

A

BILL

to provide for the establishment of Pakistan Psychological Council

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish an international standard council named as Pakistan Psychological Council to register psychologists and to recognize institutions and organizations in public and private sectors imparting psychological research and knowledge and education in order to regulate and encourage and to promote research training, technological development with value, ideals, ethical standards and professional knowledge and matters connected therewith and incidental thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**- (1) This Act shall be called the Pakistan Psychological Council Bill, 2024.

- (2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.**- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

- (a) "Act" means the Pakistan Psychological Council Act, 2018;
- (b) "Board of Governors" means the Board of Governors of the Pakistan Psychological Council;
- (c) "Council" means the Pakistan Psychological Council constituted under this Act.
- (d) "Director" means the Director of administrative wing or institute for research and training;
- (e) "directing staff" means directing staff of the Council constituted under this Act;
- (f) "Institute" means policy making institute for the training, research and development in the field of psychology;
- (g) "member" means the member of the Board of Governors;
- (h) "President" means the President of the Council;
- (i) "registered psychologists" means a psychologist having at least master degree or equivalent or sixteen years of education with two years experience in the field of psychology, applied psychology, behavioral sciences and registered as such with the Council;
- (j) "prescribed" means prescribed by statutes, regulations or rules under this Act;
- (k) "PPA" means Pakistan Psychological Association;
- (l) "Registrar" means the Registrar of the Council;

- (m) "statutes" "regulations" and "rules" mean the statutes, regulations and rules made or deemed to have been made under this Act;
- (n) "Secretary Administration" means the Secretary administration of the Council; and
- (o) "Treasurer" means the Treasurer of the Council.

CHAPTER II COUNCIL AND BOARD

3. **Establishment of the Council.** - (1) As soon as may be, after the commencement of this Act, the Federal Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, establish a council to be known as the Pakistan Psychological Council for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) The principal office and establishments of the Council shall be at Islamabad and it may set up its offices in the provincial capitals or at such place or places in the country as it may deem appropriate.

(3) The Council shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its own name and, subject to and for the purposes of this Act, may enter into contracts and may acquire, purchase, take, hold and enjoy moveable and immovable property of every description and may convey, assign, surrender, yield up, charge, mortgage, demise, reassign, transfer or otherwise dispose of or deal with, any moveable or immovable property or any interest vested in it.

(4) The common seal of the Council shall be kept in the custody of the President or such other person as may be prescribed by regulations and documents required or permitted to be executed under the common seal shall be specified and authenticated in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations.

4. **Composition of the Council.** - (1) The Pakistan Psychological Council shall consist of -
- (a) President and members of Board of Governors;
 - (b) Registrar, Secretary, Treasurer and the Directors; and
 - (c) directing staff.

5. **Board of Governors.** - The Council shall have the Board of Governors comprising -

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| (a) | President, Pakistan Psychological Council with minimum twenty years of experience | <i>Elected by registered psychologists</i> |
| (b) | Five Vice-Presidents one from each province and Federal Capital | <i>Elected by registered psychologists</i> |
| (c) | one MNA (psychologist or behavioural scientist) nominated by the Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan | <i>Member</i> |
| (d) | Executive Director Higher Education Commission | <i>Member</i> |
| (e) | From each province one psychologist working in education, health, or Provincial Public Service Commission with minimum fifteen years of experience nominated by Provincial Governments | <i>Ex-officio Members</i> |
| (f) | President Pakistan Psychological Association | <i>Ex-officio Member</i> |

- (g) Registrar of the Council
- (h) Ten elected members with minimum fifteen years of experience from registered psychologists
- (i) two professors of psychology or applied psychology with highest international publications to be nominated by Higher Education Commission.

Secretary
Members

6. **Functions of the Board of Governors** - (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board of Governors shall be the supreme body of the Pakistan Psychological Council.

