

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]**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:-

- (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."

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