

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

Bill

to amend the National Tariff Commission Act, 2015

WHEREAS, it is expedient to amend the National Tariff Commission Act, 2015 (XII of 2015) in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. **Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act shall be called the National Tariff Commission (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 4, Act XII of 2015.**— In the National Tariff Commission Act, 2015 (XII of 2015), hereinafter referred as the said Act, in section 4, in sub-section (1), for the word "five", the word "up to seven" shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment of section 5, Act XII of 2015.**— In the said Act, in section 5, for sub-section (2), the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"(2) A member of the Commission shall have at least—

(a) a masters or professional degree or qualification from an accredited university or institute in the field of law, business, economics, accountancy, tariffs and trade, commerce and trade or a trade related subject and having knowledge of trade remedy laws shall be an advantage; and

(b) fifteen years of professional work experience in the field of law, business, economics, accountancy, harmonized tariffs, commerce and trade, tariffs and trade or other trade related technical field and direct work experience in trade remedy laws shall be an advantage."

4. Amendment of section 7, Act XII of 2015.- In the said Act, in section 7, for sub-section (2), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(2) If the position of the Chairman becomes vacant, the Federal Government shall notify a member as Chairman."

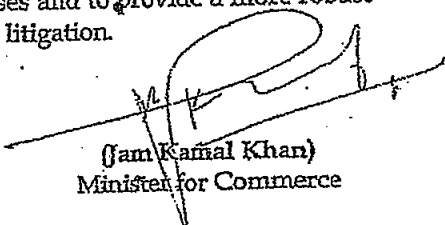
STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The National Tariff Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2026 seeks to enhance the operational efficiency and quasi-judicial capacity of the National Tariff Commission (NTC). The National Tariff Commission has been established under the National Tariff Commission Act, 2015 with the mandate to administer and enforce trade remedy laws of Pakistan, including anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations.

2. Under the existing National Tariff Commission Act, 2015, the Commission is comprised of five members, and with the increasing complexity of international trade disputes and the growing volume of trade remedy investigations, the current structure faces significant administrative bottlenecks. This Bill proposes the following key reforms:

1. Expansion of the Commission: Over time, the workload of the Commission has increased significantly owing to the growing volume and complexity of trade remedy cases. In order to enhance the institutional capacity of the Commission, ensure availability of adequate technical expertise, and facilitate timely disposal of cases, it has become necessary to strengthen the composition of the Commission by increasing the number of its Members. By increasing the number of members from five upto seven, the Commission can handle a higher volume of cases concurrently.
2. Refining Eligibility criteria for Members of the Commission: NTC's mandate involves complex legal, economic, and trade-related determinations, including anti-dumping and safeguard measures, which requires higher standard of technical expertise. Amendment in Section 5 regarding eligibility parameters of Members of the Commission will ensure multidisciplinary technical expertise of the members which will enable NTC to attract most relevant and suitable human resource to perform functions assigned to it under the Act.
3. Succession and Vacancy Management: The Bill amends Section 7 to harmonize the vacancy-filling process providing room for appointment of Chairman. While it allows any of the members to perform the functions of the Chairman temporarily to ensure continuity, it also mandates that a permanent appointment through the prescribed separate process must be completed within the prescribed time frame.

3. The proposed amendments are designed to modernize the NTC, strengthen its institutional framework, ensuring uninterrupted functioning of the Commission for swift disposal of trade remedy cases and to provide a more robust legal framework that can withstand the scrutiny of litigation.


(Jam Kamal Khan)
Minister for Commerce