

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

**BILL**

*further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 2017.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of Article 51 of the Constitution.**— In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in Article 51:

(a) for clause (3), the following shall be substituted:

“(3) The seats in the National Assembly referred to in clause (1), except as provided in clause (4), shall be allocated to each Province, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and the Federal Capital as under:

	<b>General Seats</b>	<b>Women Seats</b>	<b>Total Seats</b>
Balochistan	16	4	20
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	39	9	48
Punjab	141	33	174
Sindh	61	14	75
Federally Administered Tribal Areas	12	-	12
Federal Capital	3	-	3
Total	272	60	332”

(b) for clause (5), the following shall be substituted:

“(5) Save as provided in clause (3) in respect of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, the seats in the National Assembly shall be allocated to each Province and the Federal Capital on the basis of population in accordance with the last preceding census officially published:

Provided that for purposes of the next general elections to be held in 2018 and bye-elections related thereto, the allocation shall be made on the basis of provisional results of the 2017 census which shall be published by the Federal Government.”.

### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

Article 51(5) of the Constitution provides that seats in the National Assembly shall be allocated to each Province, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and the Federal Capital on the basis of population in accordance with the last preceding census officially published.

2. There is consensus amongst the political parties that for purposes of the next general elections to be held in 2018 and bye-elections related thereto, allocation of National Assembly seats should be made on the basis of provisional results of the 2017 census without changing the existing total number of general seats (272) and women seats (60) and retaining the share of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (12). According to the proposed reallocation, seats will increase for Balochistan (2 general seats +1 women seat), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (4+1) and Federal Capital (1+0), while seats for the Punjab will decrease (-7-2), and seats for Sindh will remain the same.

3. The Council of Common Interests in its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 has approved publication of the provisional results of Census 2017 for purposes of Article 51(5) as provided in this Bill. The Council has also decided that third party validation will be carried out of 1 % census blocks proportionately in each province throughout the country selected by random computer ballot, before the final results are compiled. This will help address reservations/ concerns expressed by the Sindh Government / PPP, MQM, PTI, PML(N), JUI(F), JI, QWP, PKMAP, ANP and Members from FATA regarding the provisional results. The percentage of census blocks for which validation is to be carried out may change if so decided by the CCI.

4. Hence this Bill.

**ZAHID HAMID  
MINISTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE  
MINISTER-IN-CHARGE**