

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

BILL

further to amend the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (XXXIV of 1997), in its application to the Islamabad Capital Territory, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2021.

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

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment in section 2, Act XXXIV of 1997.- In the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (XXXIV of 1997), hereinafter to referred to as the said Act, in section 2, after clause (xxiv), the following new clause (xxiv-a) shall be inserted, namely:-

“(xxiv-a) “Littering” means depositing, dropping, placing or throwing litter, any article or thing including wrappers, plastic bottles, the discarded ends of cigarettes, cigars and like products, and discarded chewing-gum and the discarded remains of other products designed for chewing in any public place including public transport except in a dustbin provided for the deposit of rubbish.”

3. Insertion of new section 16A, Act XXXIV of 1997. - In the said Act, after section 16, the following new section 16A, shall be inserted, namely:-

“16A Prohibition of littering.- (1) No person shall throw down, drop or otherwise deposit or leave any litter whatsoever in such circumstances as to cause, or contribute to, or tend to lead to, the defacement by litter in any place whether on land or in water:

Provided that no offence is committed under sub-section (1) where the littering is—

- (a) Authorized by law; or
- (b) Done by or with the consent of the owner, occupier or other person having control of the place where it is deposited."

4. Amendment of section 17, Act XXXIV of 1997. - In the said Act, in section 17, after sub-section (8), the following new sub-section (9) shall be added, namely:-

"(9) Whoever contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of section 16A without reasonable cause shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, and in case of continuing contraventions, or failure with an additional fine which extend to five thousand rupees for every day during which such contravention continues."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Litter is trash when it ends up outside a bin or landfill. The pure land of Pakistan is getting impure due to litter. Litter has hazardous impacts not only on environment but also on animals and people. Plastic waste suffocates, disables and kills thousands of animals each year. Litter cause vehicle accidents and injuries, smother plants, start fires and harm or kill animals. It also attracts rats and harmful bacteria. It costs residents and local, Provincial and Federal Governments millions of rupees to pick up litter, reverse the effects of littering and prevent litter. Littering can encourage the spread of pest species and diseases. Pakistan is a country of magnificent beauty, with scenes that will leave any person awestruck. Littered places just looks gross and depreciates the aesthetic value of the surrounding environments. Similarly, it affects local tourism as it makes city areas and roadside look disgusting.

2. Thus need is felt to comprehensively deliberate and legislate upon issues related to littering and its solutions. The situation clamors to introduce the said bill.

3. The Bill has been designed to achieve the above said purpose.

**SENATOR FAISAL JAVED
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**

