

THE PUNJAB OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACT, 1967

(PUNJAB ACT NO. 5 OF 1967)

Arrangement of Sections

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[Received the assent of the Governor of Punjab on the 29th December, 1967, and first published in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), Legislative Supplement, Part I, of the 29th December, 1967.]

1	2	3	4
Year	No.	Short title	Whether affected by Legislation
1967	5	The Punjab Official Language Act, 1967	Amended by Punjab Act 11 of 1969 ² . Amended by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1970.

AN
ACT

to provide for the adoption of punjabi as the language to be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State of Punjab.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Eighteenth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Official Language Act, 1967.

Short title, extent and commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Punjab.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Definitions.

(a) "Punjabi" means Punjabi in Gurmukhi script;

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), 1967, Pages 962-63.

²For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), 1969, page 578.

(b) "State Government" means the Government of the State of Punjab.

Punjabi to be official language of the State.

3. The official language of the State of Punjab shall be Punjabi.

Government's Powers to notify the official purposes for which Punjabi shall be used.

4. The State Government may, from time to time, by notification, direct that Punjabi shall be used for such official purposes of the State and from such dates as may be specified in the notification.

Language to be used in the Bills etc.

5. On and from such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint in this behalf, the language to be used in—

(a) all Bills to be introduced, or amendments thereto to be moved, in '[* * *] the Legislature of the State;

(b) all Acts passed by the Legislature of the State;

(c) all Ordinances promulgated by the Governor under article 213 of the Constitution, and

(d) all Orders, Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws issued by the State Government under the Constitution or under any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of the State;

shall be Punjabi :

Provided that the State Government may appoint different dates in respect of any of the purposes referred to in clauses (a) to (d) above.

Continuance of use of English language in State Legislature.

6. Until the State Government otherwise directs by notification under section 4, English may continue to be used, in addition to the official language of the State or Hindi for the transaction of business in the Legislature of the State.

¹The words "either House of" omitted by the Adaptation of Punjab Laws Order, 1970.

¹[6-A. A translation in Punjabi published under the authority of the Governor in the Official Gazette of the State, on and after the date specified by notification :—

Authorised Punjabi translation of Central and State Acts, etc.

- (a) of any Central Act or of any Ordinance Promulgated by the President, with respect to any of the matters enumerated in List III of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution;
- (b) of any State Act or of any Ordinance promulgated by the Governor; or
- (c) of any order, rule, regulation or bye-law issued by the State Government under the constitution or under any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of the State; shall be deemed to be an authoritative text thereof in Punjabi.]

7. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to debar any person to submit a representation for the redress of any grievance to any officer or authority of the State in any of the languages, including Hindi used in the State.

Right of a person to submit representation in any of the languages used in the State.

8. Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, the State Government shall take suitable steps to develop the Hindi Language in the State.

Development of Hindi Language

9. The Punjab Official Languages Act, 1960, hereby repealed.

is Repeal of Punjab Act No. 28 of 1960.

¹Section 6-A inserted by Punjab Act 11 of 1969, section 2.