

**[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]**

A

Bill

*to amend the Publication of Laws of Pakistan Act, 2016*

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Publication of Laws of Pakistan Act, 2016 (XIII of 2016), in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act shall be called the Publication of Laws of Pakistan (Amendment) Act, 2022.

(2) It shall come in to force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 2, Act XIII of 2016.**- In the Publication of Laws of Pakistan Act, 2016 (XIII of 2016), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2,-

(i) the existing clause (a) shall be re-lettered as clause (ab) and before that the following new clauses (a) and (aa) shall be added, namely:-

“(a) “administrative department” means the department of the respective Provincial Government to which business of this Act in the provincial domain stands allocated;

(aa) “administrative division” means the division of the Federal Government to which business of this Act in the Federal domain stands allocated;”;

- (ii) in clause (b), the words "to be", shall be omitted;
- (iii) after clause (b), amended as aforesaid, the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(ba) "Chairperson" means Chairperson of the concerned appellate Committee;"

- (iv) clause (c) shall be omitted;

- (v) after clause (d), the following new clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

"(da) "member" means a member of the concerned appellate committee;

(db) "person" shall have the same meaning as assigned thereto in section 11 of the Pakistan Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860);"; and

- (vi) in clause (g), for the word "juristic", the word "legal" shall be substituted.

**3. Amendment of section 3, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, in section 3, in sub-section (1), in clause (c), after the word "certificate", the words "of accuracy" shall be inserted.

**4. Substitution of section 4, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, for section 4, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

**“4. Exemption from registration.—** A public sector organization and a legislature shall be exempt from registration under this Act but the head of the public sector organization or the secretary of the Senate or the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly, as the case may be, shall ensure accuracy of the contents of a law of Pakistan published by the public sector organization or, as the case may be, a legislature.”.

**5. Amendment of section 5, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, for section 5, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

**“5. Maintenance of Laws of Pakistan.—** The administrative division and each administrative department shall maintain authentic and updated version of laws of Pakistan relating to their respective domain in hard and soft form along with translation thereof at least in Urdu language and shall ensure safe custody thereof.”.

**6. Substitution of section 6, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, for section 6, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

**“6. Laws of Pakistan Cell.—** There shall be in the administrative division and each administrative department a Laws of Pakistan Cell in their respective domain which shall consist of such officers and staff members to be appointed as civil servants under the respective laws made pursuant to Article 240 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for performance of their functions in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the respective rules made thereunder.”.

**7. Amendment of section 7, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, in section 7,—

- (i) in clause (f), for the word "fine", the words "administrative penalty" shall be substituted; and
- (ii) in clause (i), for the word "above", the word "aforesaid" shall be substituted.

**8. Amendment of section 8, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, in section 8, in sub-section (1),-

- (i) for the words "twenty working days", the words "three months" shall be substituted; and
- (ii) for the proviso, the following shall be substituted namely:-

"Provided that the administrative division or, as the case may be, the administrative department may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend in its respective domain the said period for further three months."

**9. Omission of section 9, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, section 9 shall be omitted.

**10. Omission of section 10, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, section 10 shall be omitted.

**11. Substitution of section 11, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, for section 11, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

**"11. Constitution of appellate committee.-** (1) The administrative division shall, by notification in the official Gazette, constitute an appellate

committee consisting of the following for performance of its functions under this Act, including hearing appeals in its domain under section 23, namely:—

S. No.	Person appointed or nominated	Status
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Secretary of the administrative division or his nominee not below the rank of joint secretary or equivalent	<i>Chairperson</i>
2.	One representative from Printing Corporation of Pakistan Press not below the rank of deputy secretary or equivalent	<i>Member</i>
3.	One representative from the Pakistan Publishers and Book Sellers Association	<i>Member</i>
4.	One representative from National Archives of Pakistan not below the rank of deputy secretary or equivalent	<i>Member</i>
5.	One representative from National Language Promotion Department not below the rank of deputy secretary or equivalent	<i>Member</i>
6.	An officer of drafting and legislation wing of the administrative division not below the rank of deputy secretary or equivalent	<i>Member -cum- Secretary</i>

(2) The administrative department may, by notification in the official Gazette, constitute an appellate committee for performance of its functions under this Act, including hearing appeals in its domain under section 23.

(3) The administrative division may increase or decrease the number of members of the appellate committee under sub-section (1) as it may deem fit.

(4) The appellate committee constituted under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) may for the purpose of eliciting technical or expert view coopt any person for assistance without having any right to vote.

(5) Decision of majority members of the appellate committee constituted under sub-section (1) or, as the case may be, sub-section (2) present and voting shall be construed as decision of the concerned appellate committee.

(6) One-half of its total members shall constitute quorum for a meeting of the concerned appellate committee and a fraction thereof shall be counted as one.

(7) In absence of the Chairperson, the concerned appellate committee shall nominate from amongst its members present a member to preside over the meeting.

(8) The meetings of the concerned appellate committee shall be convened and conducted as may be prescribed by respective rules.

(9) The administrative division or, as the case may be, the administrative department may issue guidelines to the Cell in its respective domain which shall be binding for corrective measures on efficient working of the Cell.”.

**12. Omission of section 12, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, section 12 shall be omitted.

**13. Amendment of section 13, Act XIII of 2016.-** In the said Act, in section 13,-

(i) in sub-section (1),-