



**KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SIXTEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SEVENTH SESSION
THE KARNATAKA CROWD CONTROL (MANAGING CROWD AT EVENTS AND
PLACE OF GATHERING) BILL, 2025
(LA Bill No. 63 of 2025)**

A Bill to effectively control the crowd and manage mass gathering at events and functions, to prevent unlawful gatherings and to provide provisions for punishment to the offences;

Whereas it is expedient to effectively control the crowd and manage mass gathering at events and functions, to prevent unlawful gatherings and to provide provisions for punishment to the offences and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and place of Gathering) Act, 2025.

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

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (i) **“Application”** means the requisition in the prescribed format as notified by the Government of Karnataka;
- (ii) **“Civil Disturbance”** means and includes, gathering of people that constitutes a breach of peace or any assembly of persons where there is a threat of collective violence, destruction of property, or other unlawful act;
- (iii) **“Crowd”** means and includes, a group of five thousand or more people that have gathered for a common purpose or intent;
- (iv) **“Crowd Control”** means and includes, the methods, procedures and techniques used by the Law Enforcement Agencies to maintain law and order.

Explanation: For the purpose of this clause, crowd control includes, the acts of show of force, crowd containment, dispersal tactics and preparations for multiple arrests;

- (v) **“Crowd Management”** means and includes techniques used to manage lawful assemblies before, during, and after the event for the purpose of maintaining lawful status through event planning, pre-event contact

with event organizers, issuance of permits when applicable, information gathering, and other means;

- (vi) **“Crowd disaster”** means and includes, crowd crush due to surge of individuals in a crowd, in response to a perceived danger or loss of physical space or disruption in the orderly movement of crowds resulting in irrational and dangerous movements for self-protection leading to injuries and fatalities;
- (vii) **“Function or event”** means and includes, be called in whatever name, for congregation of a large number of people for a common purpose, at a particular place of gathering, to meet that common purpose;
- (viii) **“Organisers”** means and includes a person or group of persons or company which intends to organize such event or function.

Explanation: For the purpose of this clause, “Company” means an association of persons whether registered under prevailing laws or not; and

- (ix) **“Place of gathering”** means and includes either an open or closed area wherein the intended event or function is permitted to be organised by the Authority.

3. Authority for crowd control and management.- The Police Officers of and above the rank of Officer in-charge of Police Station are the Authority for crowd controlling and management within their respective jurisdictions.

4. Permission to organise events or functions.-Whoever intends to organise any event or function which would attract mass gathering or a crowd, shall have to obtain permission from the jurisdictional Authority,-

- (a) When the crowd is less than seven thousand, the Officer in-charge of the Police Station, may grant permission upon application from the organisers, after due enquiry.
- (b) When the crowd is more than seven thousand, but less than fifty thousand, the Deputy Superintendent of Police of the jurisdiction, may grant permission upon application from the organisers, after due enquiry.
- (c) When the crowd is more than fifty thousand, the jurisdictional Superintendent of Police or the Commissioner of Police, may grant permission upon application from the organisers, after due enquiry.

5. Application for permission.-(1) The organisers of the event or function shall apply for permission in writing to the Authority ten days prior to the intended event or function with full particulars of the event or function.

(2) The organisers need to provide the measures adopted for smooth movement of the gathered crowd in and outside the place of such events.

(3) The organisers shall undertake to indemnify any loss, if caused to public or private property and be liable for any unlawful incident which occurs including loss of human life due to crowd disaster.

6. Crowd Management.-The permitting Authority,-

- (a) upon receipt of the written application by the organisers, shall conduct an enquiry about the details of the organisers, expected crowd gathering, purpose of functions and events, measures for crowd safety and no objection certificate from other departments like Fire Safety and Emergency Services, Health and Family Welfare, Public Works, Police (Traffic), etc.,
- (b) to verify the place of event or function and feasibility of controlling and managing the crowd, including entry and exit points of the place of event or function.
- (c) to do other verifications and examinations for safety of the crowd and for maintaining law and order.
- (d) the Authority shall take the decision regarding permitting or not permitting the event or function within four days from the date of such application.
- (e) if the Authority decides that, permission could not be granted to organise the event or function, such an order shall be based on reasons and shall be communicated to the organiser by written or electronic mode.
- (f) if the Authority decides to grant the permission, then it shall hold prior security meetings with organiser and other departments like Fire Safety and Emergency Services, Health and Family Welfare, Public Works, Health, Police (Traffic), etc., and fix the role and responsibility of each concerned. Accordingly, he shall prepare a scheme of bandobast or plan of security and submit the same to his superior officers within two days from the date of such meeting.
- (g) the organisers shall have to execute the Indemnity Bond worth of rupees one Crore at the time of obtaining permission from the Authority.
- (h) that, on the date of event or function, the Authority and organisers shall ensure compliance of the bandobast scheme for crowd control and management.
- (i) in case of exigencies or unexpected developments, the Authority may take a suitable decision for cancellation of the permission granted or withhold the ongoing event or function.
- (j) shall take all other steps for maintenance of law and order, safety of the crowd or mass gathering which the Authority deems fit.

