

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A
BILL

Further to amend the Travel Agencies Act, 1976 to the extent of the Islamabad Capital Territory

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Travel Agencies Act, 1976 (XXX of 1976), to the extent of the Islamabad Capital Territory, 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 Travel Agencies (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 1, Act XXX of 1976.**— In the Travel Agencies Act, 1976 (XXX of 1976), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 1, in sub-section (2), for the word "Pakistan", the words "Islamabad Capital Territory" shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment of section 2, Act XXX of 1976.**— In the said Act, in section 2,-

(a) in clause (a), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Secretary of the division concerned" shall be substituted; and

(b) After clause (a), amended as aforesaid, the following new clauses shall be inserted namely:-

"(aa) "Controller" means a Controller appointed under section 2A and includes a Deputy Controller and an Assistant Controller and such other person as may be authorized by the Secretary of the division concerned by notification in the official Gazette to perform all or any of the functions of the Controller;

(ab) "division concerned" means the division to which business of this Act stands allocated;"

4. **Insertion of section 2A, Act XXX of 1976.**— In the said Act, after section 2, amended as aforesaid, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

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"2A. - (1) The Secretary may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint a person to be the Controller for the purposes of this Act and such number of Deputy Controller and assistant Controllers as may be necessary for the performance and discharge of such functions and duties as may be assigned to them by or under this Act and may, by General or special order, provide for the distribution or allocation of work to be performed by them.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Controller shall perform his functions and discharge his duties under the general supervision and control of the Secretary of the division concerned.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act, and of such orders or may from time to time be made by the Secretary of the division concerned in this behalf, the Deputy Controllers and Assistant Controllers shall perform their functions and discharge their duties under the general supervision and control of the Controller."

5. **Amendment of section 3, Act XXX of 1976.-** In the said Act, in section 3, for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "Secretary of the division concerned" shall be substituted.

6. **Amendment of section 4, Act XXX of 1976.-** In the said Act, in section 4, for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the word "Controller" shall be substituted;

7. **Insertion of section 6A, Act XXX of 1976.-** In the said Act, after section 6, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

"6A. Assistance to the officers of department of tourist services (DTS).- All officers of the Federal and Provincial Governments, including Federal Board of Revenue, Police and officers engaged in collection of land revenue shall render necessary assistance to the officers of DTS in discharge of their functions under this Act."

8. **Amendment of section 7, Act XXX of 1976.**- In the said Act, in section 7, for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the word "Controller" shall be substituted.

9. **Amendment of section 10, Act XXX of 1976.**- In the said Act, in section 10, for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the word "Controller" shall be substituted.

10. **Amendment of section 11, Act XXX of 1976.**- In the said Act, in section 11, for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring the word "controller" shall be substituted.

11. **Amendment of section 13, Act XXX of 1976.**- In the said Act, in section 13,-

a) in sub-section (1), for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "Secretary of the division concerned" shall be substituted.

12. **Amendment of section 14, Act XXX of 1976.**- In the said Act, in section 14, -

(a) in sub-section (1), for the words "twenty five thousand", the words "five hundred thousand" shall be substituted;

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

"(IA) Keeping in view the consumer price index or inflation, the amount of penalty may be enhanced as may be prescribed.", and

(c) in sub-section (2), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Secretary of the division concerned" shall be substituted.

✓ 13. **Amendment of section 15, Act XXX of 1976.**— In the said Act, in section 15, for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring the word "Secretary of the division concerned" shall be substituted.

Statement of Objects and Reasons

The Federal Government in Case No. 419/19/2017 dated 08th September, 2017 decided that Word "Federal Government" in all Acts & Rules may be replaced with the word "Appropriate Authority".

The Department of Tourist Services Islamabad under the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination operates under the following three statutes:-

- i. The Pakistan Tourist Guide Act, 1976
- ii. The Travel Agencies Act, 1976
- iii. The Pakistan Hotels and Restaurants Act, 1976

It is therefore necessary that the word "Federal Government" may be replaced with the word "Appropriate Authority" and revision of penalties. Accordingly three bills to incorporate the amendment in the Acts have been framed in consultation with Law & Justice Division and all relevant stakeholders.

The Bills have been designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives..

(Minister-in-charge)