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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
GOA

**The Goa Advocates Protection
Bill, 2026**

(Bill No. 47 of 2026)

(To be introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Goa)

GOA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT
ASSEMBLY HALL, PORVORIM
AUGUST, 2026

The Goa Advocates Protection Bill, 2026

(Bill No. 47 of 2026)

A

BILL

5 *to provide for the prevention of offences against the advocates and damage or loss to the property of advocates and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.*

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

1. Short title, extent and commencement. — (1) This Act may be called the Goa Advocates Protection Act, 2026.

10 (2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Goa.

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

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

15 (a) “**advocate**” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Advocates Act, 1961 (Central Act No. 25 of 1961) and who is practicing in the State of Goa;

(b) “**Government**” means the Government of Goa;

20 (c) “**professional duties**” means any act lawfully done by an advocate in the course of his professional practice;

(d) “**property**” means any property, movable or immovable or equipment or machinery owned by or in possession of an advocate.

25 (2) Words and expressions used in the Act but not defined shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Advocates Act, 1961 (Central Act No. 25 of 1961) and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act No. 45 of 2023).

3. Prohibition of assault, grievous hurt, criminal force and criminal intimidation.— Any act of assault, grievous hurt, criminal force, criminal intimidation or harassment committed against an advocate in connection with the discharge of the professional duties of such advocate shall be an offence. 5

4. Protection of property of advocate.— No person shall cause damage or loss to the property of an advocate on account of, or in relation to, the discharge of his professional duties.

5. Police protection.— (1) Any advocate who is under the threat of being a victim of an offence under section 3 and/or 4 shall be entitled to police protection for such duration which the Court deems fit, upon making an application before the Court of Sessions. 10

(2) Where the police protection is provided to the advocate, no police officer below the rank of the Deputy Superintendent of Police shall, withdraw, reduce or discontinue such protection, without prior permission of the Court which granted such police protection. 15

6. Punishment for offences.— Notwithstanding anything contained in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act No. 45 of 2023),—

(a) whoever assaults or uses criminal force against an advocate shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to fifty-five thousand rupees; 20

(b) whoever voluntarily causes grievous hurt to an advocate shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years and with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees; 25

(c) whoever criminally intimidates or harasses an advocate shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, and where the threat is to cause death, grievous hurt or destruction of property, such imprisonment may extend to seven years. 30

7. Offence to be cognizable.— Notwithstanding anything contained in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act No. 46 of 2023), every offence committed under this Act shall be cognizable.

5 **8. Compensation.**— Where a Court imposes a sentence of fine or any other sentence of which fine forms a part, the Court may, when passing the judgment, order such amount of the fine recovered to be paid as compensation to the advocate.

10 **9. Prosecution of an advocate.**— (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act No. 46 of 2023) or any other law for the time being in force, where a report of a cognizable offence is received against an advocate for an act done during the discharge of professional duties,—

(i) such report shall be registered only after an inquiry by a police officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police;

15 (ii) such inquiry shall be completed within a period of seven days.

(2) Where a case is registered under sub-section (1), intimation thereof shall be sent to the Bar Council and the concerned Advocates Association of which such advocate is a member.

20 **10. Liability to pay damages.**— (1) In addition to the punishment specified under section 6, the offender shall be liable to pay damages for loss or damage caused to the property of an advocate and to reimburse medical expenses, as determined by the Court.

(2) Such damages shall be recovered by the court trying the case and be paid to the victim.

25 **11. Punishment for misuse of provisions of this Act.**— Whoever, being an advocate, misuses the provisions of this Act or makes a false or malicious complaint shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

30 **12. Act not in derogation to any other law.**— The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation to the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

13. Power to remove difficulties.— (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, the Government may,

by order not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, remove the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiration of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before the Legislative Assembly of Goa. 5

14. Power to make Rules.— The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purpose of this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Constitution of India envisages a justice delivery system founded upon the rule of law, access to justice, and the independence of institutions essential to the administration of justice. Advocates, as officers of the Court and integral participants in the judicial process, perform a constitutionally significant role in securing the rights guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution and in ensuring the effective enforcement of legal remedies.

In recent years, there has been an increasing incidence of violence, intimidation, harassment, false implication and damage to property directed against advocates on account of the discharge of their professional duties. Such acts have an adverse effect on the independence and fearless functioning of the legal profession and pose a serious threat to the orderly administration of justice. Interference with advocates in the lawful discharge of their duties ultimately impairs the fundamental right of litigants to legal representation and access to justice.

The Bill aims to create a balanced statutory mechanism that safeguards advocates from targeted violence and harassment, while simultaneously preventing abuse of such protection through appropriate checks and penalties.

This Bill seeks to achieve above object.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

No Financial implications are involved in this Bill.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 1(3) of the Bill empowers the Government to appoint the date for bringing into force the Act by notification in the Official Gazette.

Clause 13 of the Bill empowers the Government to issue an order for the purpose of removing any difficulty which may arise in giving effect to the provision of the Act.

Clause 14 of the Bill empowers the Government to make rules for carrying out all or any of the purposes of the Act.

These delegations are of normal character.

Porvorim-Goa
26/08/2026

Dr. Pramod Sawant
Chief Minister/
Minister for Law and Judiciary

Assembly Hall,
Porvorim-Goa,
26/08/2026

Smt. Namrata Ulman
Secretary to the Legislative
Assembly of Goa

