

Public Health Emergency Bill

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to provide a regulatory framework for the declaration and management of public health emergencies in a manner that protects individual liberties and secures the health of persons

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

1 Title, extent, and commencement

- (1) This Act will be called the Public Health Emergencies Act, 2024.
- (2) This Act extends to the whole of India.
- (3) This Act will come into force from the date notified by the Central Government.

2 Definitions

- (1) "Act" means the Public Health Emergencies Act 2024 and all rules, regulations and bye-laws made under it.

3 Establishment of Public Health Agencies

- (1) The following Public Health Agencies are established to exercise the powers and discharge the functions assigned to them under this Act, –
 - (a) Disease Control and Prevention Authority
 - (b) Epidemic Intelligence Center
- (2) Each Public Health Agency will be a body corporate having, –
 - (a) perpetual succession; and
 - (b) a common seal.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of this Act, each Public Health Agency will have the power and ability to, –
 - (a) enter and execute contracts;
 - (b) acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable; and
 - (c) sue and be sued.
- (4) The Disease Control and Prevention Authority will have its head office in Mumbai.
- (5) The Epidemic Intelligence Center will have its head office in Bengaluru and will have offices in every district in India.

4 Functions of Public Health Agencies

- (1) The Disease Control and Prevention Authority will coordinate and regulate the prevention of and response to a public health emergency.
- (2) The Epidemic Intelligence Center will provide the service of epidemiological monitoring and measurement throughout India.

5 Overriding the Disaster Management Act

- (1) The Disaster Management Act 2005 shall not apply in the event of a public health emergency.

6 Repeal and Savings

- (1) The Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 is repealed.