



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
GOA

The Goa Children's (Amendment) Bill, 2026

(Bill No. 43 of 2026)

—
(To be introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Goa)
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GOA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT
ASSEMBLY HALL, PORVORIM
AUGUST, 2026

The Goa Children's (Amendment) Bill, 2026

(Bill No. 43 of 2026)

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BILL

further to amend the Goa Children's Act, 2003 (Goa Act No. 18 of 2003)

5 BE it enacted by the Legislative assembly of Goa in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:— .

1. **Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be called the Goa Children's (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

10 2. **Amendment of section 2.**— In the Goa Children's Act, 2003 (Goa Act 18 of 2003) (hereinafter referred to as the "principal Act"), in section 2, in clause (l), in sub-clause (xv), the figure and word, "leprosy" shall be omitted.—

3. **Amendment of section 5.**— In the principal Act, in section 5, in sub-section (11), the word and figure, "leprosy" shall be omitted.—

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASON

The Bill seeks to amend section 2 and 5 of the Goa Children's Act (Goa Act No. 18 of 2003) by omitting the word "leprosy" so as to remove discrimination against persons affected by leprosy in view of the Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (s) (Civil) No. (s) 83/2010 dated 07/05/2025.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

No Financial implications are involved in this Bill

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

No delegated legislation is envisaged in this Bill.

Porvorim-Goa
21/ 08 /2026

VISHWAJIT PRATAPSINGH RANE
Hon. Minister for Women
and Child Development

Assembly Hall,
Porvorim-Goa,
21/ 08 /2026

SMT. NAMRATA ULMAN
Secretary to the Legislative
Assembly of Goa

**(Annexure to The Goa Children's (Amendment) Bill, 2026
(Bill No. 43 of 2026)**

The Goa Children Act, 2003 (Act 18 of 2003)

2. Definitions.

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Special officers" means officers that are appointed as such under the provisions of this Act;

(b) "A care giver" is a person who is responsible for looking after the well being of the child. This person may be a staff member of any residential facility for children, an employee of an educational institution, a nursery, crèche, a clinic, a hospital, a sports club, a recreational facility or an employee of any facility which provides services to children;

(c) "A place of care" of children are all the places mentioned in clause (b) and any other place which is a place for the care and custody of children;

(d) "Child" means any person who has not completed eighteen years of age unless any other law in force specifies otherwise or unless otherwise indicated in specific provisions in this Act;

Provided that in so far as a victim in an offence of rape is concerned, "child" shall mean any person who has not completed sixteen years of age;

(e) "Child in case of child labour", shall be a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age;

(f) "Children's Home" means an institution, whether called an orphanage, home or by any other name and where one or more children reside, either fully or partly and shall include all crèches, boarding schools, orphanages, protective homes and hostels which provide for care or custody or education or rehabilitation of a child";

(g) "Chief Secretary" means the Chief Secretary to the Government of Goa;

(h) "Children's Court" means the Court constituted under section 27;

(i) "Competent authority" means the Secretary to the Government in charge of the Department of Women and Child Development;

(j) "Child labour" means all forms of labour involving children below the age of fourteen;

(jj) "commercial sexual exploitation of children" means all forms of sexual exploitation of a child including visual depiction of a child engaged in explicit sexual conduct, real or stimulated, or the lewd exhibition of the genitals intended for sexual gratification of the user, done with a commercial purpose, whether for money or kind. It includes implying, allowing, using, inducing or coercing any child to engage in sexual conduct, it also includes the use of the child in assisting with other persons to engage in explicit sex;

(k) "Certificate" means the certificate of registration granted under section 6;

(l) "Child in need" means all children including those whose rights are being violated or who need special attention and/or protection and shall include, for the purposes of this Act:-

(i) Child in need of care and protection and juvenile in conflict with law as defined in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 (56 of 2000).

(ii) Child labour;

(iii) Street Children;

(iv) A child who has been dedicated;

(v) Omitted by Goa Children's (Amendment) Act, 2005 [Act No. 20 of 2005].

(vi) Omitted by Goa Children's (Amendment) Act, 2005 [Act No. 20 of 2005].

(vii) A child in a Home, registered or otherwise;

(viii) A child in foster-care;

(ix) Child in situation of abuse;

(x) A differently abled child;

(xi) Children of prisoners;

(xii) Children of commercial sex workers;

(xiii) A child who is vulnerable;

(xiv) A child whose parents are separated or divorced;

(xv) A child who has an illness or disease or ailment which has a social stigma attached to it e.g. HIV, Leprosy.

