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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
GOA

**The Goa Municipalities (Amendment)
Bill, 2026**

(Bill No. 53 of 2026)

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

GOA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT
ASSEMBLY HALL, PORVORIM
AUGUST, 2026

The Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2026

(Bill No. 53 of 2026)

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BILL

further to amend the Goa Municipalities Act, 1968 (Goa Act 7 of 1969).

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 Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 2026.

10 (2) It shall come into force at once except clause (A) of section 2 and sections 3 and 4 which shall be deemed to have come into force on the 22nd day of April, 2026.

2. Amendment of section 9.— In section 9 of the Goa Municipalities Act, 1968 (Goa Act No. 7 of 1969) (hereinafter referred to as the “principal Act”), in sub-section (2), —

(A) in clause (a), —

15 (i) in item (i), —

(a) for the figures “2500”, the figures “3000” shall be substituted;

(b) for the words “ voters in the municipal area” the word “population” shall be substituted;

20 (ii) in item (ii),—

(a) for the figures “2500”, the figures “3000” shall be substituted;

(b) for the words “voters in the municipal area”, the word “population” shall be substituted;

25 (B) in clause (bb), for the words “shall be twenty seven percent” the words “may be twenty- seven percent” shall be substituted;

(C) after clause (c), the following clause shall be inserted namely:—

“(d) For the purpose of determining the number of seats under clauses (b) and (c) above a fraction of such proportion, if less than one- half shall be ignored and if one- half or more shall be reckoned as one.”

3. Substitution of section 10. — For section 10 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:— 5

“10. Division of Municipal areas into wards and reservation of wards. — (1) Upon issuance of the order under sub-section (2) of section 9, the State Election Commission shall, by order published in the Official Gazette, fix for each or any municipal area, the number of the wards into which such area shall be divided. 10

(2) The State Election Commission shall thereafter undertake the exercise of delimitation of the wards so specified in each or any Municipal area within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of the order in the Official Gazette, under sub-section (1). 15

(3) The State Election Commission shall prepare a draft of delimitation of wards with respect to each or any municipal area and publish it in the Official Gazette inviting objections and suggestions from the public within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of draft of delimitation in the Official Gazette. The objections and suggestions received in writing shall be considered by the State Election Commission and a final notification of delimitation shall be issued by the State Election Commission in consultation with the Government, in respect of each or any municipal area within a period of 30 days from the last date for submitting such objections. 20 25

(4) An empirical data pertaining to political backwardness shall be obtained by the State Election Commission from the Goa State Commission for Backward Classes in respect of each or any municipal area and the wards, based on the final notification of delimitation issued under sub-section (3). 30

(5) Upon receipt of the data under sub-section (4) from the Goa State Commission for Backward Classes, the State Election

Commission shall publish a draft of reservation of seats in the Official Gazette in respect of each or any municipal area inviting objections/suggestions from the public within a period of 30 days.

5 (6) Upon receipt of objections/suggestions in writing and considering the same the State Election Commission shall publish the final notification of reservation in the Official Gazette, in consultation with the Government, with respect to each or any municipal area, within a period of 30 days from the last date for submitting such objections.

(7) After expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of the final notification of reservation, the State Election Commission shall declare elections to each or any of the municipal area.

10 (8) Each of the ward shall elect only one Councillor.

(9) Every order/notification issued under sub-sections (1), (3) and (6) shall take effect, for the purpose of the ensuing general election, immediately following the date of such order/ notification, as the case may be.

15 Explanation: In all cases where objections/suggestions from the public are invited, the same shall be submitted in writing, however, no opportunity of personal hearing shall be afforded to the parties.

20 (10) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent women or persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or Other Backward Class for whom seats are reserved in any Council, from standing for election and being elected to any of the seats which are not reserved."

4. Amendment of section 11.— In section 11 of the principal Act,—

25 (i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

30 "(1) The electoral roll of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Goa prepared under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (Act 43 of 1950) and for the time being in force on such date as the State Election Commission may by general or

special order notify in this behalf for such constituency of the Assembly or any part thereof as is included in the municipal area, shall be divided into different wards in the municipal area; and a printed copy of the roll so divided and authenticated by such officer shall be the list of voters for each ward. The ward lists shall collectively be deemed to be the municipal voters list.";

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(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(3) At least thirty days prior to the date of the notification for election, such officer shall keep open for public inspection at the municipal office and at such other places in the municipal area as the State Election Commission may fix, copies of the list of voters of each ward maintained under sub-section (2).".

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5. Repeal and saving. — (1) The Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (Ordinance No.4 of 2026) is hereby repealed.

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(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASON

The Bill seeks to amend clause (a) in sub-section (2) of section 9 of the Goa Municipalities Act, 1968 (Goa Act 7 of 1969) so as to ensure fair election with proper representations of the people from the wards of the local bodies in accordance with the population in Municipal area.

The Bill also seeks to amend clause (bb) of sub- section (2) of section 9 of the said Act in view of judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of K. Krishna Murthy, and Vikas Kishanrao Gawali (2021) 6 Supreme Court Cases 73 to bring clarity to the reservation of persons to the category of Other Backward Class due to empirical data pertaining to political backwardness.

The Bill further seeks to insert clause (d) in sub- section (2) of section 9 of the said Act in view of judgement of Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa in Writ Petition No.2920 and 2924 of 2025 (F) in the case of Mr. Manuel Borges and Mr. Moreno Carlos Rebelo, wherein the fraction less than 0.5 is ignored and hence the clarity in determining the number of seats in reservation when there is fraction has been incorporated.