(2) The Board of Governors shall perform the following functions, namely: -

- (a) to formulate or approve the policies and the plans governing the activities of the Council;
- (b) to review and approve the creation of any component of the Council as considered important to assist or improve the functioning of the Council;
- (c) to consider annual reports and budgets relating to the activities of the Council;
- (d) to make arrangements for the financial stability of the Council for ensuring the future operations, the continuity and preservation of the autonomy of the Council and its activities;
- (e) to approve all kinds of appointments;
- (f) to attend the grievances and matters of disputes; and
- (g) to take such initiatives as it may be consider necessary or desirable for the efficient and effective management and functioning of the Council;

(3) No act or proceedings of the Board of Governors shall be invalid by reason only of existence of a vacancy in, or defect in, the constitution of the Board of Governors;

(4) The Board of Governors shall meet twice in a year. Special meeting thereof may be called by the President or requisitioned in writing by not less than one-third members of the Board of Governors;

(5) Not less than seven clear days notice of a special meeting shall be given to the members of the Board of Governors and agenda of the meeting shall be provided.

(6) The decision of the Board of Governors shall be based on the majority vote of the members present and voting.

(7) In case of the equality of votes, the President shall have a casting vote.

(8) The meetings of the Board of Governors shall be convened by the Secretary of the Board of Governors with the prior approval of the President. In case of absence of the President, the members present may elect the chairperson for that meeting.

(9) Save as hereinafter provided, the Board of Governors shall make regulations for the conduct of Pakistan Psychological Council's, affairs and business.

(10) One-third of the total membership shall constitute the quorum for a meeting of the Board of Governors.

(11) All decisions or determinations taken by the Board of Governors shall be recorded in writing.

(12) The Board of Governors may remove any person from its membership or position of any council of the Pakistan Psychological Council, if such person-

- (a) has become of unsound mind; or

- (b) has become incapable which prevents him from functioning as such member of the Council;
- (c) has been convicted by a court of law of an offence involving moral turpitude; and
- (d) has been found involved in activities detrimental to the interests of the Pakistan Psychological Council.

(13) No person shall be removed from membership or position under sub-section (12) unless he has been informed by the President or Board of Governors in writing of the grounds on which he is being removed and shall be given opportunity of showing cause against it.

7. **Qualifications:-** Qualifications for election and appointment of office holder of the Pakistan Psychological Council shall be as under:-

Person	BPS	Selection and Qualifications	Term
President	BS-21	Eminent registered psychologist of known integrity, competence and standing stature with minimum of 20 years experience shall be elected by other registered psychologists.	3 years
Vice-President	BS-21	Eminent registered psychologist of known integrity, competence and standing stature with minimum of 20 years experience shall be elected by other registered psychologists.	3 years
Member	BS-20	Eminent registered psychologist of known integrity, competence and standing stature with minimum of 15 years experience, shall be elected by other registered psychologists.	3 years
Registrar	BS-20	(a) Registered psychologist on deputation from any institution; or (b) by promotion of the Directors and Secretary of the Council.	As prescribed in regulations to be made under this Act
Secretary	BS-19	(a) Registered psychologist on deputation from any institution; or (b) selection through open advertisement; or (c) by promotion.	As prescribed in regulations to be made under this Act
Treasurer	BS-19	(a) CA, ACCA, M.Com or ICMA on deputation from any institution; or (b) by selection through open advertisement; or	As prescribed in Regulations to be made under this Act.
Directors	BS-19	(a) Registered psychologists on deputation from any institution; or (b) by selection through open advertisement.	As prescribed in Regulations to be made under this Act
Directing staff	BS-18 and below	(a) Registered psychologists on deputation from any institution; or (b) by selection through open advertisement.	As prescribed in regulations to be made under this Act

8. **President.** - (1) The President shall exercise general control and supervision over the affairs of the Council and shall ensure observance of the provisions of the Act, the rules and that the regulations, policies and directions of the Council are properly executed.

