

[AS PASSED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

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BILL

further to amend the Pakistan Coast Guards Act, 1973

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Coast Guards Act, 1973 (XVIII of 1973), 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 Pakistan Coast Guards (Amendment) Act, 2024.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Insertion of new section 14A, Act XVIII of 1973.**— In the Pakistan Coast Guards Act, 1973 (XVIII of 1973), after section 14, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

“14A. **Public Prosecutors.**— (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force the assistant directors (law), the deputy directors (law) and the directors (law) of the Force shall be deemed to be public prosecutors who shall be competent to institute and conduct any proceedings in cases sent by the Force for trial to the special courts constituted under any law and the courts subordinate to the High Courts.

(2) Subject to sub-section (1), the Force may appoint law officer and special public prosecutor in the prescribed manner.”.


STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Pakistan Coast Guards which is attached department of Ministry of Interior, is governed under the Pakistan Coast Guards, Act 1973. Prevention of smuggling is the function of Pakistan Coast Guards according to section 3 of Pakistan Coast Guards Act, 1973. As per preamble of Pakistan Coast Guards Act, 1973 Federal Government constituted Pakistan Coast Guards to effectively check smuggling of any kind across the frontier of Pakistan. The prosecution of narcotics and smuggling cases in courts is the essential element of prevention of smuggling and illegal immigrants.

2. As per practice in vogue, Pakistan Coast Guards forwards names of suitable Advocates for appointment of Special Public Prosecutors on the panel of Pakistan Coast Guards. Lastly, when the matter was taken up with Ministry of Law & Justice for replacement of inactive Special Public Prosecutors with new advocates, has advised to make necessary amendment in the Pakistan Coast Guards Act, 1973 for appointment of SPPs in the Pakistan Coast Guards and also vetted the necessary draft amendment bill in Pakistan Coast Guards Act.

3. Further, Senate Standing Committee on Interior in meeting held on 11-10-2023 has also directed to establish a separate prosecution of Pakistan Coast Guards.

4. Therefore, the bill in consultation with Ministry of Law & Justice is hereby submitted to amend the Pakistan Coast Guards Act, 1973 (XVIII of 1973) [The Pakistan Coast Guards (Amendment) Bill, 2024].


(Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi)
Minister for Interior