

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

Bill No. 26-PLA-2018

THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
(PUNJAB AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2018

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BILL

further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, in its application to the State of Punjab.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Sixty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Act, 2018.

Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on and with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, in its application to the State of Punjab, in the First Schedule,—

Amendment in First Schedule appended to Central Act 2 of 1974.

(i) against section 295, for the existing entries, the following shall be substituted, namely :—

“Destroying, damaging or defiling a place of worship of sacred object with intent to insult the religion of any class of persons.	Imprisonment for 10 years or fine or both.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Magistrate of the First Class”.
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(ii) after section 295-A and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be inserted, namely :—

“295-AA.	Injuring, causing any damage or sacrilege to Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Srimad Bhagwat Geeta, Holly Quran and Holy Bible with the intention to hurt the religious feelings of the people.	Imprisonment for life.	Cognizable	Non- bailable	Court of Session.”.
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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In the recent past there have been attempts to disturb peace and communal harmony in the State by committing sacrilege of Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji, Srimad Bhagwat Gita and holy Quran. Government is determined not to allow such incidents and ensure deterrent action against all those who commit such sacrilege. The proposed 'The Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2018' aim to achieve this objective by providing punishment of life imprisonment for such acts of sacrileges. This Bill will replace the Bill namely 'The Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2016' passed by the Punjab State Legislative Assembly earlier.

AMARINDER SINGH,
Chief Minister, Punjab.

CHANDIGARH :
The 27th August, 2018.

SHASHI LAKHANPAL MISHRA,
Secretary.

N.B.— The above Bill was published in the *Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary)*, dated the 27th August, 2018 under the proviso to rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha (Punjab Legislative Assembly).