

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

to amend and consolidate the laws relating to registration and training of nurses, midwives and Lady Health Visitors (LHVs).

**WHEREAS** it is expedient further to amend and consolidate the laws relating to training of nurses, midwives and LHVs and to provide for matters ancillary thereto:

It is hereby enacted as follows:

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.** --- (1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Nursing Council (Amendment) Act, ~~1993~~ 2021.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 2, Act XXVI of 1973.**— In the Pakistan Nursing Council Act, 1973 (XXVI of 1973), herein after referred to as the said Act, for section 2, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

**“2. Definitions.** --- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context-

(a) Board means a Provincial Nursing and Midwifery Examination Board constituted under section 20;

(b) BSN means a bachelors of science in nursing and determined as a Recognized Higher Qualification;

(c) CNS means Clinical Nurse Specialist a registered nurse who having enrolled in and successfully completed one year post BSN diploma in a relevant discipline and or MSN degree in specialized clinical tract recognized by PN&MC and is registered with PN&MC and is licensed to practice as a Clinical Nurse Specialist under section 24(c)(i) and 36(2)(h) of this act within a defined scope of practice;

(d) Council means the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council (PN&MC) established under section 4;

(e) Current registration means registration given by Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council, which is present on its Register;

(f) HEC means the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan;

- (g) LHV means Lady Health Visitor” who has completed the prescribed qualification recognized by PN&MC, and has been registered and licensed by the PN&MC as a registered lady health visitor;
- (h) Member means a member of the Council;
- (i) Ministry means administrative ministry of PN&MC;
- (j) MNHSRC means Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination;
- (k) National Medical Authority means the Authority constituted under section 15 of the Pakistan Medical Commission Act, 2020;
- (l) Nurse means registrant of PN&MC licensed to practice as a nurse;
- (m) NP means Nurse Practitioner a registered advanced practice nurse, who having been enrolled to a Master Degree in Nursing (MSN) recognized by PN&MC, is registered with PN&MC as Nurse Practitioner and is currently licensed by PN&MC to practice autonomously and in collaboration with others under section 15 (c)(i) and section 26 (2)(i) of this act within a defined scope of practice.
- (n) PN&MC means the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council.
- (o) Prescribed means prescribed by this Act and rules and regulations made under this Act;
- (p) Recognized Higher Qualifications means a degree qualification recognized by the Higher Education Commission granted by an institution established and maintained in Pakistan or in a foreign country, or granted by a board /university for nurses, midwives and LHV which is declared to be a recognized higher qualification for the purposes of this Act.
- Provided any qualification recognized as a higher qualification under this Act and obtained by a person registered with the PN&MC prior to the date of the amendment of the Act shall continue to be recognized for the benefit of the person registered prior to the date of the amendment;
- (q) Recognized qualifications means a qualification granted by a Board/University for which is declared to be a recognized qualification for the purposes of this Act and includes:
- (i) a qualification specified in the schedule; and

- (ii) a qualification which was, immediately before the commencement of this act, a recognized qualification under the Pakistan Nursing Council Act, 1952 (LIX of 1952) and 1973 to the extent of only such person registered with the PN&MC prior to this amendment to the Act unless continued to be recognized after the amendment to this Act;
- (r) Register means the register of nurses, midwives, Lady Health visitors and nursing auxiliaries maintained under section 20;
- (s) Regulations mean regulations made under this Act.
- (t) RM means Registered Midwife who has completed the prescribed qualification recognized by PN&MC and has been registered and licensed by PN&MC to practice as a registered midwife;
- (u) Other Committees means sub-committees appointed by the council for special purpose under section 11(2) of the Act.

3. **Insertion of new section 2A, Act XXVI of 1973.**- In the said Act, after section 2, the following new section 2A shall be inserted namely:-

**"2A. Purpose of Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council.** --- (a) To protect, promote, and maintain the public health and wellbeing,

- (b) To serve the public of Pakistan with regards to healthcare services in general, but nursing and Midwifery services in particular,
- (c) To ensure competence of registered professionals of PN&MC, and
- (d) To liaison with all stakeholders about nursing and Midwifery education, professional conduct and practice within and outside the Republic of Pakistan"

4. **Amendment of section 3, Act XXVI of 1973.** - In the said Act, in section 3,-

- (a) in the heading, after the word "the", the words "Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery" shall be inserted;
- (b) for the sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely; -

**"(1) The Federal Government shall establish a Council to be called the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council, which shall be nationally representative and which shall elect an Executive Committee to administer and manage the affairs of the Council which shall be elected by the members of the Council every three years and include 32 voting members."**;

- (c) after sub-section (2), the following new sub-sections (3), (4) and (5) shall be inserted, namely: -

(3) The eligibility and election process shall be in accordance with the Act and the Rules and Regulations as prescribed by the PN&MC.

Provided no person will be eligible for membership of the Council if the individual or his/her family has a vested interest in a private nursing or midwifery institution and all the members of the Council shall have to submit a declaration of Conflict of Interest Statement to this effect on prescribed proforma to be devised by the Ministry

(4) The Council shall consist of the following Voting Members, namely: -

- (a) Director General (Health) M/o NHSRC
- (b) Director General (Health) from each province
- (c) The Director General Nursing in a province or the person holding the corresponding office.
- (d) The Director (General) Nursing or the person holding the corresponding office of Gilgit Baltistan or any other new Province.
- (e) The Director (General) Nursing or the person holding the corresponding office in Azad Jammu Kashmir.
- (f) One teaching faculty member of a public School or College of Nursing and Midwifery, with an BSN or higher degree from each province and the federal capital territory to be nominated respectively by each provincial health department or equivalent provincial government body, and the federal health ministry. Such nominee to be at least an associate professor or higher level with a minimum of seven years' experience as a Nursing or Midwifery teacher, and of outstanding merit.

Provided that if such a person is not available then a nursing educator having an MSN degree with ten years practical nursing experience in a reputable hospital, may be considered.

Provided further that the nominees will have no prior criminal convictions, be of sound mind and body and of reputable standing amongst her/his colleagues and community.