

[AS PASSED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

further to amend the Emigration Ordinance, 1979

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Emigration Ordinance, 1979 (XVIII of 1979) for the purposes and the manner hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. **Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act shall be called the Emigration (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

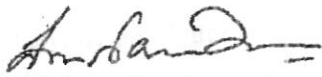
2. **Amendment of section 17, Ordinance XVIII of 1979.**— In the Emigration Ordinance, 1979 (XVIII of 1979), hereinafter referred to as the said Ordinance, in section 17, in sub-section (1), for the expression “, or with fine, or with both”, the words “and with fine up to one million rupees” shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment of section 18, Ordinance XVIII of 1979.**— In the said Ordinance, in section 18, for the expression “, or with fine, or with both”, the words “and with fine up to two million rupees” shall be substituted.

4. **Amendment of section 22, Ordinance XVIII of 1979.**— In the said Ordinance, in section 22, for the expression “, or with fine, or with both”, the words “and with fine up to two million rupees” shall be substituted.

Statement of Objects and Reasons

The Emigration Ordinance, 1979 has been enacted to regulate and manage the emigration of Pakistani citizens to other countries with main purposes include protecting the rights and interests of Pakistani emigrants, and preventing illegal emigration and human trafficking from Pakistan. As per the criminal record of convictions, in the majority of cases, the Courts have awarded only a fine to the culprits. To curb the menace of unlawful emigration and create deterrence among perpetrators and prevent repetition of offenses, it is inevitable to amend the Court's discretion, which currently has the option to award either imprisonment or a fine. It is imperative that imprisonment be made mandatory, along with the imposition of a fine by enhancing the punishments, therefore, it has been divulged that amendments in section 17, 18 and 22 of Emigration Ordinance, 1979 are required.


(Minister In-charge)