

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

to make the provisions for the establishment of the Allied Health Professionals Council

WHEREAS, it is expedient to establish an Allied Health Professionals Council in Pakistan for the purposes of making a uniform standard of basic and higher qualification in various Allied Health disciplines and to consolidate the law relating to the registration of all professionals in various disciplines of Allied Health Professionals;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to regulate education, training, practice, functions and registration of Allied Health Professionals in the Pakistan for public health

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act shall be called the Allied Health Professionals Council Act, 2021.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions- (1) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the context or subject,-

(a) "Allied Health Professionals" or "AHP" means a person who provides diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, curative or rehabilitative services in health care, in a prescribed manner, and has undergone a prescribed course of training in a recognized institution and is registered as an Allied Health Professional by the body formed for the purpose, as per Schedule-I;

(b) "bachelor degree" means any degree, duly recognized by the council, of at least four years duration after higher secondary school granted by a university or an institution;

- (c) "basic qualification" means certificate or diploma course for Allied Health Professionals recognized by the council;
- (d) "certificate" means any recognized qualification pursuant to at least a one year training duration granted by an institution recognized by the Council;
- (e) Council means the Allied Health Professionals Council established under section 3;
- (f) "continuous professional development" means skill enhancement and improvement of personal-and professional competency which shall-
 - (i) Comprise of lectures, seminars, courses, individual study or other activities undertaken by a Registered AHP; and
 - (ii) reasonably be expected to advance a Registered AHP's development in his or her related profession.
- (g) "continuous professional development opportunity provider" means an institution or organization providing continuous professional development opportunities recognized by the council;
- (h) "diploma" means any recognized qualification of at least two years or greater duration granted by an institution recognized by the Council to grant such qualification under this act;
- (i) "doctorate degree" means any degree higher than an M. Phil or masters degree, recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and which is recognized by the council as applicable towards qualifications of an AHP;
- (j) "eligible" means any person eligible for registration of recognized qualification under this act;
- (k) "Ex-officio member" means members of the Council nominated under clauses (a) and (b) of sub section 3 of section 3 of this Act and who shall not have the right to vote or hold any elected position in the Council;
- (l) "healthcare establishment" means any premises used or intended to be used for the provision of health care services, including but not limited to a hospital, teaching hospital, rural health center, basic

- health units, surgical centers, blood banks, maternity homes, nursing homes, clinics, clinical laboratories, dispensaries, dental clinics, x-ray laboratories, diagnostic center, centers for nuclear medicine or radiation therapy, ambulatories, psychiatric hospitals, burn units, psychiatric nursing homes, community mental health center, hemodialysis center, dialysis center, rehabilitation center or clinic or centers and such other health care or premises as may be declared from time to time by the Federal or Provincial Government or by law;
- (m) "Higher qualification" means a bachelor's degree or higher qualification as recognized by the Council for AHP;
 - (n) "institution" means an institute, college or university which is recognized under this act to grant or train basic or higher qualification for AHP
 - (o) "masters degree" means any post graduate degree granted by a university or an institution recognized by the Council;
 - (p) "Member" means a member of the Allied Health Professionals Council.
 - (q) "M. Phil" means any post-master degree granted by a university or an institution recognized by the Council;
 - (r) "National Medical Authority" means the Authority constituted under section 15 of the Pakistan Medical Commission Act, 2020;
 - (s) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rule or regulation:
 - (t) "Recognized Qualification" include:
 - (i) a basic qualification for AHP recognized by the council; or
 - (ii) a higher qualification for AHP recognized by the council; or
 - (iii) a basic or higher qualification for AHP which was registered under any law, before the commencement of this Act, which shall be considered as a recognized qualification.
 - (u) "List of disciplines" categorized as allied health professional will be as included ,added or notified by the concerned administrative division or Ministry, in Schedule-I to this Act; and shall include disciplines that are formally taught by a recognized institution and are related to patient care.

(2) Any other expressions used but not defined in this Act, shall have the same meanings assigned thereto in the respective laws and rules made thereunder.

3. Establishment of the Council. – (1) There shall be a council hereinafter known as the Allied Health Professionals Council, to be constituted by the Prime Minister.

(2) The head office of the Council shall be in Islamabad and the Council shall establish offices in each Province and may in any other regions as required.

(3) The Council shall consist of the following members, namely:-

- a. Director General Health, of the Federal and Provincial Governments (Ex-officio member);
- b. a Representative of the Medical Corps of the Armed Forces to be nominated by the Surgeon General;
- c. one health professional to be nominated by each province, GB and AJK Government from the categories at Schedule I from a public or private sector university or affiliated college/institute in the province;
- d. One health professional to be nominated by the Federal Government from the categories at Schedule I from a public or private sector university or affiliated college in Islamabad Capital Territory ;
- e. three members of civil society from amongst nationally recognized philanthropists or persons of known repute, a legal professional and a chartered accountant nominated by the Prime Minister of Pakistan; and
- f. upon the constitution of the advisory committees, the chairman of each advisory committee shall be a co-opted member of the Council subject having voting rights on issues of their discipline brought before the Council.

(4) The council shall be a body corporate, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire and hold property both movable and immovable, and shall by said name sue and be sued.