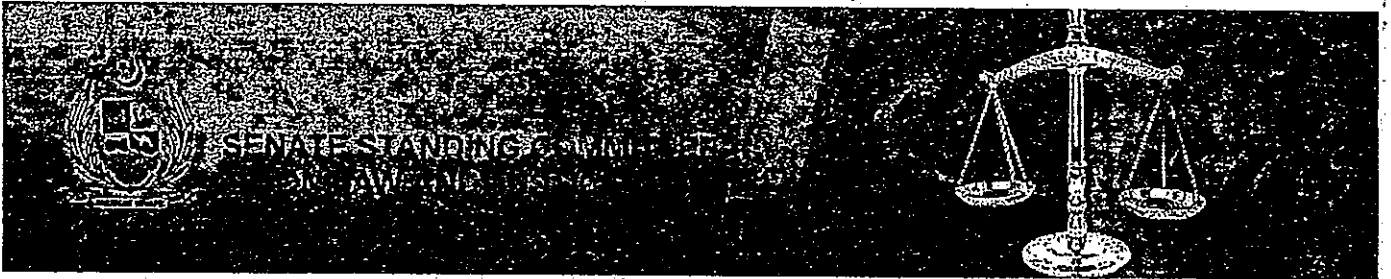




SENATE SECRETARIAT

Report No. 19

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE



“THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025” (AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 153)

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 CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025" (AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 153)

I, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, have the honour to present report on "The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025" (Amendment of Article 153) introduced by Senator Zeeshan Khan Zada in the Senate sitting held on 19-05-2025. 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 Shahadat Awan	Member
3.	Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro	Member
4.	Senator Rana Sana Ullah Khan	Member
5.	Senator Muhammad Tallal Badar	Member
6.	Senator Khalil Tahir	Member
7.	Senator Ahad Khan Cheema	Member
8.	Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
9.	Senator Syed Ali Zafar	Member
10.	Senator Kamran Murtaza	Member
11.	Senator Hamid Khan	Member
12.	Senator Rubina Naaz	Member
13.	Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati	Member
14.	Minister for Law and Justice	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meetings held on 4th September, 2025 and 3rd February, 2026, respectively under the Chairmanship of Senator Farooq Hamid Naek. Final consideration of the Bill was held in the meeting dated 3rd February, 2026, which was attended by the following hon'ble Members:-

1.	Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Chairman
2.	Senator Shahadat Awan	Member
3.	Senator Kamran Murtaza	Member
4.	Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
5.	Minister of State for Law and Justice	Ex-Officio Member



4. The Member-in-charge briefed the Committee that Pakistan ranks second lowest, ahead only of Afghanistan, on the Gender Gap Index as per the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, 2022. He stated that women hold only 4.5 per cent of senior, managerial, and legislative positions. Although women constitute nearly half of Pakistan's population, their representation in the National Assembly is approximately 20 per cent, with only 10 women, around 3 per cent of Members, elected on general seats. Women's representation within political parties at the national and provincial levels was also described as inadequate. The objective of the Bill, he stated, is to ensure meaningful representation of women in decision-making bodies, particularly constitutional forums, by amending Article 153 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan so as to require that, of the three members from the Federal Government nominated by the Prime Minister to the Council of Common Interests, at least one shall be a woman.

5. The Ministry opposed the Bill on the ground that Article 153 does not place any express or implied restriction on the appointment of women as members of the CCI. It was submitted that a woman possessing the requisite qualifications may already be appointed as a member of the CCI by the Prime Minister under the existing constitutional framework; therefore, the proposed amendment is neither legally necessary nor constitutionally required. The Ministry further pointed out that Federal Ministers holding portfolios relevant to matters placed before the CCI are nominated by the Prime Minister, and any increase in the number of members nominated by the Prime Minister may give rise to objections from the Provinces due to a potential alteration in the voting balance within the CCI.

6. The Committee noted that the Member-in-charge of the Bill had been afforded ample opportunity in the previous meeting to defend and explain the legislative proposal; however, he did not attend the present meeting owing to a boycott. The Committee further observed that it had already sought extensions in the prescribed time period for presentation of its report on three occasions under the Rules of Procedure, and that any further extension would be unwarranted.

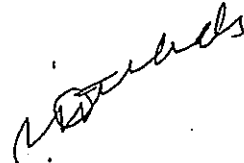
7. The Committee, while acknowledging that the representation of women is essential in all walks of life in Pakistan, was of the considered view that the objective sought to be achieved can be effectively realized within the existing constitutional framework. The Committee observed that constitutional amendments should be undertaken only where a demonstrable constitutional bar or deficiency exists, and since

Article 153 does not restrict the appointment of women as members of the Council of Common Interests, the proposed amendment would be declaratory in nature and constitutionally unnecessary.

8. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that "The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025" (Amendment of Article 228), as introduced in the Senate, may not be passed by the House. (Copy of Bill is annexed).



(RABEEA ANWAR)
A.S / Secretary Committee



(SENATOR FAROOQ HAMID NAEK)
Chairman

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. **Short title and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of Article 153 of the Constitution.-** In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in Article 153, in clause (2), in paragraph (c), after phrase "three members", the phrase "including one woman" shall be inserted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Pakistan ranks second worst, better only than Afghanistan, on the Gender Gap Index in the 2022 World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report. It is country in which women have the smallest share of senior, managerial and legislative roles, at 4.5 per cent. Today, women constitute nearly half of the population of Pakistan, but they comprise only 20 percent of the National Assembly of those 70 women 60 are in the seats reserved for women and religious minorities (by appointment), while only 10 women, just 3 percent of parliamentarians, have been elected to a general seat.

2. The state of representation of women within political parties, at the national and provincial levels, is also dismal. Hence, this Bill.

**SENATOR ZEESHAN KHAN ZADA
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**