

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

further to amend the Elections Act, 2017

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017), 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 Elections (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 9, Act XXXIII of 2017.**— In the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017), hereinafter called the said Act, in section 9, in sub-section (5), for the word "Supreme", the words "Federal Constitutional" shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment of section 66, Act XXXIII of 2017.**— In the said Act, in section 66, after the word "including", the words and comma "the Federal Constitutional Court," shall be inserted.

4. **Amendment of section 104, Act XXXIII of 2017.**— In the said Act, in section 104, in sub-section (1), after the word "including", the words and comma "the Federal Constitutional Court," shall be inserted.

5. **Amendment of section 104A, Act XXXIII of 2017.**— In the said Act, in section 104A, after the word "including", the words and comma "the Federal Constitutional Court," shall be inserted.

6. **Amendment of section 138, Act XXXIII of 2017.**— In the said Act, in section 138, for a full stop at the end, a colon shall be substituted, and thereafter the following proviso shall be added, namely: -

"Provided that the Speaker of the concerned Assembly or, as the case may be, the chairman of the senate may, on an application made by a member and for reasons to be recorded in writing, by a ruling delivered in the chamber, determine that the statement of assets and liabilities of that member shall not be published publicly by the Commission if such publication would pose a serious threat to the life or safety of the members or, as the case may be, his family, for a period not exceeding one year at a time and subject to the condition that a complete and true statement of assets and liabilities shall be submitted confidentially to the Election Commission."

7. Amendment of section 155, Act XXXIII of 2017.— In the said Act, in section 155, in sub-section (1), for the word “Supreme”, the words “Federal Constitutional” shall be substituted.

8. Amendment of section 202, Act XXXIII of 2017.— In the said Act, in section 202,-

- (i) in sub-section (6), for the word “Supreme”, the words “Federal Constitutional” shall be substituted; and
- (ii) in sub-section (7), for the word “Supreme”, the words “Federal Constitutional” shall be substituted.

9. Amendment of section 212, Act XXXIII of 2017. — In the said Act, -

- (i) in sub-section (2), for the word “Supreme”, the words “Federal Constitutional” shall be substituted; and
- (ii) in sub-section (3), for the word “Supreme”, the words “Federal Constitutional” shall be substituted.

10. Amendment of section 232, Act XXXIII of 2017.— In the said Act, in section 232, in sub-section (2), after the word “including”, the words and comma “the Federal Constitutional Court,” shall be inserted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The proposed amendment is to ensure a balanced approach between transparency and the protection of individual rights. While the publication of statements of assets and liabilities serves a vital role in promoting public accountability, enhancing trust in public office, and ensuring good governance, it is recognized that unrestricted or excessive disclosure could potentially compromise the personal security and privacy of parliamentarians and their families.

Sd/

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