

Himachal Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2006

Overview

The Himachal Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2006 (Act No. 25 of 2006) is the state law that governs how societies are formed, registered, and managed in Himachal Pradesh. It replaced the earlier, central Societies Registration Act, 1860, and gives the state its own, more detailed framework for literary, scientific, educational, charitable, religious, and general welfare societies. Bodies such as resident welfare associations, educational trusts, and community organisations formed in the state operate under this Act.

The Act is supplemented by the **Himachal Pradesh Societies Registration Rules, 2006**, notified under Section 56 of the Act, which spell out procedural details such as prescribed forms, documentation formats, and the Registrar's scrutiny process.

Key Definitions (Section 2)

- **Governing body:** the body elected under Section 15 that manages the affairs of a Society under its regulations.
- **Registrar:** the Registrar of Co-operative Societies appointed under Section 3, including Additional, Joint, Deputy, and Assistant Registrars exercising the Registrar's powers.
- **Regulations/bye-laws:** the registered rules of a Society currently in force.
- **Society:** a body registered under Section 6 of the Act.

Eligibility for Registration

- A minimum of **seven promoter members** is required, and they must not all belong to a single family (applications are commonly rejected on this ground).
- Each promoter must be at least 18 years old and legally competent to contract.
- The society's objectives must fall within a recognised category: education, science, literature, charity, religion, or general public welfare.
- Members must agree in advance on the society's name, objectives, and governing structure.

Documents Typically Required

- Identity proof (e.g., Aadhaar) for each promoter member
- Memorandum of Association, prepared in duplicate in the prescribed **Format-I**, stating the society's name, address, and objectives
- Bye-laws/regulations covering meetings, elections, and financial management (submitted in two copies)
- Minutes of the society's first meeting
- A joint declaration signed by the promoter members

- A No Objection Certificate for the registered office address, where applicable

Registration Process (via the Department of Cooperation online portal)

1. **Account creation:** An authorised office bearer registers on the Department of Cooperation, HP portal and receives a Registration ID and activation code.
2. **Submission of details:** The society's name, address, objectives, Memorandum, bye-laws, member ID proofs, and meeting minutes are uploaded.
3. **Scrutiny by the Registrar:** The application is reviewed; any deficiencies are typically communicated within about 21 days.
4. **Response to objections:** Applicants must correct and resubmit documents promptly if objections are raised.
5. **Fee payment and certificate issuance:** After provisional approval, an e-challan is generated and paid at the treasury; the digital registration certificate is then issued, generally within about 15 days of verification.

Registration fee: commonly cited as ₹500, paid via e-challan.

Key Provisions Within the Act

- **Section 15:** Election and constitution of the Governing Body.
- **Section 28:** Restriction on transfer of property: a Society cannot sell, gift, or otherwise transfer immovable property without prior approval of its general body, and such transactions must be reported to the Registrar within a prescribed period.
- **Provisions on Administrators:** The Registrar may appoint Administrator(s) to run a Society's affairs in certain circumstances, subject to Registrar oversight; disputes between the general body and Administrator(s) are referred to the Registrar for decision.
- **Section 43:** Amalgamation and division of Societies, requiring special resolutions passed at two general meetings held at least a month apart.
- **Section 44:** Provisions relating to defunct or defaulting Societies.
- **Annual General Meeting:** Societies must hold an AGM once every financial year.

Post-Registration Compliance

- Executive Committee meetings at least once every three months (commonly required).
- An Annual General Meeting each year, accompanied by an audited balance sheet.
- Submission of the list of Governing Body members to the Registrar within 15 days of the AGM.
- Continuous maintenance of records of income, expenditure, and membership changes.
- Persistent non-compliance can lead to a Society being declared "defaulter" or facing cancellation of registration.

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Visitor Registration System
Apartment Security Management System
ERP for Cooperative Society
Society Billing Software
Guard Patrol Monitoring System
Inventory Management System
Gatekeeper App
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