

A
BILL

further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2024.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of Article 1 of the Constitution.- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as the Constitution, in Article 1, in clause (2), for paragraph (a), the following shall be substituted, namely: -

“(a) the Provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Punjab, Sindh and South Punjab;

Explanation: - The Province of South Punjab shall comprise the existing administrative divisions of Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Multan. The Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Multan Divisions shall stand excluded from the Province of Punjab.”

3. Amendment of Article 51 of the Constitution. - In the Constitution, in Article 51, -

(i) in clause (3), for the table, the following shall be substituted, namely: -

	“General Seats	Women Seats	Total Seats
Balochistan	16	4	20
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	45	10	55
Punjab	95	22	117
Sindh	61	14	75
South Punjab	46	10	56
Federal Capital	3	—	3
Total.	266	60	326”

- (ii) after clause 3, the following new clause (3A) shall be inserted, namely:-

"(3A) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (3) or any other law for the time being in force, the women elected on reserved seats from Punjab to the National Assembly in the general elections of 2024 shall continue till dissolution of the on-going National Assembly and thereafter this clause shall stand omitted."

4. Amendment of Article 59 of the Constitution. - (1) In the Constitution, in Article 59,-

- (i) in clause (1), -
- (a) for the words "ninety-six" the words "one hundred and nineteen" shall be substituted;
- (b) in paragraph (f), for the word "four" the word "five" shall be substituted;
- (ii) in clause (3), in paragraph (f), for the word "two" occurring for the second time, the word "three" shall be substituted; and
- (iii) after clause (3), amended as aforesaid, the following new clauses (3A) and (3B) shall be inserted, namely: -

"(3A) Notwithstanding the provisions of clause (3) or any other law for the time being in force, of the members elected by the Provincial Assembly of the new Province of South Punjab,-

- (a) under paragraph (a), seven shall retire in March, 2027 and seven shall retire in March, 2031;
- (b) under paragraph (d), two shall retire in March, 2027 and two shall retire in March, 2031;
- (c) under paragraph (e) two shall retire in March, 2027 and two shall retire in March, 2031; and
- (d) under paragraph (f), the member shall retire in March 2031;

(3B) Notwithstanding the provision of clauses (1) and (3) or any other law for the time being in force, members elected from the Province of the Punjab prior to the creation of the new Province of South Punjab shall complete their respective terms of the office and thereafter this clause and clause (3A) shall stand omitted."

5. Amendment of Article 106 of the Constitution. - In the Constitution, in Article 106, -

- (i) in clause (1), for the Table the following shall be substituted, namely:-

	General seats	Women	Non-Muslims	Total Seats
Balochistan	51	11	3	65
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	115	26	4	145
Punjab	202	45	5	252
Sindh	130	29	9	168
South Punjab	95	21	3	119"

- (ii) after clause (1) amended as aforesaid, the following new clause (1A) shall be inserted, namely: -

"(1A) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (1) or any other law for the time being in force, members of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab elected in the general elections, 2024 on reserved seats for women and Non-Muslims shall continue till dissolution of the Provincial Assembly and thereafter this clause, including the proviso shall stand omitted:

Provided that a women member or a Non-Muslim member elected on a reserved seat to the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab having a domicile in South Punjab Province may opt to be a member of the Provincial Assembly of that Province."

6. Amendment of Article 154 of the Constitution. - In the Constitution, in Article 154, after clause (1), the following new clauses shall be inserted, namely: -

"(1A) As and when new Province or territories are included in the territories comprising Pakistan under Article 1, the Council shall determine, within three months, the apportionment, distribution, adjustment, allocation and transfer among the Federal Government and Provincial Government of the existing and new Provinces or territories of,-

- (a) water and other natural resources;
- (b) present employees and future job quotas in the bureaucracy;

- (c) physical, monetary and other assets and liabilities and rights: and
- (d) other ancillary matters.

(1B) The determination under clause (1A) shall be based on recommendations of a National Commission for new Provinces, comprising eminent and reputable technical, financial, legal and other experts, to be constituted by the Speaker, National Assembly in consultation with Chairman Senate and Leaders of the House and Leaders of the Opposition. The National Commission for new Provinces shall work for this purpose and for consideration of the proposals for new Provinces referred thereto by resolutions of both Houses."

7. Amendment of Article 175A of the Constitution. - In the Constitution, in Article 175A, after clause (6), the following new clause (6A) shall be inserted, namely: -

"(6A) For initial appointment of the Chief Justice and Judges of the South Punjab High Court, the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court shall also be member of the Commission."

8. Amendment of Article 198 of the Constitution. - In the Constitution, in Article 198, -

- (i) after clause (1A), the following new clause (1B) shall be inserted, namely:

"(1B) The High Court for South Punjab shall have its principal seat in Multan."

- (ii) in clause (3), for the words "each at Bahawalpur, Multan and" the word "at" shall be substituted.

9. Amendment of Article 218 of the Constitution. - In the Constitution, in Article 218, in clause (2), in sub-clause (b) for the word "four" the word "five" shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The creation of the South Punjab Province is imperative to address deep-rooted socio-economic challenges and administrative disparities within the region. Covering approximately 52 percent of Punjab's total area and hosting nearly 40 percent of its population, South Punjab continues to suffer from lack of basic amenities including education, healthcare and infrastructure. Establishing South Punjab as a separate Province presents an opportunity to empower the region with greater autonomy and resources, enabling tailored development strategies to uplift its communities and bridge the gap in standards of living compared to other parts of the Province. The resolution passed by the Punjab Assembly on 9th May, 2012, with support from members of political parties on both sides of the House underscores the widespread recognition of the urgent need for the creation of the South Punjab Province.

2. This constitutional amendment Bill seeks to meet their very genuine demand for creating the Province of South Punjab comprising the existing administrative divisions of Bahawalpur, Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan.
3. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

**SENATOR AON ABBAS
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**