

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

Bill No. 18-PLA-2026

THE PUNJAB PANCHAYATI RAJ (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

A
BILL

further to amend the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force on and with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Amendment in section 2 of Punjab Act 9 of 1994.

2. In the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 2, for clause (zm), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(zm) "Panchayat Development Secretary" means the Panchayat Development Secretary of the Gram Panchayat, appointed by the Government;"

Amendment in section 5 of Punjab Act 9 of 1994.

3. In the principal Act, in section 5, in sub-section (7), for the words "The Secretary of the Gram Panchayat and the Gram Sewak", the words "The Panchayat Development Secretary of the Gram Panchayat" shall be substituted.

Amendment in section 23 of Punjab Act 9 of 1994.

4. In the principal Act, in section 23,-

(i) in sub-section (2), for the words "Panchayat Secretary", the words "Panchayat Development Secretary" shall be substituted; and

(ii) in sub-section (3), for the word "Secretary", the words "Panchayat Development Secretary" shall be substituted.

Substitution of section 26 of Punjab Act 9 of 1994.

5. In the principal Act, for section 26, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

"26. (1) The Panchayat Development Secretary shall be appointed by the State Government who shall act as an executive head of a Gram Panchayat or more than one Gram Panchayats.

Appointment of Panchayat Development Secretary (PDS) for Gram Panchayats.

(2) The Panchayat Development Secretary shall provide legal and administrative guidance to the Gram Panchayat and shall coordinate between the Gram Panchayat and the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats.

(3) The Panchayat Development Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance and protection of Gram Panchayat properties and records and shall be responsible for all omissions and commissions under the Act, rules or bylaws and rules governing his service matters.

(4) The Panchayat Development Secretary shall exercise such powers and perform such functions, as may be prescribed.

(5) The Panchayat Secretaries Service is declared as dying cadre:

Provided that the Panchayat Secretaries who did not opt to merge with the new cadre of Panchayat Development Secretaries (PDS), shall continue to work on the existing terms and conditions till, -

- (a) he/she retires or resigns from service; or
- (b) he/she dies or is declared to be of unsound mind; or
- (c) he/she is removed or dismissed from service.”

Amendment in
section 47 of Punjab
Act 9 of 1994.

6. In the principal Act, in section 47, in sub-section (2), for the word “Secretary”, the words "Panchayat Development Secretary" shall be substituted.

Amendment in section
86 of Punjab Act 9 of
1994.

7. In the principal Act, in section 86, in sub-section (3), in clause (a), the words “and to the Secretary” shall be omitted.

Amendment in
section 87 of Punjab
Act 9 of 1994.

8. In the principal Act, in section 87, in sub-section (2), for the words “Panchayat Secretary”, the words “Panchayat Development Secretary” shall be substituted.

Amendment in
section 227 of
Punjab Act 9 of
1994.

9. In the principal Act, in section 227, in sub-section (2), for clause (g), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(g) the powers and functions of the Panchayat Development Secretary;"

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Section 26 of the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 constitutes the “Panchayat Secretary Service” for the Gram Panchayats. The reference of “Panchayat Secretary” or “Secretary” also exists in sections 2(zm), 5(7), 23(2) & (3), 26, 47(2), 86(3)(a), 87(2), 227(2)(g). But vide Notification No.20/26/2023-IRDE2/650 dated 22nd January, 2026, new cadre of “Panchayat Development Secretary” has been created after merging the cadres of Panchayat Secretary and Gram Sewak. As a result, contradictions relating to nomenclature occurred between the said Act and Notification as the words “Panchayat Secretary” and “Secretary” needs to be replaced with the words “Panchayat Development Secretary”. Further, needs to be defined the provisions relates to appointment and role of the Panchayat Development Secretary. To remove contradictions and to prevent uncalled for litigation, the Act needs to be amended. Hence, this Bill.

Tarunpreet Singh Sond
Rural Development and Panchayats
Minister, Punjab

CHANDIGARH:
THE 10TH AUGUST, 2026

R. L. KHATANA,
SECRETARY.

N.B. – The above Bill published in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), dated the 10th August, 2026 under the proviso to rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha (Punjab Legislative Assembly).