Sixteenth Keralam Legislative Assembly

Bill No. 33

THE UNIVERSITY LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

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further to amend the Kerala Agricultural University Act, 1971, the Kerala University Act, 1974, the Calicut University Act, 1975, the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985, the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994, the Kannur University Act, 1996, and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005.

Preamble.—WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Kerala Agricultural University Act, 1971 (33 of 1971), the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985), the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994), the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996), and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

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

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the University Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. *Amendment of Act 33 of 1971.*—In the Kerala Agricultural University Act, 1971 (33 of 1971), in section 27,—

(a) in sub-section (2),—

(i) for the words "General Council", the words "Executive Committee" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the first proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted, namely:—

"Provided that the nominee of the Executive Committee shall not be from among the members of that Committee or an employee of the University:";

(b) in sub-section (6),—

(i) in the first proviso, for the words "Sixty five years" the words "seventy years" shall be substituted;

(ii) the second proviso shall be omitted.

3. *Amendment of Act 17 of 1974.*—In the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), in section 10,—

(a) in sub-section (1), for the word "Senate", the word "Syndicate" shall be substituted;

(b) for sub-section (5), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(5) No person shall be appointed as, or hold office of, the Vice-Chancellor if he has attained the age of seventy years.";

(c) in sub-section (6), for the word "four" the word "five" shall be substituted.

4. *Amendment of Act 5 of 1975*.—In the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), in section 10,—

(a) in sub-section (1), for the word "Senate", the word "Syndicate" shall be substituted;

(b) for sub-section (5), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(5) No person shall be appointed as, or hold office of, the Vice-Chancellor if he has attained the age of seventy years.".

(c) in sub-section (6), for the word "four" the word "five" shall be substituted.

5. *Amendment of Act 12 of 1985*.—In the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985), in section 10,—

(a) in sub-section (2), for the word "Senate", the word "Syndicate" shall be substituted;

(b) for sub-section (9), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(9) No person shall be appointed as, or hold office of, the Vice-Chancellor if he has attained the age of seventy years.";

(c) in sub-section (10), for the word "four" the word "five" shall be substituted.

6. *Amendment of Act 5 of 1994*.—In the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994), in section 24,—

(a) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(2) No person shall be appointed as, or hold office of, the Vice-Chancellor if he has attained the age of seventy years.";

(b) in sub-section (4), for the word "four" the word "five" shall be substituted.

7. *Amendment of Act 22 of 1996*.— In the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996), in section 10,—

(a) in sub-section (2), for the word "Senate", the word "Syndicate" shall be substituted;

(b) for sub-section (9), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

" (9) No person shall be appointed as, or hold office of, the Vice-Chancellor if he has attained the age of seventy years.";

(c) in sub-section (10), for the word "four" the word "five" shall be substituted.

8. *Amendment of Act 27 of 2005*.—In the National University of Advanced Legal Studies, 2005 (27 of 2005), in section 27, for sub-section (6), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(6) The term of office of the Vice-Chancellor shall be five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier.".

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Government have decided to amend the Kerala Agricultural University Act, 1971 (33 of 1971), the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985), the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994), the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996) and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005), with a view to bring uniformity in the term of office of the Vice-Chancellor, provisions relating to the nomination of members to the Search-cum-Selection Committee for the appointment of Vice-Chancellors in the State Universities, by incorporating suitable provisions that the representatives of Universities shall be nominated only from among the members of the Syndicate or Executive Committee or the executive organ of the respective Universities. It is also decided to incorporate suitable provisions for enabling the Vice-Chancellors to hold office up to the age of seventy years, in accordance with the regulations of the University Grants Commission.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

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

ROJI M. JOHN.

EXTRACT FROM THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY ACT, 1971

(33 OF 1971)

** ** ** **

27. *The Vice-Chancellor.*—(1) The Vice-Chancellor shall be a full-time officer of the University.

(2) The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor on the advice of a selection committee consisting of a nominee of the Chancellor, the Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and one nominee of the General Council:

Provided that the nominee of the General Council shall not be from among the members of that Council or an employee of the University:

Provided further that if the advice tendered by the Selection Committee is not unanimous, the Chancellor may accept the opinion of the majority of its members:

Provided also that if the Selection Committee fails to tender advice, the Chancellor shall be free to make the appointment on the advice of the Government.

