

A

BILL

Further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (Act XLV of 1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898;

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (Act XLV of 1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Insertion of new Section 297A in Act XLV of 1860.**- In the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (Act XLV of 1860), after section 297, the following new section shall be added, namely,-

“297A. Prohibition of magic, witchcraft and sorcery.- Whoever practices, advertises or provides services for magic, black magic, sorcery, witchcraft, or such acts in the disguise of spiritual healing or counseling shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, but shall not be less than six months, and with fine which may extend up to one million.

**Exemption.**- This Section does not extend to the spiritual counseling provided under license issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.”.

3. **Amendment of Schedule II in Act V of 1898.**- In the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), in Schedule II, after entry 297, the following entry shall be inserted, namely ,-

“297A	Prohibition of magic, witchcraft and sorcery	Ditto	Warrant	Not Bailable	Ditto	Imprisonment of either description for upto seven years and fine which may extend upto one million.	Court of Session.”
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## **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The Society is faced with ignorant malpractices such as magic, sorcery and black magic practiced openly by individuals and association, who in the goals of counseling and spiritual healing are bent upon destroying the social and family fabric. Incidents of hate, deceit, injury, breaking of relationship and even threats to life and property of innocent citizens exposed to such quack healers has made hundreds of lives miserable. In this context there is need of the hour to ban all such evils acts that replicate the phenomenon of spiritual healing and counseling to maintain general safety, wellbeing and peaceful minds in the society.

This Criminal Law Amendment strives to safeguard society from evils.

**Sd/-**  
**CHOUHARY FAQIR AHMED,**  
Member, National Assembly