

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

Bill

to provide for the establishment of a Legal Aid and Justice Authority

WHEREAS, it is expedient to establish a Legal Aid and Justice Authority to provide legal, financial and added assistance for access to justice to the poor and vulnerable segments of the society in criminal cases and for matters ancillary thereto.

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be called the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) This Act or any part thereof shall come into force on such date or dates as the Government may by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

2. **Definitions.**—(1) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context.—

(a) "applicant" means any person who—

- (i) makes an application for legal aid under this Act or on whose behalf such an application is made; or
- (ii) a person who is of unsound mind or lunatic or minor;

(b) "Authority" means the Legal Aid and Justice Authority established under section 3;

(c) "Board" means the Board of Governors of the Authority constituted under section 4;

(d) "Chairperson" means Chairman of the Board and includes any person for the time being performing the functions of the Chairperson;

(e) "Court" means court established under any law for the time being in force;

(f) "Director-General" means the Director-General of the Authority;

(g) "Free Representation Unit" means a special unit comprising advocates and volunteers to provide legal or other social services on *pro bono* basis either on case to case basis or in respect of a group or set or type of cases other than the panel;

(h) "Government" means the Federal Government;