(II) "child in difficult circumstances" means a child in need which is exposed to or is likely to be exposed to child abuse or sexual offences or child trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation or violation of his or her rights;

(m) "Child abuse" refers to the maltreatment, whether habitual or not, of the child which includes any of the following:-

(i) psychological and physical abuse, neglect, cruelty, sexual abuse and emotional maltreatment;

(ii) any act by deeds or words which debases, degrades or demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of a child as a human being;

(iii) unreasonable deprivation of his basic needs for survival such as food and shelter; or failure to immediately give medical treatment to an injured child resulting in serious impairment of his growth and development or in his permanent incapacity or death;

(n) "Dedication" means the performance of any act or ceremony by whatever name called, by which a girl child is dedicated to the service of any deity, idol, object of worship, temple, other religious institutions or places of worship;

(o) "Director" means the Director of the Directorate of Women and Child Development;

(p) "Fund" means the State Children's Fund constituted under section 14;

(pp) "Government or State Government" means the Government of Goa;

(q) "guardian" in relation to a child means his natural guardian or any other person who is legally authorised for the purpose of having the actual charge or control over the child;

(r) "High risk" areas means those areas in which children are vulnerable to exploitation as notified by the Government in the Official Gazette;

(s) "Offence" means an act or omission made punishable under any law for the time being in force;

(t) "medical authority" means such authority as notified by the Government by order or notification published in the Official Gazette and whose certificate on the age of a child shall be conclusive evidence as to the age of the child to whom it relates.

(u) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules under this Act;

(uu) "principle of best interest of child" means the principle which seeks to ensure the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and moral development of the child, and to provide him safe environment from all kinds of child abuse;"

(uv) "rape" means rape as defined in section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Act V of 1860);]

(v) "registered children's home" means a children's home which has been registered under this Act;

(w) "Secretary" means the Secretary to the Government in charge of the Department of Women and Child Development;

(x) "Sexual Offence" covers all forms of sexual abuse which constitute offences under this Act;

(y) 'Sexual offences' for the purposes of awarding appropriate punitive action means and includes,-

(i) "Grave Sexual Assault" which covers different types of intercourse; vaginal or oral or anal, use of objects with children, forcing minors to have sex with each other, deliberately causing injury to the sexual organs of children, making children pose for pornographic photos or films, and also includes rape;

(ii) Sexual Assault which covers sexual touching with the use of any body part or object, voyeurism, exhibitionism, showing pornographic pictures or films to minors, making children watch others engaged in sexual activity, issuing of threats to sexually abuse a minor, verbally abusing a minor using vulgar and obscene language;

(iii) Incest which is the commission of a sexual offence by an adult on a child who is a relative or is related by ties of adoption.

(z) "child trafficking" means the procurement, recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children legally or illegally, within or across borders, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for monetary gain or otherwise.

(za) 'Differently Abled Children' includes children with disabilities, learning difficulties and associated disorders like Autism.

(zb) The words "complaint", "bailable offence", "non-bailable offence", "cognizable offence", "charge-sheet", "police report", "warrant", "search warrant", "remand", "trial", "Judicial Magistrate", "District Magistrate", "offence", "compounding", "officer in charge of Police Station" and "Cognizance" shall have the same meaning as assigned to them under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Act 2 of 1974).

(Annexure to The Goa Children's (Amendment) Bill, 2026
(Bill No. 43 of 2026)

The Goa Children Act, 2003 (Act 18 of 2003)

5. Health & Nutrition.

(1) Mandatory immunisation with MMR vaccine in children, Rubella vaccine in adolescent in girls and Hepatitis B vaccine in infancy should be introduced in a phased manner as part of the on going free Immunisation programme of the State.

(2) The State shall endeavour to make possible Maternity leave of 6 months in all sectors of employment including for adoptive mothers and single parents.

(3) Creches and day care centers for infants and children of working mothers in all sectors of employment may be set up at the work site or close to the same, in cities and villages, to the maximum extent of available resources.

(4) The State should ensure the creation and maintenance of comprehensive Health cards inclusive of growth and developmental, immunisation and other records for all infants and children including those in crèches, homes and schools, and migrant children.

(5) The State shall seek to provide for palliative and terminal care for infants and children with life threatening and terminal illnesses like cancer and HIV/AIDS.

(6) That State shall take effective steps so that parents do not transmit the HIV virus to their child.

(7) It shall be the duty of all individuals, organizations, institutions etc., to keep their immediate environment clean and free of garbage, faeces, and other items harmful to children. Non-observance of the provisions of this sub-section will carry a penalty which may range from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 1000/-.

(8) The State shall strive to reach higher standards for children by protecting them from malaria and from all avoidable illness and diseases.

(9) Special provisions shall be made for the treatment, education and integration of all children with leprosy.

(10) Special attention shall be given to issues of substance [psycho - social well being] drug and alcohol abuse in children.

(11) No medical institution or clinic or hospital or nursing home shall reject admission or treatment of a child or pregnant mother who has any illness or disease or ailment which has a social stigma attached with it, such as Leprosy, AIDS, etc.

(12) Any contravention or non-adherence of the provisions of this section, except for sub-section (7), shall be dealt with by the Competent Authority only and shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to Rs. 50,000/-.
