

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, REVENUE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ON THE MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017

I, the Chairman of Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs have the honour to present this Report on the Bill further to amend the Microfinance Institutions Ordinance, 2001(LV of 2001) [The Microfinance Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2017] (Private Member's Bill), referred to the Committee on 7th March, 2017.

2. The Committee consists of the following:-

1).	Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh	Chairman
2).	Mr. Saeed Ahmed Khan Manais	Member
3).	Rana Shamim Ahmed Khan	Member
4).	Mr. Isphanyar M. Bhandara	Member
5).	Sardar Muhammad Jaffar Khan Leghari	Member
6).	Ms. Arifa Khalid Parvez	Member
7).	Ms. Khalida Mansoor	Member
8).	Dr. Shizra Mansab Ali Khan Kharral	Member
9).	Sheikh Fayyaz-ud-Din	Member
10).	Mian Abdul Mannan	Member
11).	Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja	Member
12).	Ms. Leila Khan	Member
13).	Syed Naveed Qamar	Member
14).	Dr. Nafisa Shah	Member
15).	Syed Mustafa Mehmud	Member
16).	Mr. Asad Umar	Member
17).	Mr. Abdul Rashid Godil	Member
18).	Mr. Muhammad Ali Rashid	Member
19).	Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao	Member
20).	Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill placed at **Annexure-A** in its meeting held on 14th July, 2017 and recommends that it may be passed by the Assembly.

-Sd-

(TAHIR HUSSAIN)

Secretary

Islamabad, the 5th January, 2018

-Sd-

(QAISER AHMED SHAIKH)

Chairman

Standing Committee on
Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs

[AS REPORTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE]

A

Bill

further to amend the Microfinance Institutions Ordinance, 2001

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Microfinance Institutions Ordinance, 2001 (LV of 2001) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Microfinance Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 7, Ordinance LV of 2001.- In the Microfinance Institutions Ordinance, 2001 (LV of 2001), in section 7, after sub-section (6), the following new sub-section (7) shall be added, namely:-

“(7) A microfinance institution shall not discriminate against a disabled person in providing microfinance services on multiple grounds of any disability.

Explanation 1.- A microfinance institution is said to discriminate against a person on grounds of disability, if microfinance institution treats a customer with disability unfavourably than a customer without disability in similar circumstances.

Explanation 2.- Disabled person means a disabled person as defined under the Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance, 1981 (XL of 1981).”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Pakistan is signatory to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Pakistan ratified the Convention in 2001. The Convention aims to project freedoms and rights of disabled persons. It also seeks to eliminate discrimination against disabled in all forms. The convention also expects state parties to provide legal protection to disabled persons against discrimination on all grounds.

2. The Government introduced its first National Policy for Persons with Disabilities in 2002. It was followed by a National Plan of Action of 2006 to provide a roadmap for implementing the policy. One of its short term goals was to provide ‘legislative support to persons with disabilities’ and in long term to give ‘more effective enforcement and expansion of social assistance and social security programme under the provisions of existing laws.

3. The Bill prohibits microfinance institutions from discriminating against disabled persons. It aims to eradicate discrimination against disabled persons in acquiring microcredit from microfinance institutions.

Sd/-

SAJIDA BEGUM
Member National Assembly