

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

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;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2017.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 203, Act XXXIII of 2017.-** In the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017), in section 203, in sub-section (1), for the full stop occurring at the end a "colon" shall be substituted and thereafter the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:-

"Provided that the person shall not be appointed or serve as an office-bearer of a political party if he is not qualified to be, or is disqualified from being, elected or chosen as a Member of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) under any law for the time being in force."

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

Subsequent to the enactment of the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017) an anomalous position has arisen in Pakistan wherein a person disqualified to be a Member of Parliament can become an office bearer including the head of any Political Party.

2. This may enable an unelected person, who is disqualified by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a Member of Parliament, to determine the policies and take decisions of any Party from outside the Parliament.

3. The Parliament itself is thus exposed to becoming hostage to a person who himself is barred from entering it.

4. A person who is not eligible to be elected as a Member of Parliament on account of being disqualified to be a Member of Parliament should not become an office bearer of any political party. The Bill is designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

**SENATOR SYED SHIBLI FARAZ**

**SENATOR TAJ HAIDER**

**SENATOR SIRAJUL HAQ**

**SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA**

**SENATOR MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN SWATI**

**SENATOR SALEEM MANDVIWALA**

**SENATOR MOHSIN AZIZ**

**SENATOR MUKHTIAR AHMED DHAMRAH @ AAJIZ**

**SENATOR NAUMAN WAZIR KHATTAK**

**SENATOR LIAQAT KHAN TARAKAI**

**SENATOR BRIG. (R) JOHN KENNETH WILLIAMS**

**SENATOR SAMINA SAEED**

**MEMBERS-IN-CHARGE**