The Bill also seeks to substitute section 10 of the said Act so as to provide time for public participation in completion of election process in a time bound manner at different stage, from division of Municipal areas to the reservation of seats by calling objection/suggestion from the public within the stipulated period before publishing the final Notification. Also it provides for procedure and time in respect of empirical data in respect of political backwardness, thereby conducting Election in free and fair manner, transparent and public participation.

The Bill also seeks to amend section 11 of the said Act to consider the electoral roll of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Goa prepared under the provision of the Representation of the People Act

1950 (Act 43 of 1950) for the conduct the Municipal election under this Act.

The Bill also seeks to repeal the Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (Ordinance No. 4 of 2026) promulgated by the Governor of Goa on 22/04/2026.

This Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

No Financial implications are involved in this Bill.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

No delegated legislation is envisaged in this Bill.

Porvorim-Goa
26/ 08 /2026

(Vishwajit P. Rane)
Minister for Urban Development

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

Smt. Namrata Ulman
Secretary to the Legislative
Assembly of Goa

ANNEXURE

Extract of The Goa Municipalities Act, 1968 (Act 7 of 1969)

9. Composition of Councils. (1) Save as otherwise provided by this Act, every Council shall consist of Councillors elected at ward elections;

Provided that-

(1) in every Council, no less than (1/3) seats shall be reserved for women;

(2) in every Council, seat shall also be reserved for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Class and for woman belonging to Scheduled Caste, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Class as provided in sub-section (2)

(2) The State Election Commission in consultation with the Government shall from time to time by an order published in the Official Gazette fix for each municipal area-

(a) the number of elected Councillors in accordance with the following table:

	Class of Municipal area	Number of elected Councillors
(i)	'A' Class	The minimum number of elected Councillors shall be "[20], and (for every "[2500] of the "[voters in the municipal area) or part thereof) above 50,000 there shall be one additional elected Councillor, so, however, that the total number of elected Councillors shall not exceed [25];
(ii)	'B' Class	The minimum number of elected Councillor shall be "[12], and {for every [2500] of the "[voters in

the municipal area] or part thereof) "[above 10,000] there shall be one additional elected Councillor, so, however, that the total number of elected Councillors shall not exceed " [20];

(iii) the figure in (i) and (ii) shall be odd, if possible.

(iv) 'C' Class The number of elected Councillors shall be 10.

(b) the number of seats, if any, to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or the Other Backward Class so that such number shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the number of elected Councillors as the population of the Scheduled Castes or of the Scheduled Tribes or Other Backward Class in the municipal area bears to the total population of that area and not less than one-third of such seats shall be reserved for women and such seats shall be allotted by rotation to different wards in the Council.

(bb) the number of seats, if any, to be reserved for persons belonging to the category of Other Backward Classes so that such number shall be twenty seven percent of the number of seats to be filled in through section in the Council and such seats shall be allotted by rotation to different wards in the Council.

(c) the number of seats for the office of Chairperson in the Council for Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women so that such number will bear as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the number of elected Councillors as the population of the [Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribe in the municipal area bears to the total population of that area and such seats shall be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Council.]

(3) The reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes made by an order under sub-section (2) shall cease to have effect when the reservation of seats for those Castes and Tribes in the House of the People ceases to have effect under the Constitution of India:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall render any person elected to any such reserved seat ineligible to continue as a Councillor during the term of office for which he was duly elected by reason only of the fact that the reservation of seats has so ceased to have effect.

(4) Every order under sub-section (2) shall take effect for the purposes of the next general election of the Council immediately following after the date of the order.

10. Division of municipal area into wards and reservation of wards for women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Class].—

(1) The State Election Commission in consultation with the Government shall from time to time by order published in the Official Gazette, fix for each municipal area the number and the extent of the wards into which such area shall be divided. The State Election Commission in consultation with the Government shall specify in the order the ward in which a seat is reserved for women but in so doing he shall ensure that such a seat is reserved for women but in so doing he shall ensure that such a seat is reserved from time to time by rotation in different wards of the municipal area. He shall by a like order specify the wards in which seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or the Other Backward Class, including the seats for offices of Chairperson having regard to the concentration of population of those Castes, or Tribes, or as the case may be, of those class, in any particular wards.

Provided that such order be issued at least seven days before the date of notification of the general election.

(2) Each of the wards shall elect only one Councillor.

(3) Every order issued under sub-section (1) shall take effect for the purpose of the next general election immediately following the date of such order.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent women or persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or Other Backward Class for whom seats are reserved in any Council, from standing for election and being elected to any of the seats which are not reserved.

11. List of voters.— (1) The electoral roll of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Goa prepared under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and for the time being in force on such date as the State Election Commission may by general or special order notify in this behalf (being a date not earlier than one month from such notification for such constituency of the Assembly or any part thereof as is included in the municipal area, shall be divided into different sections corresponding to the different wards in the area; and a printed copy of each section of the roll so divided and authenticated by such officer shall be the list of voters for each ward. The ward lists shall collectively be deemed to be the municipal voters' list.

(2) Such officer shall maintain the lists of voters prepared under sub-section (1) and the lists so maintained shall be deemed to be the authentic lists for all elections under this Act.

(3) At least ten days before the last date fixed for nomination of candidates for every general election, such officer shall keep open for public inspection at the municipal office and at such other places in the municipal area as the State Election Commission may fix, copies of the list of voters of each ward maintained under sub-section (2)
