



SENATE SECRETARIAT

Report No. 12

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE



“THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND BAR COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025”

PRESENTED BY

**Senator Farooq Hamid Naek
Chairman
Standing Committee on Law and Justice**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE ON "THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND BAR COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025"

I, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, have the honour to present report on "The Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2025" introduced by Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, in the Senate sitting held on 19th May, 2025. The Bill, upon introduction, was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice is as under:-

1.	Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Chairman
2.	Senator Syed Ali Zafar	Member
3.	Senator Ahad Khan Cheema	Member
4.	Senator Shahadat Awan	Member
5.	Senator Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary	Member
6.	Senator Kamran Murtaza	Member
7.	Senator Khalil Tahir	Member
8.	Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
9.	Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro	Member
10.	Senator Hamid Khan	Member
11.	Minister for Law and Justice	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meeting held on 19th May, 2025, under the Chairmanship of Senator Shahadat Awan as Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, being the Member-in-Charge of the Bill, recused himself from chairing the proceedings to avoid any conflict of interest during the Committee's deliberations on the proposed legislation. The meeting was attended by the following hon'ble Members:-

hon'ble Members:-

1.	Senator Shahadat Awan	Acting-Chairman
2.	Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Member-in-Charge
3.	Senator Syed Ali Zafar	Member

4.	Senator Kamran Murtaza	Member
5.	Senator Khalil Tahir	Member
6.	Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
7.	Senator Hamid Khan	Member
8.	Minister for Law and Justice	Ex-Officio Member

4. The Committee considered the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2025, introduced by Senator Farooq H. Naek. The Bill aims to strengthen regulatory oversight within the legal profession by introducing more stringent eligibility criteria and enhanced disciplinary mechanisms. To ensure a consultative process, representatives of the Islamabad Bar Council and Provincial Bar Councils were invited to share their views. While they expressed reservations and opposed the Bill in its current form, they also submitted constructive proposals for establishing a more robust and transparent framework for the election and functioning of Bar Council office holders.

5. However, in light of the concerns raised by the Pakistan Bar Council, Senator Farooq H. Naek chose to withdraw the Bill, emphasizing the importance of respecting the Bar Council's role as a regulatory authority. He clarified that the objective of the proposed legislation was to uphold integrity and professionalism in the legal profession, not to undermine its independence.

6. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that the House may grant leave to the Member-in-Charge to withdraw "The Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2025", in terms of rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.


(RABEEA ANWAR)
 A.S / Secretary Committee


(SENATOR SHAHADAT AWAN)
 Acting Chairman

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

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further to amend the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Act, 1973, (XXXV of 1973) for the purposes hereinafter appearing:-

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act shall be called the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Act, 2025.
(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Amendment of section 5A, Act XXXV of 1973.**- In the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973 (XXXV of 1973), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 5A,-
 - a) in clause (a), for the word "five", the word "ten", shall be substituted; and
 - b) in clause (b), for the word "fifteen", the word "twenty", shall be substituted.
3. **Amendment of section 11A, Act XXXV of 1973.**- In the said Act, in section 11A, in clause (a), for the word "five", the word "ten", shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Given that Bar Councils function as regulatory bodies for the legal profession, it is anticipated that their members possess substantial experience and maturity. To qualify as President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, a minimum of ten years of practice before the Supreme Court is mandated under Rule 9A of the Supreme Court Bar Association Rules, 1989. Furthermore, the 26th Amendment to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan stipulates that the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) shall nominate a senior advocate of the Supreme Court for a two-year term as a member of the Judicial Commission. In the interest of justice, it is essential that Pakistan Bar Council members have relevant experience.

The Bar Councils play a pivotal role in upholding constitutional supremacy, the rule of law, and the independence of the judiciary. Therefore, it would be judicious to extend the required length of legal practice for eligibility to contest Bar Council elections to a minimum of ten years standing as an Advocate of the High Court for membership in Provincial Bar Councils and the Islamabad Bar Council. Similarly, a minimum of ten years standing as an Advocate of the High Court should be required for candidates contesting for membership in the Pakistan Bar Council. This measure would ensure that candidates possess the requisite expertise and experience to fulfil these critical responsibilities effectively.

**SENATOR FAROOQ HAMID NAEK
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**