

**[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]**

**A**

**Bill**

*to provide for and promote Civic Education and create awareness relating to fundamental rights and obligations of citizens*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient to foster civic competence and responsibility amongst the citizens; educate people relating to fundamental rights and obligations of citizens; to highlight the importance of civic education in inculcating value citizenship, knowledge, skills and values and to deal with ancillary matters;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called the National Civic Education Commission Act, 2017.

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

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Definitions.-** In this Act unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) "civic education" means provision of information and learning experiences to equip and empower citizens to participate in democratic processes;

(b) "Commission" means National Civic Education Commission established under section 3 of the Act;

(c) "Constitution" means the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; and

(d) "Government" means the Federal Government.

**3. Establishment of the Commission.-** (1) As soon as after the commencement of this Act, Government shall establish a Commission to be known as the National Civic Education Commission.

(2) The Commission shall make policy guidelines for the purpose of this Act and shall take necessary steps for implementation of the provisions of this Act.

**4. Composition of the Commission.-** (1) The management, overall control and supervision of the affairs of the Commission shall vest in a Board of Governors consisting of the following members:

- (a) The Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, who shall be the Chairman of the Board;
- (b) Three Members of the Senate nominated by the Chairman Senate;
- (c) Three members of the National Assembly nominated by the Speaker National Assembly;
- (d) One member from each Provincial Assembly nominated by Speaker of respective Assembly;
- (e) Three civic education experts nominated by the Government;
- (f) Two representatives from media; and
- (g) The Director General of the Commission, who shall be the Secretary of the Board.

(2) The members of the Board of Governors, other than the ex-officio members, shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

**5. Director General.-** (1) The Director General shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and shall subject to the general supervision of the Chairman of the Board of Governors, be responsible for carrying out the objects of the Commission as laid down by the Board from time to time.

(2) The Director General of the Commission shall be appointed for a term of three years.

**6. Meetings of the Commission.-** (1) The meetings of the Commission shall be held quarterly, and shall be presided over by the Chairperson or, in his absence, by a member nominated by the Chairperson for the purpose. One third of the total members shall constitute the quorum and no quorum shall be necessary for adjourning the meeting.

(2) All decisions of the Commission shall be taken with simple majority of the members of the Commission present in the meeting. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote in case of a tie.

(3) Decision of the Commission shall be recorded by the Secretary of the Commission, who shall circulate such decisions for confirmation to Chairperson and the members within fifteen days of each meeting.

**7. Functions of the Commission.-** The Commission shall perform following functions, namely;

- (a) to develop the understanding of the principles and objectives of the Constitution, fundamental rights as enshrined in the Constitution and inculcating respect for the rights of women and minorities in the students;
- (b) to educate and encourage the citizens to defend the Constitution at all times, against all forms of abuse and violations;
- (c) to develop courses for realizing the objectives of the Constitution;
- (d) to create awareness amongst citizens about civic responsibilities and an appreciation of their rights and obligations as citizens of Pakistan;
- (e) to take special measure for promotion of civic education in rural areas;
- (f) to organize capacity building programmes on civic education for academicians;
- (g) to achievement of true democracy arising from the existing inequalities between different strata of the population and measures necessary for redressing these inequalities;
- (h) to propagate counter narrative to violence, terrorism and extremism;
- (i) to promote cleanliness and respect for environment;
- (j) to develop the narrative of unity, faith, discipline and tolerance amongst the citizens; and
- (k) to inculcate respect for laws especially traffic laws amongst the youth.

**8. Responsibility of Schools.-** (1) An in-charge of a school shall ensure imparting civic education to students through lectures, tutorials and practical work.

- (2) The method of teaching civic education may include the following:
  - (a) formal instructions regarding the role of Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, Law and Democracy;
  - (b) guided discussion of current local, national, and international issues and events;
  - (c) active learning experiences where students perform community service;

## 4

- (d) co-curricular activities to foster engagement with other schools and communities;
- (e) student participation in school governance; and
- (f) student participation in simulations of democratic processes.

**9. Audit.-** The accounts of the Commission shall be audited annually by the Auditor General of Pakistan and the balance-sheet and statement of assets and liabilities shall be duly considered by the Board of Governors.

**10. Act not in derogation of any other law.-** The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for time being in force.

**11. Power to make rules.-** The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

### **STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS**

The future of Pakistan and its 200 million people depends on continuity of democratic governance embedded in supremacy of the Constitution and that democratic civic education is an important instrument to provide people with intellectual context and develop necessary skills in them to actively and effectively participate in this national pursuit.

2. It is also fact that core concepts like Constitutionalism, federalism and representative parliamentary institutions are missing in the textbooks taught in the nation's classrooms.

3. Therefore this bill intends to establish National Civic Education Commission to achieve the said objectives.

**SENATOR SEHAR KAMRAN**  
Member In-charge