

Bill No. IX of 2022

**THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA (ESTABLISHMENT OF A
PERMANENT BENCH AT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM) BILL, 2022**

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BILL

to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by the Parliament in the Seventy-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the High Court of Kerala (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Thiruvananthapuram) Act, 2022.

Short title and commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. There shall be established a permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram.

Establishment of a Permanent Bench of High Court at Thiruvananthapuram.

10 3. Such Judges of the High Court of Kerala, being not less than three in number, as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala may from time to time nominate, shall sit at the permanent bench referred to in Section 2, in order to exercise the jurisdiction and power for the time being vested with the High Court of Kerala in respect of cases arising in the districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Pathanamthitta in the State of Kerala.

Constitution, jurisdiction and powers of the Permanent Bench.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The State of Kerala was formed on November 1st, 1956. Since then, there has been a constant demand that a permanent Bench of the High Court be set up at Thiruvananthapuram, being the capital city of the State.

2. The right of access to justice to every citizen has been enshrined in the Constitution of India. Justice at the door step has been the focus of every Government, and yet the demand for establishment of a permanent bench at Thiruvananthapuram has not been materialised so far.

3. If a Bench of the High Court of Kerala is established at Thiruvananthapuram, it would greatly benefit the Government, the Government servants, various institutions, the lawyers based in and around the city of Thiruvananthapuram and the people at large. They would be able to pursue their cases in the High Court at significantly lower expenses.

4. Since the capital of the State is in Thiruvananthapuram and the High Court is currently located at Ernakulam, the State Government has to face practical inconveniences in dealing with matters connected with the High Court as officials have to travel to Ernakulam frequently resulting in substantial burden on the State exchequer and causing loss of time.

5. This Bill, therefore, seeks to establish a permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram.

JOHN BRITTAS

RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri John Brittas, M.P.)