

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

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BILL

further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898

Whereas, it is expedient to Further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (XLV of 1860) and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.— (1) This Act may be called the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2024.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Insertion of a new section 297A, Act XLV of 1860.— In the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, (XLV of 1860), after section 297, the following new section shall be added, namely:-

"297A. Prohibition of magic, witchcraft and sorcery. — Whoever practices, advertises or provides services for magic, black magic, sorcery, witchcraft, or such acts in the disguise of spiritual healing or counselling shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, but shall not be less than six months, and with fine which may extend up to one million rupees.

Exemption. - This section does not extend to the spiritual counselling provided under license issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs."

3. Amendment of Schedule-II, Act V of 1898. — In the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898), in Schedule-II, after entry 297, the following new entry shall be inserted, namely,—

297A	Prohibition of magic, witchcraft and sorcery	Ditto	Warrant	Not Bailable	Ditto	Imprisonment of either description up to seven years and fine Which may extend upto one million rupees.	Court of Session
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STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

This is a matter of serious concern that ignorant malpractices such as magic, sorcery and black magic are being practiced openly by individuals and associations, who under the guise of counselling and spiritual healing are bent upon destroying the social and family fabric. Incidents of 'hate, deceit, injury, breaking of relationship and even threats to life and property of innocent citizens exposed to such quack healers have made hundreds of lives miserable. In this context there is a need of the hour to ban all such evils acts that replicate the phenomenon of spiritual healing and counselling to maintain general safety, wellbeing and peaceful minds in the society: This Criminal Law Amendment strives to safeguard society from evils.

SENATOR SAMINA MUMTAZ ZEHRI
Member-in-Charge