



Standing Committee Report Summary

Constitution 118th Amendment Bill, 2012

- The Standing Committee on Home Affairs tabled its report on the Constitution 118th Amendment Bill, 2012 on November 22, 2012. The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on September 7, 2012. The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution to empower the Governor of Karnataka to take certain steps to promote development of the Hyderabad-Karnataka region.
- The Bill empowers the Governor of Karnataka to: (a) establish a separate Development Board for the region; (b) provide for equitable allocation of funds for development over the region; (c) provide reservation in public employment through the constitution of local cadres for domiciles of the region; and (d) provide for reservation in education and vocational training institutions for domiciles of the region.
- The Committee noted that prior to the introduction of the Bill, a resolution was adopted by the Karnataka State Legislative Assembly on March 17, 2010 and by the Legislative Council on March 18, 2010. The resolution sought to make special provisions for the region on the same lines as made in respect of the State of Andhra Pradesh under Article 371D of the Constitution. Under Article 371D, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh is empowered through a Presidential Order to provide for reservation in education and in public employment for persons within the development area. It does not empower the Governor to institute a board for the equitable allocation of funds in the region.
- The Committee noted that the Bill did not conform to the resolution adopted by the state legislature. It noted that the resolution was a combination of powers provided under Article 371D and 371(2). Article 371(2) which is applicable to the regions of Marathawad and Vidarbha empowers the governor to establish a separate development board for the region and for equitable allocation of funds to the region.
- The Committee observed that the Ministry of Home Affairs should have taken the state government into confidence about the provisions of the Bill before introducing it in the Parliament. The Committee recommended that Ministry of Home Affairs withdraw the Bill. It further recommended that discussions be held with the State Government of Karnataka and a modified version of the Bill be introduced in Parliament at the earliest.

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