

ODISHA FREEDOM OF RELIGION ACT, 1967

ORISSA Act 2 OF 1968 [THE ORISSA FREEDOM OF RELIGION ACT, 1967] (Received the assent of the Governor on the 9th January 1968, first published in an extraordinary Issue of the Orissa Gazette, dated the 11th January 1968) AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR PROHIBITION OF CONVERSION FROM ONE RELIGION TO ANOTHER BY THE USE OF FORCE OR INDUCEMENT OR BY FRAUDULENT MEANS AND FOR MATTERS INCIDENTAL THEREOF. It enacted by the Legislature of the State of Orissa in the Eighteenth Year of the Republic of India, as follows: 1. (1) This Act may be called the Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967. (2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Orissa. (3) It shall come into force at once. (4) This Act unless the context otherwise requires— (a) "conversion" means— (i) professing one religion and adopting another; (ii) force or a threat of injury of any kind including threat of divine displeasure or social ex-communication; (iii) "fraud" shall include misrepresentation or any other fraudulent contrivance; (d) "inducement" shall include the offer of any gift or gratification, either in cash or in kind and shall also include the grant of any benefit, either pecuniary or otherwise; 1. For Statement of Objects and Reasons See Orissa Gazette, extraordinary, dated the 13th December, 1967 (No. 1592). 363 Prohibition of forcible conversion. Punishment for conversion of the provisions of section 3. Offence to be made with the sanction of District Magistrate to make rules. (secs. (e) "minor" means a person under eighteen years of age

3. No person shall convert or attempt to convert, either directly or otherwise, any person from one religious faith, to another by the use of force or by inducement or by any fraudulent means nor shall any person abet any such conversion

4. Any person contravening the provisions contained in section 3 shall, without prejudice to any civil liability, be punishable with imprisonment of either description which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with, both, : If the offence is committed in respect of a woman or a person belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, the punishment, shall be, imprisonment to the extent of two years and fine up to ten thousand rupees. 5. An offence under this Act shall be, cognizable and shall not be investigated by an Officer below the rank of an Inspector of Police

6. No prosecution for an offence under this Act shall be made without the sanction of the Magistrate of the District or such authority, not below rank of a Subdivisional Officer, as may be authorised by him in that behalf. 7. The State Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this