

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Not to be released for publication in the press before presentation to the Assembly

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT REGARDING THE PUNJAB MARRIAGE FUNCTIONS BILL 2015 (BILL NO. 10 OF 2016)

The Punjab Marriage Functions Bill 2015 (Bill No.10 of 2016) was referred to the Standing Committee on Local Government and Rural Development on 1st February 2016. The Committee considered the Bill in its meeting held on 8 March 2016.

2. The following were present:--

1.	Ch Abdul Razzaq Dhillon, MPA (PP-33)	Chairman
2.	Mrs Gulnaz Shahzadi, MPA (W-329)	Member
3.	Ms Suriya Naseem, MPA (W-322)	Member
4.	Mr Ghazanfar Abbas Chheena, MPA (PP-49)	Member

3. Mr Muhammad Saqib Aziz, Secretary to Government of the Punjab, Local Government and Community Development Department, Mr Kaiser Saleem, Additional Secretary (Home), Home Department and Mr Mohsin Abbas Syed, Director, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department represented their Departments. Hafiz Muhammad Shafiq Adil, Special Secretary, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab functioned as Secretary to the Committee.

4. The Additional Secretary, Home Department apprised the Committee about the aims and objects of the Bill. He said that it was expedient to provide for regulation of marriage functions and other related ceremonies and to make incidental provisions. He requested the Committee that the Bill, as introduced, may be recommended to be passed by the Assembly.

5. The Committee after hearing the Members, having the view point of the Administrative Department & Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department and discussing various points, unanimously decided to recommend that the Bill may be passed by the Assembly subject to the following amendments:-

AMENDMENTS IN THE BILL

(1) CLAUSE 1

in sub-clause (1), the figures "2015" be substituted by the figures "2016".

(2) CLAUSE 2

(i) para (c) be omitted and subsequent paras be re-numbered accordingly; and

(ii) re-numbered para (f), be substituted as under:-

“(f) “public place” means a club, hotel, restaurant, wedding hall, community center, community park, an open space or any private property hired for a marriage.”

(3) **CLAUSE 3**

in para (e), after the word “neighbourhood” occurring at the end, the words “beyond reasonable celebrations” be added.

(4) **CLAUSE 4**

(i) the figure (1), occurring at the beginning of line 1, be omitted and after the word “person” occurring in line 2, the words “at a public place” be added; and

(ii) sub-clause (2) be omitted.

(5) **CLAUSE 6**

after the word “of” occurring in line 2, the word “a” be added.

(6) **CLAUSE 9**

in sub clause (3), the word “an” occurring in line 1, be substituted by the word “the” and after the word “Act” occurring at the end, the words “on a complaint of the notified officer” be added.

(7) **CLAUSE 10**

the word “in” occurring in line 2, be substituted by the words “to the extent of”.

6. A copy of the Bill as introduced in the Assembly is at Annexure-A and a copy of the Bill as recommended by the Committee is at Annexure-B.

Lahore
8 March 2016

(CH ABDUL RAZZAQ DHILLON)
Chairman
Standing Committee on Local Government
and Rural Development

Lahore
8 March 2016


(RAI MUMTAZ HUSSAIN BABAR)
Secretary

ANNEXURE – A
(BILL AS INTRODUCED IN THE ASSEMBLY)

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB

Bill No. 10 of 2016

THE PUNJAB MARRIAGE FUNCTIONS BILL 2015

A

Bill

to regulate marriage functions and other related ceremonies.

It is expedient to provide for regulation of marriage functions and other related ceremonies and to make incidental provisions.

Be it enacted by Provincial Assembly of the Punjab as follows:

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Marriage Functions Act 2015.
 - (2) It extends to whole of the Punjab.
 - (3) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Definitions.**— In this Act:
 - (a) “committee” means a committee constituted under the Act;
 - (b) “Government” means Government of the Punjab;
 - (c) “house” means a private residence;
 - (d) “marriage” includes a ceremony, preceding and succeeding the formal wedding, whether religious or social rituals such as *mayun, mehndi (rasm-e-hina), barat, nikah, rukhsati or walima*;
 - (e) “one dish” means one *salan*, one rice dish, one salad, hot and cold drinks, *roti, nan* and one sweet dish;
 - (f) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under the Act; and
 - (g) “public place” means a club, hotel, restaurant, wedding hall, community center, community park or an open space, a private residence, farmhouse or any other private property hired for a marriage.
3. **Prohibition of ostentatious celebrations.**— A person celebrating his marriage or organizing the marriage of any other person shall not:
 - (a) decorate or cause to be decorated any street, road or public park or any place other than the building, where marriage ceremony is being held, with lights or illumination;
 - (b) explode or allow anyone to explode cracker or other explosive device including firing by firearms;
 - (c) display or allow anyone to display fireworks;
 - (d) display or allow any person to display dowry to the public eye; and
 - (e) cause or allow any person to cause nuisance or disturbance to the neighbourhood.
4. **Restriction on edibles.**— (1) A person celebrating his marriage or organizing the marriage of any other person shall not serve or allow anyone to serve meals or other edibles except one dish to the persons participating in the marriage.

(2) Nothing contained in subsection (1) shall apply to the consumption of meals within the house by the members of the family celebrating the marriage or the guests staying in the house in connection with the marriage.

