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**BILL**

*further to amend the Elections Act, 2017*

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017), for the purpose hereinafter appearing;

AND WHEREAS existing provision of section 6 (3) of the Elections Act, 2017 authorizes the Election Commission to constitute a bench comprising three or more members of the Commission to hear and decide complaints, applications, petitions or appeal etc. but due to said provision only one bench can be constituted since the total number of members of the Commission including the Chairman is five. The Commission is, therefore, facing immense difficulty in disposing of higher numbers of such complaints, petitions or appeal etc. through a singly bench. Hence, the instant amendment is necessary to take immediate action to facilitate the Commission for constitution of more benches to effectively dispose of such complaints, petitions or appeals etc.;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2018.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 6, Act XXXIII of 2017.-** In the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017), in section 6, in sub-section (3), for the word "three" the word "two" shall be substituted.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

Existing provision of Section 6 (3) of the Elections Act, 2017 authorizes the Election Commission to constitute a bench comprising three or more members of the Commission to hear and decide complaints, applications, petitions or appeal etc.

**2.** The Commission faces immense difficulty in disposing of higher numbers of such appeals / complaints etc. through a single bench. Hence, the instant amendment is incorporated into the Act to facilitate the Commission for constitution of more benches to effectively dispose of such complaints / petitions / appeal.