7. Punishment for organizing unpermitted events or functions.- Whoever organises or attempts or abets to organise any unpermitted event or function shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to minimum three years and up to seven years or with fine up to rupees one Crore or both.

8. Punishment for civil disturbance.- Whoever disturbs or attempts to disturb or abets to disturb the orderly crowd in any event or function by way of creating false rumours, statements, acts or causing any breach of peace including a threat of collective violence, destruction of property, or other unlawful acts shall be

punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine of rupees fifty thousand or both.

9. Punishment for crowd disaster.- Whoever causes or is a reason for crowd disaster, if it is shown that, immediately prior to such crowd disaster, the act, negligence or recklessness of such a person or persons, led to loss of property or life, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have committed crowd disaster and liable for imprisonment to a minimum three years and up to seven years for injuries and imprisonment to a minimum of ten years up to life sentence for fatalities.

10. Punishment for disobedience of direction of Police.- Whoever disobeys or abets to disobey lawful directions of any Police Officer, of and above the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, on duty, to disperse from the place of gathering shall be liable to a fine of rupees fifty thousand including, community service for a period of one month.

11. Classification of offence.- Offences under this Act are cognizable, non-bailable and triable by the Judicial Magistrate First Class. But the Offence under section 9 is triable by the Court of Session.

12. Application of Chapter XI of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.- Nothing in this Act, prevents the Executive Magistrate or Police Officer, of and above the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, to exercise the power under Chapter XI Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act 46 of 2023) to ensure maintenance of public order and tranquility during crowd control and management.

13. Application of the Karnataka Police Act, 1963.- Nothing in this Act prevents the District Magistrate or Police Officer to exercise power under the Karnataka Police Act, 1963 (Karnataka Act 4 of 1964) i.e. the power to make orders for regulation of traffic and for preservation of order in public places, etc.

14. Application of other laws not barred.- 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.

15. Liability to compensate for loss or damage.- (1) If any property or properties either public or private, is damaged or destroyed or any human life is lost, in any civil disturbance or crowd disaster, the organisers are severally and jointly liable to compensate the loss. The trial Court shall calculate and award the damages or compensation to the victims.

(2) The property or properties of the convicted organisers, are liable to be attached and realised to distribute the proceeds to the victims as per the orders of the trial court.

16. Application of other Acts.- The definitions of the terms in Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act 45 of 2023), Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act 46 of 2023), the Karnataka Police Act, 1963 (Karnataka Act 4 of 1964), the Information Technology Act, 2000 (Central Act 21 of 2000) are mutatis mutandis applicable to this Act.

17. Protection of action taken in good faith.-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.

18. Power to remove difficulties.-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 provisions to remove such difficulty,

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

19. Power to make rules.-(1) The State Government may, after previous publication make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before each House of State Legislature it is in session for a period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive session and if before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid both Houses agree in making any notification in the rules or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter shall have affect only in such modified form or be of no effect as the case may be, however, any such notification or amendment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

20. Non application of this Act.-The provisions of this Act are not applicable to the family functions or events, such as marriage etc., which are performed or held within private premises.

Explanation: Private premises include leased, hired or contracted premises.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

It is considered necessary to make a new legislation to,-

- (i) effectively control the crowd and manage mass gathering at events and functions; and
- (ii) prevent unlawful gathering.

Hence, the Bill.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

There is no extra expenditure involved in the proposed legislative measure at this stage.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause:19	Clause -19 empowers the State Government to make rules after previous publication to carry out the purposes of the Act.
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The proposed delegation of legislative power is normal in character.

Dr. G. PARAMESHWARA
Minister for Home

M.K. VISHALAKSHI
Secretary
Karnataka Legislative Assembly