“Explanation.— For the purpose of this section,—

(a) "disposal facility" means the arrangement made for the scientific treatment and disposal of faecal sludge and septage, as may be prescribed;

(b) "licensing authority" means the authority as may be notified by the Government for issuing licence under sub-section (1-B);

(c) "faecal sludge" means raw or partially digested, in a slurry or semi solid form of combinations of excreta and black water, with or without greywater;

(d) "licensee" means any person who holds a licence granted under sub-section (1-B);

(e) "septage" means the liquid and solid material, that has accumulated or is contained in a septic tank or cesspool;

(f) "specified vehicle" means a vacuum truck or such other vehicle equipped with motorised pumps and storage tank of such specification, as may be approved, from time to time, under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (Central Act 59 of 1988), for collecting and transporting faecal sludge and septage."

Insertion of new
section 144-B

3. After section 144-A of the principal Act as so amended, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"144-B. Management of greywater.— (1) No household, commercial establishment or institution shall dispose of greywater on open land or into any water body in any manner that adversely affects the environment. The disposal of greywater shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the procedure as may be specified by the panchayat.

(2) The panchayat shall establish and maintain proper end treatment system for greywater at the discharge points of drains carrying greywater in such manner as may be specified by the Government, from time to time.

Explanation.— For the purpose of this section, greywater means untreated wastewater excluding water from a liquid flushing toilet or urinal and includes wastewater from bathtubs, showers, washbasins, kitchen sinks, dishwashers, washing machines and laundry tubs."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

Section 144-A of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994) provides for the management of faecal sludge and septage in respect of rural local bodies. At present, the desludging operation are being carried out by the licensees who obtained licence under section 179-B of the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998 (Tamil Nadu Act 9 of 1999). There is no provision in the said Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 to issue licence for desludging operations. Therefore, it has been decided to empower the Panchayats also to issue licence for desludging operations in panchayat limits. To achieve the said purpose, suitable provisions have to be incorporated in the said Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.

2. Further, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has issued the draft Liquid Waste Management Rules, 2024 to comprehensively address liquid waste management, including greywater management. In the circumstances, there is a need to incorporate provisions relating to management of greywater also in the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.

3. The Government have, therefore, decided to amend the Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994 suitably for the said purposes.

4. The Bill seeks to give effect to the above decision.

I. PERIYASAMY,
Minister of Rural Development.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION.

Clauses 1(2), 2 and 3 of the Bill authorise the Government to issue notification or make rules as the case may be for the purposes specified therein.

2. The powers delegated are normal and not of an exceptional character.

I. PERIYASAMY,
Minister of Rural Development.

Secretariat,
Chennai,
17th October 2025.

K. SRINIVASAN,
Principal Secretary.