

Fifteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly

Bill No. 184

**THE KERALA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

(Given Notice by DR. N. Jayaraj, M.L.A.)

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Kerala Legislature Secretariat
2024

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BILL

further to amend the Kerala Women's Commission Act, 1990.

Preamble.—WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Kerala Women's Commission Act, 1990 (Act 17 of 1995) for the purpose hereinafter appearing;

BE it enacted in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Kerala Women's Commission (Amendment) Act, 2024.

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

2. *Amendment of section 6.*—In sub section (1) of section 6 of the Kerala Women's Commission Act, 1990 (Act 17 of 1995), for the words "five years", the words and symbol "three years, which may be extended to a further period of two years" shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

1. The Kerala Women's Commission Act, 1990 (Act 17 of 1995) was enacted in 1995 which was subsequently amended in 2002 and 2007.

2. Women in Kerala have made great strides in all facets of life. It is because of their excellence, they adorn principal positions patronaged by law. The Women's Commission in Kerala is one such statutory institution wherein women seek remedies to women's issues.

3. Also, the State Government gives utmost importance to women's security. Considering the rising cases of atrocities against women, to find fruitful remedies and also early disposal of cases, the Government have established a Commission exclusively for the redressal of cases against women as early as 1995.

4. To dispose the large number of petitions pending with the Commission and to have effective intervention in women related issues, the Government had raised the number of members of the Commission to six through an amendment in 2007.

5. As there are enough number of qualified and experienced women in our State who are ready to serve the society, it is now necessary to give involvement to more number of women to associate with the Women's Commission. This can be achieved by fixing the tenure of the members of the Commission for a fair period without raising their strength.

6. Several of the commissions or boards functioning in Kerala have a tenure of three years, a fair period for its members. Some such commissions are Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Commission, Backward Classes Commission, Minorities Welfare Commission, Youth Commission, Commission for Economically Backward Classes among Forward Communities, Balavakasa Commission, Central Advisory Board on Disability, The National Commission for Women, Commission for Protection of Human Rights and so on.

7. The Women's Commission in many States in India like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, to name a few, have a term of office of three years.

8. Hence to give opportunity to more number of eminent women of Kerala to serve the society, the tenure of the members of the Women's Commission be fixed for a period of three years instead of five years as per the present statute.

9. The Bill seeks to achieve the above end.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Bill if enacted and brought into operation would not involve any recurring or non-recurring additional expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Section 6(1) of the Act, proposed to be amended by clause 2 of the Bill inter alia seeks to empower the Government to frame rules relating to matters of term of office of members.

2. The matters in which the notification may be issued and rules may be made are of a routine and administrative character. Further, such notification after they are made, are subject to the scrutiny of the Legislative Assembly. The delegation of Legislative power is, therefore, of a normal character.

DR. N. JAYARAJ

EXTRACT FROM THE RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE KERALA
WOMEN'S COMMISSION ACT, 1990 (ACT 17 OF 1995)

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6. Term of office and conditions of service of members.—(1) Every member [other than the ex-officio member] shall hold office for a period of five years.