

**PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA**

**Bill No. 1-PLA-2015**

**THE PUNJAB SHOPS AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015**

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**BILL**

*further to amend the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958.*

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2015.

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 Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958, in section 30, in sub-section (1), in the proviso, at the end, for the sign “.”, the sign “:” shall be substituted and thereafter the following shall be inserted, namely :—

Amendment of section 30 of Punjab Act 15 of 1958.

“Provided further that the Government or any officer empowered by the Government in this behalf may, by notification, in the Official Gazette, allow women to work during night in any category or establishment to which this Act applies on such conditions, as it may deem fit.”

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Barring a few establishments excepted under section 30(1) of the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958, there is a complete ban on employment of women during night shift in shops and commercial establishments covered under this Act. During the last few years, there has been drastic change in the way business is conducted and there has been improvement in the transport and security system. Due to peaceful atmosphere, commercial establishments remain open during night, and it is mandatory for Call Centers & such other establishments to keep establishments open during night. There has been substantial increase in number of women in the work force and they are working along with men. If women workers are not allowed to work during night, it will be discrimination against them and employers also face difficulty in managing shifts. To ensure women empowerment and more employment opportunities to them, women should be allowed to work during night shift.

In view of above, it is proposed to amend Section 30 of the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958, so that the Government or any officer empowered by the State Government in this behalf, may by notification in the official gazette allow women to work during night shift subject to the conditions to ensure their safety.

CHUNI LAL BHAGAT,  
Minister for Labour, Punjab.

CHANDIGARH :  
The 16th March, 2015.

SHASHI LAKHANPAL MISHRA,  
Secretary.

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*N.B.*— The above Bill was published in the *Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary)*, dated the 16th March, 2015 under the proviso to rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha (Punjab Legislative Assembly).