** ** ** **

(6) The Vice-Chancellor shall normally hold office for a term of 5 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term of five years:

Provided that a Vice-Chancellor appointed under this Section shall cease to hold office on his completing the age of Sixty five years:

Provided further that a person appointed as Vice-Chancellor before the commencement of the Kerala Agricultural University (Amendment) Act, 1997, and holding office as such at the commencement of the said Act shall cease to hold office—

(a) on his completing the age of sixty-five years; or

(b) on the date of commencement of the said Act, if he has already completed sixty-five years of age at such commencement;

** ** ** **

EXTRACT FROM THE KERALA UNIVERSITY ACT, 1974 (17 OF 1974)

** ** ** **

10. *The Vice-Chancellor*.—(1) The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor on the unanimous recommendation of a Committee appointed by him consisting of three members, one elected by the Senate, one nominated by the Chairman of the University Grants Commission and the third nominated by the Chancellor. The Chancellor shall appoint one of the members of the Committee to be its Convener. The Committee shall make its recommendation within a period of three months of its appointment.

** ** ** **

(5) No person who is more than sixty years of age shall be appointed as Vice-Chancellor.

(6) The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a term of four years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall be eligible for reappointment:

Provided that a person shall not be appointed as Vice-Chancellor for more than two terms.

** ** ** **

EXTRACT FROM THE CALICUT UNIVERSITY ACT, 1975
(5 OF 1975)

** ** ** **

10. *The Vice-Chancellor*.—(1) The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor on the unanimous recommendation of a Committee appointed by him consisting of three members, one elected by the Senate, one nominated by the Chairman of the University Grants Commission and the third nominated by the Chancellor. The Chancellor shall appoint one of the members of the Committee to be its convener. The Committee shall make its recommendation within a period of three months of its appointment or within such further period, not exceeding one month, as the Chancellor may specify in this behalf.

** ** ** **

(5) No person who is more than sixty years of age shall be appointed as Vice-Chancellor.

(6) The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a term of four years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall be eligible for reappointment:

Provided that a person shall not be appointed as Vice-Chancellor for more than two terms.

** ** ** **

EXTRACT FROM THE MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY ACT, 1985

(12 OF 1985)

** ** ** **

10. *The Vice-Chancellor.*— (1) The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor on the recommendation as hereinafter provided of a Committee appointed by him for the purpose (hereinafter referred to as the Committee).

(2) The Committee shall consist of three members, one elected by the Senate, one nominated by the Chairman of the University Grants Commission and the third nominated by the Chancellor:

Provided that no person holding any office under the University shall be nominated as a member of the Committee.

** ** ** **

(9) No person shall hold office of the Vice-Chancellor beyond the age of sixty-five years.

(10) The Vice-Chancellor shall subject to sub-section (9) hold office for a term of four years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall be eligible for re-appointment:

Provided that a person shall not be appointed as Vice-Chancellor for more than two terms.

** ** ** **

EXTRACT FROM THE SREE SANKARACHARYA UNIVERSITY OF SANSKRIT ACT, 1994

(5 of 1994)

** ** ** **

24. *The Vice-Chancellor.*—(1) The Vice-Chancellor shall be a whole-time salaried officer of the University.

(2) The Vice-Chancellor shall not have completed sixty five years of age at the time of his appointment.

** ** ** **

(4) The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a term of four years from the date on which he enters upon office.

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EXTRACT FROM THE KANNUR UNIVERSITY ACT, 1996

(22 OF 1996)

** ** ** **

10. *The Vice-Chancellor.*—(1) The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor on the recommendation of a committee appointed by him for the purpose (hereinafter referred to as the committee).

(2) The committee shall consist of three members, one elected by the Senate, one nominated by the Chairman of the University Grants Commission and the third nominated by the Chancellor.

** ** ** **

(9) No person who is more than sixty years of age shall be appointed as Vice-Chancellor.

(10) The Vice-Chancellor shall, hold office for a term of four years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall be eligible for re-appointment:

Provided that a person shall not be appointed as Vice-Chancellor for more than two terms.

** ** ** **

EXTRACT FROM THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES ACT, 2005

(27 OF 2005)

** ** ** **

27. *Appointment and powers of the Vice-Chancellor.*—(1) The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor on the unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee appointed by him, consisting of the following members, namely—

(a) One nominee of the Bar Council of Kerala,

(b) One nominee of the University Grants Commission,

(c) One nominee of the State Government.

** ** ** **

(6) The term of office of the Vice-Chancellor shall be four years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

** ** ** **

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