5. Obligation of hotels, restaurants, etc.— A person owning, managing or running a public place, being the site of marriage, or a caterer shall not serve or allow anyone to serve meals or other edibles to the persons participating in the marriage except as provided in section 4 of the Act.

6. Closing of marriage functions.— A person owning, managing or running a public place, being the site of marriage, shall ensure conclusion of all ceremonies relating to the marriage on or before 10:00 pm.

7. Committees.— (1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, constitute one or more committees for the enforcement of the provisions of the Act.

(2) The committee constituted under subsection (1) shall perform such functions in such manner as may be prescribed.

8. Offence.— If a person contravenes the provisions of sections 3, 4, 5 or 6, he shall be guilty of an offence punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month and fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees or more than two million rupees.

9. Cognizance of offence.— (1) Subject to this section, an offence under this Act shall be bailable and cognizable on a complaint by an officer notified by the Government.

(2) A magistrate of the first class shall summarily try an offence under this Act in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XXII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898) on the report of the officer notified by the Government.

(3) The Police shall associate an officer notified by the Government while entering a public place where marriage is being held for taking cognizance of an offence under this Act.

10. Disposal of food and other edibles.— The food and other edibles procured, prepared, arranged or set for serving in contravention of this Act shall be forfeited and disposed of in such manner as may be prescribed.

11. Rules.— The Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

12. Repeal.— The Marriage Functions (Prohibition of Ostentatious Displays and Wasteful Expenses) Ordinance 2000 (II of 2000), in its application to the Province of the Punjab, is hereby repealed.

13. Repeal.— The Punjab Marriage Functions Ordinance, 2015 (VI of 2016) is hereby repealed.

MINISTER INCHARGE

Lahore:
1st February 2016

RAI MUMTAZ HUSSAIN BABAR
Secretary

ANNEXURE – B

(BILL AS RECOMMENDED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT)

A

Bill

to regulate marriage functions and other related ceremonies.

It is expedient to provide for regulation of marriage functions and other related ceremonies and to make incidental provisions.

Be it enacted by Provincial Assembly of the Punjab as follows:

1. Short title, extent and commencement.– (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Marriage Functions Act 2016.

(2) It extends to whole of the Punjab.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.– In this Act:

(a) “committee” means a committee constituted under the Act;

(b) “Government” means Government of the Punjab;

(c) “marriage” includes a ceremony, preceding and succeeding the formal wedding, whether religious or social rituals such as *mayun*, *mehndi (rasm-e-hina)*, *barat*, *nikah*, *rukhsati* or *walima*;

(d) “one dish” means one *salan*, one rice dish, one salad, hot and cold drinks, *roti*, *nan* and one sweet dish;

(e) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under the Act; and

(f) “public place” means a club, hotel, restaurant, wedding hall, community center, community park, an open space or any private property hired for a marriage.

3. Prohibition of ostentatious celebrations.– A person celebrating his marriage or organizing the marriage of any other person shall not:

(a) decorate or cause to be decorated any street, road or public park or any place other than the building, where marriage ceremony is being held, with lights or illumination;

(b) explode or allow anyone to explode cracker or other explosive device including firing by firearms;

(c) display or allow anyone to display fireworks;

(d) display or allow any person to display dowry to the public eye; and

(e) cause or allow any person to cause nuisance or disturbance to the neighbourhood beyond reasonable celebrations.

4. Restriction on edibles.– A person celebrating his marriage or organizing the marriage of any other person at a public place shall not serve or allow anyone to serve meals or other edibles except one dish to the persons participating in the marriage.

5. Obligation of hotels, restaurants, etc.– A person owning, managing or running a public place, being the site of marriage, or a caterer shall not serve or allow anyone to serve meals or other edibles to the persons participating in the marriage except as provided in section 4 of the Act.

6. Closing of marriage functions.— A person owning, managing or running a public place, being the site of a marriage, shall ensure conclusion of all ceremonies relating to the marriage on or before 10:00 pm.

7. Committees.— (1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, constitute one or more committees for the enforcement of the provisions of the Act.

(2) The committee constituted under subsection (1) shall perform such functions in such manner as may be prescribed.

8. Offence.— If a person contravenes the provisions of sections 3, 4, 5 or 6, he shall be guilty of an offence punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month and fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees or more than two million rupees.

9. Cognizance of offence.— (1) Subject to this section, an offence under this Act shall be bailable and cognizable on a complaint by an officer notified by the Government.

(2) A magistrate of the first class shall summarily try an offence under this Act in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XXII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898) on the report of the officer notified by the Government.

(3) The Police shall associate the officer notified by the Government while entering a public place where marriage is being held for taking cognizance of an offence under this Act on a complaint of the notified officer.

10. Disposal of food and other edibles.— The food and other edibles procured, prepared, arranged or set for serving to the extent of contravention of this Act shall be forfeited and disposed of in such manner as may be prescribed.

11. Rules.— The Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

12. Repeal.— The Marriage Functions (Prohibition of Ostentatious Displays and Wasteful Expenses) Ordinance 2000 (II of 2000), in its application to the Province of the Punjab, and the Punjab Marriage Functions Ordinance, 2015 (VI of 2016) are hereby repealed.
