



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PARLIAMENT

SENATE BILLS

(Bill No. 13 of 2021)



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PRINTER BILL, 2021

(A Bill published in the Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 33 of 12th March, 2021 and passed by the Senate, without amendments, on 21st October, 2021)

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PRINTER BILL, 2021

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clauses

PART I – PRELIMINARY

1 — Short title.

2 — Interpretation.

3 — Objects and purposes.

PART II – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PRINTER

4 — Establishment of the office of the County Printer.

5 — Functions of the office.

6 — Prima facie evidence of printed documents.

7 — Prohibition of advertisements in *County Gazette*.

8 — Publication of the *County Gazette*.

9 — Appointment of County Printer.

10 — Staff of the Office of the County Printer.

11 — Offences.

12 — General Penalty.

PART III- MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

13— Regulations.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PRINTER BILL, 2021

A Bill for

AN ACT of Parliament to establish the office of the county printer in each county; to provide for the functions, mandate, management and administration of the office; and for connected purposes.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows—

PART I—PRELIMINARY

Short title. 1. This Act may be cited as the Office of the County Printer Act, 2021.

Interpretation. 2. In this Act—

“authorized officer” means —

- (a) a governor of a county;
- (b) a speaker of a county assembly;
- (c) a county executive committee member; and
- (d) the chairperson or secretary of an independent board, commission, committee or other body established by law in a county;

“county executive committee member” means the county executive committee member responsible for matters relating to information;

“county *gazette*” means a *gazette* published by the authority of a county government or a supplement to such *gazette*;

“county printer” means a person appointed under section 9 of the Act as the head the office of the county printer; and

The Office of the County Printer Bill, 2021

“document” means any official proclamation or executive order and includes Bills, Acts, orders, regulations, rules or similar instruments that are issued, prescribed or promulgated by an authorized officer.

Objects and purposes.

3. The objects and purposes of this Act are to —

- (a) provide for the establishment of the office of the county printer in each county; and
- (b) provide for the printing and publication of a county *gazette* in each county.

**PART II—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY PRINTER**

Establishment of the office.

4. (1) There is established, in each county, the office of the county printer.

(2) The office shall be an office in the office of the county executive committee member.

Functions of the office.

5. The office of the county printer shall be responsible for the printing and publication of the county *gazette* and shall —

- (a) publish in the county *gazette* such documents and information as are approved by an authorised officer within seven days of such authorisation;
- (b) advise the county executive and the county assembly on all matters pertaining to printing and publication of documents;
- (c) enter into such partnerships and collaborations with other public sector or private sector printing offices as are necessary for the proper execution of its functions under this Act; and
- (d) perform any other function as may be necessary for the proper execution of its mandate under this Act.

Coordination and liaison with the office of the government

6. In performing its functions under section 5, the office of the county printer shall coordinate and liaise with the office of the government printer and shall ensure that there is no duplication in

The Office of the County Printer Bill, 2021

printer. the printing and publication of documents.

Prohibition of
advertisement in
the county
Gazette.

7. A publication of a county *gazette* shall not contain an advertisement inserted by or for a private individual, firm, or corporation or contain any information or material which implies that the county government endorses or favours a specific commercial product, commodity or service.

Publication of
the County
Gazette.

8. (1) The county printer shall publish the county *gazette* at least once in every week.

(2) The county printer shall publish a special issue of the county *gazette* on the request of an authorized officer at any other time as may be required.

(3) For purposes of subsection (1), the county printer may publish an electronic version of the *gazette* and such version shall have the same effect as a physical version of the *gazette*.

(4) The county printer shall make available issues of the *gazette* to the National Council for Law Reporting established under section 2 of the National Council for Law Reporting Act.

The County
Printer.

9. (1) The office of the county printer shall be headed by a county printer.

(2) The county printer shall be competitively recruited and appointed by the County Public Service Board.

(3) A person shall qualify to be appointed as a county printer if the person —

- (a) holds at least a degree in a course relevant to matters of printing and publishing from a university recognized in Kenya;
- (b) has knowledge and experience of at least ten years in the relevant field; and
- (c) satisfies the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.

(4) The county printer shall be the overall head of the office of the county printer and shall be responsible for the —

The Office of the County Printer Bill, 2021

- (a) day to day running and operation of the office;
- (b) administration, organization and control of staff of the office;
- (c) management of funds, property and affairs held by the office;
- (d) implementation of policies and programmes of the office and reporting thereon to the county executive committee member;
- (e) development of operational plans for achieving the objectives of the office; and
- (f) performance of any other function necessary for the implementation of this Act or as may be assigned by the county any other written law.

Staff of the
Office of the
County Printer.

10. The County Public Service Board shall, in consultation with the county secretary and the county printer, appoint such number of staff as may be necessary for the proper execution of the functions of the office of the county printer under this Act.

Offences.

11. A person who –

- (a) fails, without reasonable cause, to –
 - (i) approve the publication of a document required to be published under any written law; or
 - (ii) publish, within the period specified under any written law, a document which has been approved for publication;
- (b) willfully or recklessly, authorises the publication or publishes false or misleading information; or
- (c) without authorisation, alters a document approved for publication,

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand shillings, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.

General penalty.

12. A person who contravenes any provision of this Act for which no penalty is provided is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand shillings, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.

PART III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Regulations.

13. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the county executive committee member may, with the approval of the county assembly, make such Regulations as may be necessary to give full effect to the provisions of this Act.


The Office of the County Printer Bill, 2021

I certify that this printed impression is a true copy of the Bill as passed by the Senate on 21st October, 2021.



Clerk of the Senate

Endorsed for presentation to the National Assembly in accordance with the provisions of standing order 156 of the Senate Standing Orders.



Speaker of the Senate

PRINTED BY THE CLERK OF THE SENATE