

[AS PASSED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

further to amend the Pakistan Army Act, 1952

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 (XXXIX of 1952), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.-** (1) This Act shall be called the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **General Amendment, Act XXXIX of 1952.-** In the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 (XXXIX of 1952), hereinafter called as the said Act, for the expression "Chief of the Army Staff" wherever occurring, the expression "Chief of the Army Staff concurrently the Chief of the Defense Forces" shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment of Chapter 1A, Act XXXIX of 1952.-** In the said Act, in Chapter 1A, in the heading, for the words and comma "CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE", the words "COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC COMMAND" shall be substituted.

4. **Amendment of section 8, Act XXXIX of 1952.-** In the said Act, in section 8, clause (2A) shall be omitted.

5. **Amendment of section 8A, Act XXXIX of 1952.-** In the said Act, in section 8A,

(a) in sub-section (1), for the full stop at the end a colon shall be substituted and thereafter, the following new proviso shall be added:

"Provided that for the first appointment of the Chief of the Army Staff concurrently the Chief of the Defense Forces under paragraph (a) of clause (4) of Article 243 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the tenure under this section shall commence from the date of notification of the said office."

Explanation I.- On issuance of notification of the first appointment of the Chief of the Army Staff concurrently the Chief of the Defense Forces under this sub-section, the existing tenure of the incumbent Chief of the Army Staff shall be deemed to have recommenced from the date of such notification.

Explanation II.- The provisions of sub-section shall *mutatis mutandis* apply where a General is promoted as a Field Marshal.”;

- (b) after sub-section (1), the following new sub-section (2) shall be inserted, namely:-

“(2) The Federal Government shall determine the duties, functions and responsibilities of the Chief of the Army Staff concurrently the Chief of the Defense Forces including but not limited to his functions and responsibilities regarding multi-domain integration, necessary restructuring and optimum jointness of the Armed Forces.”; and

- (c) the existing sub-section (2) shall be re-numbered as sub-section (3).

6. **Amendment of section 8B, Act XXXIX of 1952.-** In the said Act, in section 8B,-

- (a) in the heading, the expression “or”, the expression “and/or” shall be substituted;
- (b) in sub-section (1), the word and comma “or,” after the word and comma “years,” shall be omitted;
- (c) in sub-section (1), for the full stop a semi-colon shall be substituted and following Explanation shall be inserted:

“Explanation:- The provisions of sub-section shall *mutatis mutandis* apply where a General is promoted as a Field Marshal.”.

7. **Amendment of section 8C, Act XXXIX of 1952.-** In the said Act, in section 8C, for the full stop a semi-colon shall be substituted and following Explanation shall be inserted:

“Explanation:- The provisions of Article 243 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan applicable to a

Field Marshal shall apply where a General is promoted to the said rank.”.

8. **Substitution of sections 8D, 8E and 8F Act XXXIX of 1952.**- In the said Act, for section 8D, 8 E and 8F, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“8D. Appointment of the Commander of the National Strategic Command.- (1) The Prime Minister may, on the recommendation of the Chief of the Army Staff concurrently the Chief of the Defense Forces, appoint the Commander of the National Strategic Command, from amongst Generals in the Pakistan Army, for a tenure of three (03) years.

(2) The terms and conditions of the Commander of the National Strategic Command shall be determined by the Prime Minister.

8E. Reappointment and/or extension of the Commander of the National Strategic Command - (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Prime Minister may, on the recommendation of the Chief of the Army Staff concurrently the Chief of the Defense Forces, reappoint the Commander of the National Strategic Command for additional tenure of three (03) years and/or extend the tenure(s) of the Commander of the National Strategic Command up to three (03) years, on such terms and conditions, as may be determined by the Prime Minister, in the national security interest or exigencies, from time to time.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law, or any order or judgment of any Court for the time being in force, the appointment, reappointment or extension of the Commander of the National Strategic Command, or the exercise of discretion by the appointing authority in this regard, shall not be called into question before any Court on any ground whatsoever.

8F. Retirement age, service limits of the Commander of the National Strategic Command.- The retirement age, service limits and removal prescribed for a General, under this Act and the rules and regulations made hereunder, shall not be applicable to the Commander of the National Strategic Command, during his tenure of appointment,

reappointment, or extension. Throughout such tenure, the Commander of the National Strategic Command shall continue to serve as a General in the Pakistan Army.

8G. Abolishment of the Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.- Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee shall stand abolished with effect from the twenty-seventh day of November two thousand and twenty-five.”.

9. Amendment of section 176, Act XXXIX of 1952.- In the said Act, in section 176, in sub-section (2), in clause (a), for the expression “and/or the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee”, the expression “and the Commander of the National Strategic Command, except a Field Marshal to whom the provisions of Article 243 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall apply to the extent of any inconsistency” shall be substituted.

10. Amendment of section 176A, Act XXXIX of 1952.- In the said Act, in section 176A, for the expression “and/or the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee”, the expressions “and the Commander of the National Strategic Command, except a Field Marshal to whom the provisions of Article 243 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall apply to the extent of any inconsistency” shall be substituted.

11. Amendment of section 176C, Act XXXIX of 1952.- In the said Act, in section 176C,-

(a) for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(1) The Federal Government may, on the recommendation of the Chief of the Army Staff concurrently the Chief of the Defense Forces and by order in writing, authorise the officer appointed as Vice Chief of the Army Staff or Deputy Chief of the Army Staff to exercise and perform such of the powers and functions vested in the Chief of the Army Staff under any law, rules, regulations, orders or instructions for the time being in force as may be so specified; and

- (b) in sub-section (2), after the word "Government" the comma and words ", on the recommendation of the Chief of the Army Staff concurrently the Chief of the Defense Forces" shall be inserted.
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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

It has been considered expedient to make consistent the subject laws with the proposed Constitutional Amendment Act, 2025 and to make consequential amendments in these laws.

2. The Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Pakistan Navy (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Pakistan Air Force (Amendment) Bill, 2025, prepared for the said purpose, respectively.
4. This Bill has been designed to achieve the aforesaid objective.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif
Minister-in-charge