

## CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES

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A Legislative Assembly Bill No. XXXIX of 2021 has been presented before the Assembly i.e Maharashtra Cooperative Societies( Third Amendment) Bill 2021.

The salient features of the proposed amendments are as follows:

- (1) to amend sections 2(19), 26, 27 and 73A with a view to delete the definition of "active member" and provisions relating thereto ;
  - (2) to amend section 25A to enable the society to remove the name of the member from the register of its members who has ceased to be a member or who stands disqualified by or under the provisions of the rules made under the said Act ;
  - (3) to amend section 73AAA to enable the Registrar to increase the number of members of committee of apex society and, in exceptional circumstances, of any other society upto twenty-five, with the prior approval of the State Government, in order to give representation to all revenue divisions, districts or talukas in the committee of the apex societies or any other Society, as the case may be ;
  - (4) to amend section 73CA to enable the society to disqualify a member who has incurred disqualification as per the bye-laws of the society ;
  - (5) to amend section 75 to provide that the Registrar may, in exceptional circumstances such as infectious diseases, pandemic, etc. by general or special order, extend the period, not exceeding three months, for conducting annual general meeting ;
  - (6) to amend sections 78 and 78A to extend the period of six months to twelve months of administrator or committee of administrators appointed thereunder to carry out their administrative duties ; (7) to amend section 79 to enable the Registrar to direct any co-operative society or class thereof to comply with the provisions of the said Act, rules or bye-laws ;
  - (8) to amend section 82 to facilitate the Registrar to deal with the audit rectification report and take further action in case of noncompliance.
  - (9) to amend section 109 to enable the State Government to extend the period of completion of liquidation process of society from ten years to fifteen years, as it has been noticed that liquidation work of certain societies could not be completed within ten years due to complex liquidation process.
  - (10) to amend section 144-5A to allow salary earners' credit co-operative society to take deposits from members after their retirement by making them nominal members, to overcome liquidity crunch due to refund of deposits to retired members.
  - (11) to amend section 157 to restore the powers of the State Government to exempt any society or class of societies from any of the provisions of the said Act or rules made thereunder.
- (B) By a circular dated 17th January, 2022, the Maharashtra State Cooperative Election Authority has stated that the premises societies will be considered as "Housing Societies. Hence Premises societies having less than 250 members will be doing the election as E type of societies and having more than 250 members will be classified as C type of societies.