(2) The President shall discharge such duties and perform such functions as are assigned to him by or under this Act or as may be prescribed by the Council and in particular shall-

- (a) keep in custody the records and seal of the Council;
- (b) submit plan of work and budget estimates for approval of the Board of Governors; and
- (c) submit to the Board of Governors, in accordance with the rules and regulations, reports on the activities of the Council.

(3) The President shall also have the power to. -

- (a) supervise the activities connected with the execution of programs for training, research, institutional consultancies and other services;
- (b) authorize expenditure provided for in the budget in accordance with the rules and regulations.
- (c) re-appropriate funds within the approved budget;
- (d) delegate his powers at appropriate levels of management subject to such conditions as he may deem fit;
- (e) execute deeds and documents on behalf of and with the approval of the Board of Governors; and
- (f) perform any other duty assigned to him by the Board of Governors.

(4) The President shall not, except with the prior approval of the Board of Governors in each case or unless already approved in the budget duly itemized, allow expenditure on items of civil works or capital expenditure on office or laboratory equipment or automobiles.

(5) The President may tender his resignation under his own hand addressed to the Board of Governors.

(6) In case of occurrence of vacancy of President, the Federal Government may appoint any from among the Vice-Presidents for a period of three months or till the election of the President, whichever is earlier.

(7) The President shall have the power to fill the posts temporarily for a period not exceeding six months and shall, with the approval of the Board of Governors, secure the services of the experts not exceeding one year.

9. **Powers and functions of the Council.** - (1) The Council shall be responsible for regulating all psychological services in public and private sector organizations and matters connected therewith and incidental thereto and operation in the country.

(2) The Council shall have the following powers and function, namely:-

- (a) accreditation and recognition of the institutions and departments of psychological and behavioral sciences both in public and private sector;
- (b) to register psychologists and maintain their record and award certificate of registered psychologists;
- (c) training of the registered psychologists;
- (d) publishing of the research journals and publication in the field of psychology;
- (e) administration of the Council;
- (f) publish guidelines for the psychologists on ethical practices;
- (g) engage with international organizations for the development of the profession of psychology;
- (h) development and maintain web-sites for the dispensation of information for the public and professionals;
- (i) appointment of the Registrar, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors, directing staff and to appoint persons thereto under prescribed conditions;
- (j) development parameters for the accreditation of the psychologists;
- (k) promotion of the field of psychology at national and international level by holding conferences, seminars, trainings and workshops;
- (l) publish list of the institutions recognized by the Council; and
- (m) any other functions deemed necessary by the Council.

(3) Federal and provincial ministries and departments concerned shall provide full support for exercising the powers and to execute functions of the Council.

10. **Funds.** - (1) There shall be established a fund to be known as Pakistan Psychological Council Fund, which shall vest in the Council and shall be utilized by the Council to meet charges in connection with its functions.

(2) The sources of the Fund shall be-

- (a) initial grant from the Federal Government.
- (b) funds allocated by the Federal Government each year; and

(c) donations and grants-in-aid from Provincial Governments or any donor or agency, national or international.

11. **Fees and other charges to be levied by the Council.**- (1) The Council may levy and collect such fees, in respect of any of its functions at such rates as may be determined, from time to time by the Council, in accordance with the rules.

12. **Budget.**- (1) The Council shall, in respect of each financial year, prepare on such date as may be prescribed a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure, including the revised and estimated budgets, requirements of grants-in-aid from Federal Government for the next financial year for consideration and approval of the Council. Any foreign exchange requirements within the overall annual approved budget by the Council shall be sent to the Federal Government for appropriate provision and allocation.

(2) It shall not be necessary for the Council to take prior approval from the Federal Government to spend money from its own generated funds and shall practice financial freedom as the Council may deem fit for furtherance of its functions.

13. **Accounting and audit.**- (1) The Council may open its accounts with any scheduled bank or financial institution within the framework of the prescribed rules. The Council may approach the Federal Government, for the grant of initial funds in this respect.

(2) The accounts of the Council shall be maintained as a double entry system and in the manner prescribed by the Controller General of Accounts.

