

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

further to amend the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973;

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Act, 2017.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 5, Act XXXV of 1973.**- In the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973 (xxxv of 1973), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in Section 5.-

a) in sub-section (2),-

(i) in paragraph (a), for the words NWFP, the words "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" shall be substituted;

ii) a new paragraph (d), shall be added, namely:

"(d) in addition to the number of seats, referred to in sub-section (2) paragraph (a), there shall be, in the Provincial Bar Council, one forth seats reserved for women."

b) after sub-section (2A), a new sub-section (2B) shall be added, namely:-

"(2B) for the purpose of election of seats, reserved for women, members of the Provincial Bar Council shall elect by single transferable vote."

Explanation: Seats reserved for women shall be distributed among the districts by balloting, and only one seat shall be given to a district. The districts shall keep rotating from election to election so that no constituency is subjected to this restriction to candidacy on a permanent basis."

3. **Amendment of section 11, Act XXXV of 1973.**- In the said Act, in Section 11.-

a) in sub-section (1), in the table, for the words "North-West Frontier Province", the words "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" shall be substituted;

b) after sub-section (1), the following new sub-sections shall be added, namely:

“(1A) In addition to the number of seats, referred to in section (1), there shall be, in the Pakistan Bar Council, one forth seats reserved for women.

(1B) for the purpose of election of seats, reserved for women, members of the Pakistan Bar Council shall elect by single transferable vote.

Explanation: At least one seat shall be filled from each province and Islamabad Capital Territory, and the remaining seats shall be distributed among the provinces and Islamabad Capital Territory by balloting, and it shall keep rotating from election to election so that no constituency is subjected to this restriction to candidacy on a permanent basis.”;

c) the existing sub-section (1A) shall be renumbered as (1C).

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Women are under-representated in Pakistan’s legal profession, particularly in the judiciary, therefore, we need to encourage women to come out and join legal fraternity and Provincial Bar Councils and Pakistan Bar Council is a good platform to groom women in legal profession. Therefore, it is proposed through this Bill to give due representation to women in Provincial Bar Councils and Pakistan Bar Councils.

Sd/-

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