

# **SENATE OF PAKISTAN**



## **REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**ON**

**THE PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020,  
INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD JAVED ABBASI ON 13TH JULY,  
2020**

**REPORT NO. 04 OF 2020**

**PRESENTED BY:  
SENATOR FAISAL JAVED  
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE**

## **SENATE SECRETARIAT**

### **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ON THE PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020.**

I, Senator Faisal Javed, Chairman Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on "The Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2020," introduced by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi in the Senate sitting held on 13th July, 2020 and referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:

1. Senator Faisal Javed	Chairman
2. Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi	Member
3. Senator Anwaar ul Haq Kakar	Member
4. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
5. Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
6. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
7. Senator Kamran Michael	Member
8. Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
9. Senator Moula Bux Chandio	Member
10. Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
11. Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
12. Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	Member
13. Senator Atta ur Rehman	Member
14. Minister for Information and Broadcasting	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. The following attended the meeting :-

1. Senator Faisal Javed	Chairman
2. Senator Anwaar ul Haq Kakar	Member
3. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
4. Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
5. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
6. Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
7. Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
8. Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
9. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Mover



2. The Committee had detailed discussion on the Bill. The Mover of the Bill Senator Javed Abbasi highlighted the objectives of the amendment Bill. He opined that Press Council of Pakistan being a media monitoring body should be headed by a media or law expert as he would have comparatively better understanding of the field. He further added that members from Senate of Pakistan should also have representation in the council as the members from the National Assembly are represented.

3. Senator Anwaar ul Haq Kakar stressed that a social scientist with understanding of law should also be eligible for the position of Chairman of the Council. The Chairman Committee highlighted that the minimum requirement of relevant experience for such position should not exceed more than five years in order to engage young and energetic professionals.

4. The Committee after deliberations proposed following amendments in the Bill:

i. **Substitution of section 6, Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002:** For section 6, the following shall be substituted, namely:

"6. Composition of the Council. - (1) The Council shall consist of twenty one members including a Chairman. The Chairman shall be appointed by the President of Pakistan. The Chairman of the Council shall be an eminent professional of known integrity and competence having at least sixteen years education from Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized university and at least five years of experience in media, law or any other social sciences and other members shall be nominated as follows: -

(a) Four members by the All Pakistan Newspapers Society;

(b) Four members by the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors;

(c) Four members by the professional bodies of journalists;

Provided that none of the organizations mentioned above shall nominate any member from its office bearers, nor any member of the Press Council shall contest an office of the Organization;

(d) Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council;

(e) Chairperson or nominee of the Higher Education Commission;

(f) one member by the Leader of the House in the National Assembly;

(g) one member by the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly;



(h) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the House in the Senate of Pakistan

(i) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the House;

(j) one mass media educationist to be nominated by the Council.

(k) one women member to be nominated by the National Commission on the Status of Women in Pakistan.

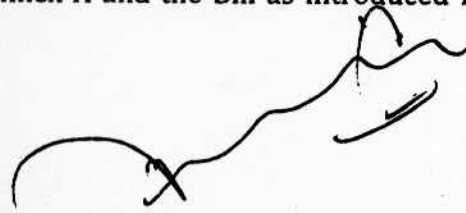
2) The members of Council, excluding the Chairman, shall not be entitled to any salary and shall function in honorary capacity, except out of pocket expenses as may be prescribed. The Chairman shall be entitled to such salary, allowances and privileges as may be prescribed."

4. With the above amendments, the Bill was put to vote, whereupon, all members present in the meeting voted in favour of the Bill with amendments.

5. The Committee recommends that "The Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2020," as reported by the Committee may be passed by the Senate. The Bill as reported by the Committee is at Annex-A and the Bill as introduced in the Senate is at Annex-B.



**(ADNAN IBNE ASAD)**  
Secretary Committee



**(SENATOR FAISAL JAVED)**  
Chairman Committee

**(As Reported by the Committee)**

**A**

**BILL**

*further to amend the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient further to amend the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title and commencement.** – (1) This Act may be called the Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Substitution of section 6, Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002:** In the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002), for section 6, the following shall be substituted, namely:

“6. Composition of the Council. – (1) The Council shall consist of twenty one members including a Chairman. The Chairman shall be appointed by the President of Pakistan. The Chairman of the Council shall be an eminent professional of known integrity and competence having at least sixteen years education from Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized university and at least five years of experience in media, law or any other social sciences and other members shall be nominated as follows: -

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(e) Chairperson or nominee of the Higher Education Commission;

(f) one member by the Leader of the House in the National Assembly;

(g) one member by the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly;

(h) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the House in the Senate of Pakistan

(i) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the House;

(j) one mass media educationist to be nominated by the Council.

(k) one women member to be nominated by the National Commission on the Status of Women in Pakistan.

2) The members of Council, excluding the Chairman, shall not be entitled to any salary and shall function in honorary capacity, except out of pocket expenses as may be prescribed. The Chairman shall be entitled to such salary, allowances and privileges as may be prescribed."

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

The people having research and education in the media shall also be given the opportunity to head the council as they have comparatively better understanding of the field. Also members from Senate of Pakistan shall also have the representation in the Council as the members from National Assembly are already represented.

**SENATOR MUHAMMAD JAVED ABBASI**  
Member-in-Charge

**As**  
**[BILL INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]**

**A**

**BILL**

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Provided that none of the organizations mentioned above shall nominate any member from its office bearers, nor any member of the Press Council shall contest an office of the Organization;

- (d) Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council;



- (e) Chairperson or nominee of the Higher Education Commission;
- (f) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the House in the National Assembly;
- (g) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly;
- (h) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the House in Senate of Pakistan;
- (i) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate of Pakistan;
- (j) one mass media educationist to be nominated by the Council; and
- (k) one women member to be nominated by the National Commission on the Status of Women in Pakistan.

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Member-in-Charge