(3) The Council shall cause to be carried out audit of its accounts by one or more auditors registered as chartered accountants within the meaning of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1961 (X of 1961).

(4) Notwithstanding the audit provided for in sub-section (3), the Auditor-General of Pakistan shall have the power to audit or cause to be audited the accounts of the Council.

(5) A copy of the audit report shall be sent to the Federal Government along with the comments of the Council.

(6) The Council shall take the requisite steps for the rectification of any objection raised by the Auditor-General of Pakistan.

Chapter III

RULES AND REGULATIONS

14. **Power to make rules.**- The Council may, with the approval of the Federal Government, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

15. **Power to make regulations.**- The Council may, by notification in the official Gazette, make regulations, for its internal working and terms and condition of employees not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or the rules, for the carrying out of its functions under this Act.

Chapter IV

MISCELLANEOUS

16. **Submission of annual reports and returns.**- (1) Within three months of the conclusion of each financial year, the Council shall submit an annual report to the Federal Government in respect of the activities of the Council including the status of its existing programs, projects and further plans formulated in furtherance of its aims and objectives.

(2) The Federal Government may require the Council to furnish-

- (a) any return, statement, estimate, statistics or other information regarding any matter under the control of the Council;
- (b) a report on any subject related to the Council; and
- (c) a copy of any document in the custody of the Council.

(3) The Council shall expeditiously comply with the directions, specified under sub-section (2).

17. **Power to call for information.**- The Council may call for any person, involved directly or indirectly, and reasonably believed to having such information in his control or possession which is required for carrying out the purposes of this Act. The person so called upon to provide such information shall do so within the period prescribed by the Council and in case of failure to do so he shall be punished by imposition of such penalty which may not exceed one hundred thousand Rupees.

18. **Complaints.**- (1) Any aggrieved person may file a written complaint with the Council against contravention of any provisions of this Act or any rules or regulations made thereunder.

(2) The Council shall, on receipt of a complaint, cause it to be investigated as may be prescribed and provide an opportunity to the complainant as well as the person against whom such complaint has been made. The Council may, on completion of investigation, take any action as may be prescribed under this Act.

(3) The appeals against the decisions of the Council shall be referred to the Council, which shall formulate an appellate board from among its members, who shall decide the case on merit.

19. **Confidential information.**- (1) Except as provided under the regulations, no person shall communicate, or allow to be communicated, any record or information obtained under this Act to a person not legally entitled to that record or information or allow any person not legally entitled to that record or information to have access to any record obtained under this Act.

(2) A person who knowingly receives records or information obtained under this Act shall hold the record or information subject to the same restrictions under sub-section (1) as apply to the person from whom the records or information were received.

20. **Act not to override other laws.**- The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions made in any other law or the time being in force.

21. **Removal of difficulties.**- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, the Federal Government may, not later than a period of one year of the commencement of this Act, make such order, by notification in the official Gazette, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

22. **Policy directive of Federal Government.**- (1) The Federal Government may issue policy directives in accordance with the law and constitution to the Council in respect of any of its activities, powers and functions and whose compliance shall be binding on the Council, within the stipulated time.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), if there is any difficulty in implementation of the directions and guidelines of the Council or the Federal Government, the Council shall refer the case back to the Federal Government for its review specifying reasons for non-implementation, within the stipulated time, whose decision in this respect shall be final.

23. **Winding up of the Council.**- No provision of any law relating to winding up of bodies corporate shall apply to the Council. The Council shall only be wound up by the law to be enacted by the Parliament for winding up of the Council.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill is to provide a framework to regularize the field of mental health and psychological services in Pakistan and to achieve the national and international goals by supporting professionals in the disciplines of psychology for the sustainable development of the country on Islamic ideology and integrating academic, research information. Moreover, this legislation is for providing a code of conduct for the professionals and to reduce psychological stress and other mental ailments in the society by organizing and participating in national, regional and international workshops, seminars and conferences.

The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

Sd/-
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