

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 5TH DECEMBER, 2025

Bill No. L of 2025

THE MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS
AND SENIOR CITIZENS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2025

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BILL

to amend the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Act, 2025.

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.

Amendment
of section 24.

2. For section 24 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), the following shall be substituted, namely:—

56 of 2007.

Exposure and
abandonment
of senior
citizen.

“24. Whoever, having the care or protection of a senior citizen, intentionally abandons such senior citizen, thereby failing to provide necessary care, safety, and basic needs, shall be deemed to have committed the offence of abandonment, and shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees, or with both.”

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Insertion of
new sections
24A to 24D.

3. After section 24 of the principal Act, the following new sections shall be inserted, namely:—

Administrative
penalty
through
Maintenance
Tribunal.

“24A. (1) In addition to the criminal penalties provided under section 24, the Tribunal shall have the authority to impose financial maintenance obligation as an administrative remedy.

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(2) Where the person liable for maintenance has any regular source of income, whether from salaried employment, business, professional practice, consultancy, pension, rental income, or any other means, the Tribunal may, either upon receipt of a complaint from the senior citizen or their authorised representative, or on its own motion direct such person or their employer, or any person responsible for disbursing such income, through a written order issued in such form and manner as may be prescribed, to deduct up to twenty per cent. of the monthly gross income and deposit the same directly into the bank account(s) of the senior citizen(s) as interim or permanent maintenance.

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(3) In cases, where both parents are alive and are eligible to receive maintenance, the Tribunal shall ensure that the amount deducted is equally divided and transferred into the individual bank accounts of each parent, unless the Tribunal directs otherwise based on specific needs or circumstances.

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(4) The deduction and direct transfer shall continue until the Tribunal modifies, cancels, or varies the order based on changed circumstances.

Complaint
mechanism
and redress.

24B. (1) Any senior citizen, family member, neighbour, social worker, or Non-governmental Organisation may file a complaint of abandonment before the Tribunal, in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

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(2) The Tribunal shall ensure that a hearing is conducted within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of the complaint and the final decision is issued within ninety days thereof.

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(3) An appeal against any order passed under section 24 or 24A may be filed before an Appellate Tribunal designated by the State Government, and such appeal shall be disposed of within sixty days from the date of filing of such appeal.

Penalties for
non-
compliance.

24C. Where the salary, pension, business income, or any other regular income deduction order issued under section 24A is not implemented within thirty days from the date of its issuance —

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(a) in the case of salaried employment or pension, the employer or pension disbursing authority, as the case may be, shall be liable to a penalty of one thousand rupees for each day of default; and

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(b) in the case of self-employment, business income, professional income, or any other income controlled directly by the person liable, such person shall be liable to pay a penalty of one thousand rupees for each day of default.

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24D. All complaints involving senior citizens who have attained the age of seventy-five years or above shall be disposed of on a priority basis within a period of forty-five days from the date of receipt of such complaint."

Special
protection for
persons above
seventy-five years
of age.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, was enacted to provide effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens. However, incidents of abandonment continue to rise, necessitating stronger deterrents and a more robust enforcement mechanism.

This Bill seeks to strengthen the punishment for abandonment and empower the Maintenance Tribunal to order direct financial maintenance through income deductions. It also establishes a clear complaint mechanism, an appellate process, penalties for non-compliance, and special provisions for senior citizens above seventy-five years of age.

The proposed amendments aim to reinforce the dignity, security, and well-being of senior citizens by providing accessible remedies and strict accountability for those charged with their care.

Hence, this Bill.

SWATI MALIWAL.

ANNEXURE

THE MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2007
(53 OF 1972)

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24. Whoever, having the care or protection of senior citizen leaves, such senior citizen in any place with the intention of wholly abandoning such senior citizen, shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months or fine which may extend to five thousands rupees or with both.
- Exposure and abandonment of senior citizen.

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RAJYA SABHA

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BILL

to amend the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

(Ms. Swati Maliwal, M.P.)