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TELANGANA BILLS

TELANGANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The following Bill was introduced in the Telangana Legislative Assembly on 29th March, 2026.

L. A. BILL No. 20 OF 2026.

A BILL TO CURB AND PREVENT DISSEMINATION, PUBLICATION OR PROMOTION OF HATE SPEECH AND CRIMES, WHICH CAUSE DISHARMONY, HATRED IN THE SOCIETY, AGAINST THE PERSON OR GROUP OF PERSONS, ORGANISATIONS AND TO PROVIDE PUNISHMENT TO SUCH CRIMES AND TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE COMPENSATION TO THE INJURED VICTIMS AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH FOR THE PURPOSES HEREINAFTER APPEARING.

[1]

B. 214-1

Be it enacted by the Telangana State Legislature in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India, as follows:-

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Telangana Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Act, 2026.

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

Definitions.

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(i) 'Hate Speech' includes any expression which is made, published, or circulated, in words either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representations or through electronic communication or otherwise, in public view, with an intention to cause injury, disharmony or feelings of enmity or hatred or ill-will against person alive or dead, class or group of persons or community, to meet any prejudicial interest;

(ii) 'Prejudicial interest' means and includes, the bias on the grounds of,-

- (a) religion,
- (b) race,
- (c) caste or community;
- (d) sex,
- (e) gender,
- (f) sexual orientation,
- (g) place of birth,
- (h) residence,
- (i) language,
- (j) disability, or
- (k) tribe;

(iii) 'Hate Crime' means communication of hate speech, by making, publishing or circulating or any act of promoting,

propagating, inciting or abetting or attempting, such hate speech, to cause disharmony or feelings of enmity or hatred or ill-will against any person dead or alive or group of persons or organisation; and

(iv) 'Communication' means and includes communication of expression, made in public view, by way of verbal, print, publication, electronic means, or other means to convey such expression.

(v) 'Repeat offender' means a person or group of persons who have been charged of an offence, at least once under this Act in a court of Law.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the provisions of this Act shall not extend to any book, pamphlet, paper, writing, drawing, painting representation or figure in electronic form or otherwise the publication of which is proved to be justified as being for the public good on the ground that such book, pamphlet, paper, writing drawing, painting representation or figure is in the interest of science, literature, art or learning or other objects of general concern; or which is kept or used for bona fide heritage or religious purposes.

(3) The words and expressions used and not defined in this Act but defined in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 or the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 or the Information Technology Act, 2000 shall have the meaning respectively assigned to them in those Acts.

(Central Act 45 of 2023).
(Central Act 46 of 2023).
(Central Act 21 of 2000).

3. (1) Whoever,-

(i) commits hate crime shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year, which may extend to seven years with a fine of Rs.50,000/-; and

Punishment for hate crime.

(ii) commits any subsequent or repetitive offences, the punishment shall not be less than two years, which may extend to ten years with fine of Rs.1,00,000/-.

(2) The Court may award adequate compensation to the victim by calculating the injury caused due to hate crime, depending upon the gravity of the impact of the crime.

(3) The offences under this Act shall be cognizable, non bailable and triable by the Judicial Magistrate of First Class.

(Central Act 46 of 2023). (4) The provisions of Chapter-IX of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 so far as may be, apply for the purposes of sub-section (1).

Preventive action to be taken by the law and order machinery.

4. The Executive Magistrate or the Special Executive Magistrate may, on receiving information and after such inquiry as he may think necessary, has reason to believe that a repeat offender within the local limits of his jurisdiction is likely to commit an offence or has threatened to commit any offence under this Act and is of the opinion that there is sufficient ground for proceeding, take necessary preventive action for keeping the peace and good behaviour and maintenance of public order and tranquility.

Offences by Organisation or Institution.

5. If the person, committing an offence under this Act, is an Organisation or Institution, every person who, at the time of the offence committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to, such Organisation or Institution for the conduct of the business of the same, as well as such Organisation or Institution, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall render any person liable to punishment if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge, or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

Explanation: For the purpose of this section 'Organisation or Institution' means and includes association of persons whether registered or not.

6. The Designated Officer, as notified by the State Government, shall have the power to direct any service provider, intermediaries, person or entity to block or remove the hate crime materials from its domain including electronic media.

Power to block or remove the hate crime materials.

7. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

Application of other laws not barred.

8. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against public servants for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done under this Act, or the rules made thereunder.

Protection of action taken in good faith.

9. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, to remove such difficulty:

Power to remove difficulties.

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of three years from the commencement of this Act.

10. (1) The State Government may, by notification, after previous publication, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Power to make rules.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty

days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or to be of no effect as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything done under that rule.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In recent years, there has been a discernible increase in incidents of hate speech and hate crimes, particularly through digital and social media platforms, which have potential to spread rapidly and cause serious harm to public order and social harmony. Such acts promote enmity, hatred, and disharmony among individuals and groups on grounds such as religion, caste, ethnicity, language, gender, and other identities, thereby undermining the constitutional values of equality, dignity, and fraternity.

The existing legal framework does not comprehensively address the evolving nature and manifestations of hate speech and hate crimes, necessitating a dedicated and robust legislation to effectively prevent, regulate, and penalize such conduct, while also ensuring protection and redress to affected persons.

It is, therefore, considered necessary to enact a legislation to;

(i) curb and prevent the dissemination, publication, or promotion of hate speech and hate crimes that incite disharmony or hatred in society against any person, group of persons, or organizations;

(ii) provide for stringent and deterrent punishment for the commission of such offences; and

(iii) ensure adequate compensation to victims affected by such acts.

This bills seeks to achieve the above objects.

A.REVANTH REDDY,
Chief Minister.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clauses 1(2), 6, 8, 9 and 10 of the Bill authorizes the Government to issue notifications or to make rules in respect of matters specified therein and generally to carry out the purposes of the Act. All such rules so made or notifications issued which are intended to cover matters mostly of procedural in nature, are to be laid on the Table of both the Houses of State Legislature and will be subject to any modifications made by the Legislature.

The above provisions of the Bill regarding delegated legislation are thus of normal type and are mainly intended to cover matters of procedure.

A.REVANTH REDDY,
Chief Minister.

**MEMORANDUM UNDER RULE 95 OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE
TELANGANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

The Telangana Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2026, after it is passed by both the Houses of the State Legislature may be reserved by the Governor for the consideration and assent of the President under article 254(2) of the Constitution of India.

A.REVANTH REDDY,
Chief Minister.

RENDLA THIRUPATHI,
Secretary to Legislature
(Legislative Assembly).