

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A
BILL

further to amend the Islamabad Capital Territory Private Educational Institutions (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2013

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Islamabad Capital Territory Private Educational Institutions (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2013 (XI of 2013), for purposes appearing herein after and for matters ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act shall be called the Islamabad Capital Territory Private Educational Institutions (Registration and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2024.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 5, Act No. XI of 2013. - In the Islamabad Capital Territory Private Educational Institutions (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2013 (XI of 2013), in section 5, in sub-section (1),-

(i) in clause (b), after a phrase "security fee," the phrase "schedule of payment of fee, determination of fee and late fee penalty in accordance with the prescribed formulas keeping in view the current inflation rate of country," shall be inserted; and

(ii) after clause (b) amended as aforesaid; the following new clause shall be added, namely:-

"(ba) to remit, waive of the whole or any part of the fine or fee if satisfied that the delay in payment of the fees and contributions was unavoidable."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Schooling is an expensive business worldwide, especially if it is not subsidized by the Government. A typical family spends a significant chunk of its income on children's schooling, especially considering the relatively large family size of five to six persons, on average, in Pakistan. There is an impression that private schools are earning excessive profits. And this may be true as well in a few cases. However, the Supreme Court judgement on the private school fees seems to lack basic understanding of the economic, commercial and business considerations relating to the issue.

ALTHOUGH the 18th Constitutional Amendment devolved the department of education to the provinces, the centre has an Education Ministry to monitor and look after educational institutions under the Federal Government.

The first thing that needs to be regulated is the fee and fine that private institutions charge their students. Since education is a fundamental right of citizens, the Government would be justified in regulating the fees. What sort of profit private educational institutions should make must be decided by the Government.

The Bill has been designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

**SENATOR PALWASHA MOHAMMED ZAI KHAN
MEMBER-IN- CHARGE**