



**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND
INTER-FAITH HARMONY**

ON

**The Bill titled “The Ehtram-e-Ramazan
(Amendment) Bill, 2017”**

Report No. 1 of 2017

PRESENTED BY

**SENATOR MAULANA HAFIZ HAMDULLAH
CHAIRMAN**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTER-FAITH HARMONY ON "THE EHTRAM-E-RAMAZAN (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017

I, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony, have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on "The Ehtram-e-Ramazan (Amendment) Bill, 2017", introduced by Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan, on 16th January, 2017. The Bill upon introduction was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony is as under:-

1	Senator Maulana Hafiz Hamdullah	Chairman
2	Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Member
3	Senator Baz Muhammad Khan	Member
4	Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah	Member
5	Senator Maulana Tanveerul Haq Thanvi	Member
6	Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
7	Senator Professor Sajid Mir	Member
8	Senator Hamza	Member
10	Senator Hari Ram	Member
11	Senator Gianchand	Member
12	Senator Brig. (R) John Kenneth Williams	Member
13.	Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meetings held on 24th February, 2017 and on 10th May, 2017. The final consideration of the Bill was held on 10th May, 2017 under the chairmanship of Senator Maulana Hafiz Hamdullah, which was attended by the following:-

i.	Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Member
ii.	Senator Baz Muhammad Khan	Member
iii.	Senator Maulana Tanveerul Haq Thanvi	Member
iv.	Senator Professor Sajid Mir	Member
v.	Senator Hamza	Member
vi.	Senator Gianchand	Member
vii.	Senator Brig. (R) John Kenneth Williams	Member
viii.	Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan	Mover
ix.	Minister of State for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony	Ex-Officio Member




4. The Committee, in its meeting held on 24th February, 2017, considered the Bill. Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan, Mover, briefed the Committee regarding the amendments proposed through "The Ehtram-e-Ramazan (Amendment) Bill, 2017. He was of the opinion that all cinema- houses, theaters and other related institutions should remain closed during the fasting hours, as well as from the time of sunset till Isha / Taraweeh prayers. Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony was of the opinion that implementation of said amendments be extended to all provinces. He proposed that the Bill may be deferred till the next meeting and accordingly the Ministry will also propose further amendments in the said Bill. The Committee deferred the Bill with the consent of Mover till the next meeting.

5. The final consideration of the Bill was held on 10th May, 2017. During the meeting, the Minister of State for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony stated that his Ministry had no objections to the amendments proposed by Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan. However, he advised that in clause 3 of the Bill, for the words "five hundred rupees", the words "five thousand rupees" may be substituted instead of fifty thousand rupees as proposed by Mover. He was of the opinion that the fine proposed by the Mover is high. Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan stated that the purpose of the amendment was to observe sanctity during the holy month of Ramazan. He further added that law pertaining to any matter or issue should be followed in letter and spirit. After due deliberation, the Committee agreed with all the amendments proposed by the Mover except to clause 3 of the Bill:-

3. Amendment of section 4, Ordinance No. XXIII of 1981.-In the said Ordinance, in section 4, in sub-section (2), for the words "five hundred rupees", the words "Twenty-five thousand rupees" shall be substituted.

6. The Bill, as amended, was put to the vote of members, wherein all members present voted in favour of the Bill.

7. In view of the above mentioned, the Committee unanimously recommended that "The Ehtram-e-Ramazan (Amendment) Bill, 2017", as reported by the Committee, may be passed by the House. (Copy of the Bill, as reported by the Committee is at annex-A, and the Bill, as introduced in the Senate, is at annex-B.


(HAMMAD KHAN MARRI)
Secretary (Committee)


(SENATOR MAULANA HAFIZ HAMDULLAH)
Chairman (Committee)

[AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE]

A

Bill

furthertoamend the Ehtram-e-Ramazan Ordinance, 1981 (Ordinance No. XXIII of 1981)

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Ehtram-e-Ramazan Ordinance, 1981 (Ordinance No. XXIII of 1981) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.-(1) This Act may be called the Ehtram-e-Ramazan (Amendment) Act, 2017.

(2) It shall extend to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 3, Ordinance No. XXIII of 1981.-In the Ehtram-e-Ramazan Ordinance, 1981 (Ordinance No. XXIII of 1981), hereinafter referred to as the said Ordinance, in section 3, in sub-section (2), for the words "five hundred rupees", the words "five thousand rupees", shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of section 4, Ordinance No. XXIII of 1981.-In the said Ordinance, in section 4, in sub-section (2), for the words "five hundred rupees", the words "twenty-five thousand rupees" shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 6, Ordinance No. XXIII of 1981.-In the said Ordinance, in section 6,-

(a) in sub-section (1), for the words "during the month of Ramazan from the time of sunset to the expiration of", the words "in the month of Ramazan during fasting hours and" shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (2), for the words "five thousand rupees", the words "five hundred thousand rupees" shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Ehtram-e-Ramazan Ordinance was enacted in 1981 to provide measures to observe sanctity in the month of Ramazan. This amendment Bill seeks to enhance the amount of penalty for violations of provisions of this law in the Islamabad Capital Territory. Recently, it has been observed that some cinemas have screened movies even during the fasting hours in the month of Ramazan. This amendment strives to make the existing law more effective.

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

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SENATOR CHAUDHARY TANVIR KHAN
Member-in-Charge