

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

Bill

further to amend the Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act, 1973 to the extent of Islamabad Capital Territory

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act, 1973 (LIV of 1973) to the extent of Islamabad Capital Territory, 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 the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) (Amendment) Act, 2023.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 1, Act LIV of 1973.- In the Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act, 1973 (LIV of 1973), hereinafter called as the said Act, in section 1, in sub-section (2), for the word "Pakistan" the words "Islamabad Capital Territory" shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of section 2, Act LIV of 1973.- In the said Act, in section 2,-

- (a) clauses (aa), (b), (c), (d), (dd), (ddd) and (e) shall be re-lettered as (b), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) respectively;
- (b) after clause (b), re-lettered as aforesaid, the following new clauses (c) and (d) shall be inserted, namely:-

"(c) "damaged or *shaheed* copy of the Holy Quran" includes:

- (i) a sub-standard copy of the Holy Quran, damaged or worn-out pages of the Holy Quran;
- (ii) any other material in the form of book, magazine, card, bill, flex etc. that contains Arabic Text of the Holy Quran;

(d) "disposal" means collection and storage of damaged or *shaheed* copy of the Holy Quran and includes its burial under the ground or its disposal in the sea or river or recycling it in such manner as conforms to its holiness and sanctity;"

- (c) for clause (g), re-lettered as aforesaid, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(g) "Quran Board" means the Board constituted under section 4;" and

- (d) in clause (j), re-lettered as aforesaid, for the word. "Committee" the words "Quran Board", shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 3, Act LIV of 1973.- In the said Act, in section 3,-

- (a) for the words "Department of the Provincial Government", the words "Directorate, Islamabad Capital Territory," shall be substituted;
- (b) the words, "within whose jurisdiction he is carrying on his business in such manner" shall be omitted.

5. Amendment of section 4, Act LIV of 1973.- In the said Act, in section 4,-

- (a) for the marginal heading, "Committee of Ulema", the marginal heading, "Quran Board" shall be substituted;
- (b) in sub-section (1), for the words, "appoint a Committee of Ulema", the words "constitute a Quran Board", shall be substituted; and
- (c) for sub-sections (2) and (3), the following shall be substituted, namely:-
- “(2) The Federal Government shall in the prescribed manner cause a copy of the Holy Quran to be prepared and shall forward it to the Quran Board for authentication as a standard copy.
- (3) The Federal Government shall in the prescribed manner keep the standard copy in the Government archives for safe custody including to upload it on website of the Division to which business of religious affairs stands allocated.”; and
- (d) after sub-section (3), substituted as aforesaid, the following new sub-sections (4) and (5) shall be added, namely:-
- “(4) The Quran Board shall recommend steps for error-free printing and publication or recording of the Holy Quran and shall, subject to the direction of the Government, supervise the work of error-free printing and publication and recording of the Holy Quran including uploading the copies on the internet.
- (5) The Quran Board shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed.”.

6. Amendment of section 5, Act LIV of 1973.- In the said Act, in section 5,-

- (a) in sub- section (4), in the proviso, after the expression "(c)", the words "unless he is found negligent in the performance of his duty" shall be inserted; and
- (b) after sub-section (5), the following new sub-section shall be added, namely:-

“(5a) Arabic text of the Holy Quran shall not be printed on newspapers, flexes, cards, hand bills, brochures or on any other such disposable forms, and only its translation shall be printed in such forms where required.”

7. Insertion of new section 5C, Act LIV of 1973.- In the said Act, after section 5B, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

“5C Disposal of damaged or *shaheed* copies.- A publisher or a recording company shall make suitable arrangements in the prescribed manner for disposal of damaged or *shaheed* copy of the Holy Quran.”

8. Amendment of section 6, Act LIV of 1973.- In the said Act, in section 6, in sub-section (1), for the word, “five”, the word, “twenty”, shall be substituted.

9. Amendment of section 8, Act LIV of 1973.- In the said Act, in section 8, in sub-section (2),-

- (a) in clause (c), the word “and” at the end shall be omitted;
- (b) in clause (d), for full stop at the end, a semicolon shall be substituted and thereafter the following new clauses (e) and (f) shall be added, namely:-

“(e) the constitution and functions of the Quran Board; and

(f) the disposal of damaged and *shaheed* copies of the Holy Quran.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In order to ensure the disposal of martyred/damaged Holy pages and copies of the Holy Quran in a proper manner as well as to stop the publication of the Holy Quran on the sub-standard paper and establishment of the Quran Board to supervise the work of error free printing, publication and recording of the Holy Quran including uploading the copies on internet.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid objective.

MINISTER-IN-CHARGE