

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTER-FAITH HARMONY ON "THE PAKISTAN RUET-E-HILAL BILL, 2022"

I, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony have the honour to present this report on the Bill to regulate the system of moon sighting for commencement of Islamic Hijri calendar months [The Pakistan *Ruet-e-Hilal* Act, 2022] (Government Bill), referred to the Standing Committee on 11th January 2022.

2. The Committee comprises the following:

1.	Syed Imran Ahmad Shah	Chairman
2.	Choudhary Faqir Ahmed	Member
3.	Mr. Ehsan-ul-Haq Bajwa	Member
4.	Begum Tahira Bokhari	Member
5.	Ms. Shahnaz Saleem Malik	Member
6.	Mr. Kesoo Mal Kheeral Das	Member
7.	Mr. Naveed Amir Jeeva	Member
8.	Pir Syed Fazal Ali Shah Jillani	Member
9.	Ms. Shagufta Jumani	Member
10.	Mr. Muhammad Anwar	Member
11.	Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali	Member
12.	Ms. Saira Bano	Member
13.	Mr. Saleem Rehman	Member
14.	Sahibzada Sibghatullah	Member
15.	Mr. Muhammad Bashir Khan	Member
16.	Prince Muhammad Nawaz Allai	Member
17.	Mr. Mujahid Ali	Member
18.	Raja Riaz Ahmad	Member
19.	Ch. Javed Iqbal Warraich	Member
20.	Mr. Jamshed Thomas	Member
21.	Mufti Abdul Shakoor	Ex-officio Member
	Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony	

3. The Committee considered the Bill as introduced in the National Assembly, placed at (Annex-A), in its meeting held on 4th February 2022 and recommended that the Bill, as introduced, may be passed by the Assembly.

Sd/-

(TAHIR HUSSAIN)

Secretary

Islamabad, the 27th July 2022

Sd/-

(SYED IMRAN AHMAD SHAH)

Chairman

[AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE]

A

Bill

to regulate the system of moon sighting for commencement of Islamic Hijri calendar months

WHEREAS, it is expedient to enact a law to provide for a mechanism to regulate the system of moon sighting for the purpose of commencement of Islamic *Hijri* calendar months and consequently to bring harmony amongst followers of various schools of thought of Islam to perform their religious obligations with unanimity and for the matters ancillary thereto;

AND WHEREAS, the Provincial Assemblies of the Provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan have passed resolutions under Article 144 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the effect that *Majlis-e-Shora* (Parliament) may by law regulate the matter of *Ruet-e-Hilal*;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**- (1) This Act shall be called the Pakistan *Ruet-e-Hilal* Act, 2021.

(2) It extends 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 subject or context,-

(a) "chairperson" means a chairperson of the Federal *Ruet-e-Hilal* committee, and includes every chairperson of each Provincial *Ruet-e-Hilal* committee, appointed under this Act;

- (b) "Code" means the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898);
- (c) "district committee" means district *Ruet-e-Hilal* committee constituted by each Province in their respective districts under this Act;
- (d) "division concerned" means the division to which business of this Act stands allocated;
- (e) "electronic media" means shall have same meaning as assigned thereto in clause (hc) of section 2 of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002(XIII of 2002);
- (f) "Federal committee" means the Federal *Ruet-e-Hilal* committee constituted under this Act;
- (g) "ICT" means the Islamabad Capital Territory;
- (h) "ICT committee" means the ICT *Ruet-e-Hilal* committee constituted by the division concerned under this Act;
- (i) "member" means a member of a *Ruet-e-Hilal* committee, appointed under this Act;
- (j) "month" means the Islamic *Hijri* calendar month;
- (k) "PEMRA" means the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority established under the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (XIII of 2002);
- (l) "provincial committee" means Provincial *Ruet-e-Hilal* committee constituted by a Province under this Act;
- (m) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

- (n) "provincial department" means a department of a Province to which business of *Ruet-e-Hilal* stands allocated;
- (o) "rules" means rules made under this Act;
- (p) "*Shariah*" means injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah; and
- (q) "witness of moon sighting" means a person who provides information about the moon sighting in accordance with *Shariah*.

2. Words and expression used but not defined under this Act shall have the same meaning as assigned thereto under the Code or the Pakistan Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860).

3. **Federal committee.**-(1) Within one month of the commencement of this Act, the division concerned shall, by notification in the official Gazette, constitute a Federal *Ruet-e-Hilal* committee, consisting of the Chairperson and members as specified in column (2) of the Table below, namely:-

TABLE

S.No.	Person appointed or nominated	Status
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	A person who has got <i>Shahadat ul Aalamiyya</i> degree from an institute recognized by any of the <i>Wafaqs</i> recognized by <i>Higher Education Commission (HEC)</i> or (possesses a) master degree in <i>Islamiyat</i> having a minimum of fifteen years experience in the relevant	<i>Chairperson</i>

	<i>field:</i>	
2.	Two <i>Ulema</i> from each Province having the qualifications and experience provided for under S.No.1.	<i>Member</i>
3.	One <i>Aalim</i> from ICT having the qualifications and experience provided for under S.No.1.	<i>Member</i>
4.	One <i>Aalim</i> from Gilgit Baltistan having the qualifications and experience provided for under S.No.1.	<i>Co-opted Member</i>
5.	One <i>Aalim</i> from the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir having the qualifications and experience provided for under S.No.1.	<i>Co-opted Member</i>
6.	A representative not below the rank or equivalent of BPS-20 officer of the Federal Government nominated by the meteorological department.	<i>Member</i> <i>ex-officio</i>
7.	A representative not below the rank or equivalent of BPS-20 officer of the Division to which business of science and technology stands allocated.	<i>Member</i> <i>ex-officio</i>
8.	A representative not below the rank or equivalent of BPS-20 officer of the Federal Government nominated by the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Commission	<i>Member</i> <i>ex-officio</i>