

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

ON

GOVERNMENT BILL TO AMEND AREA STUDY CENTERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026

INTRODUCED BY

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING DR. KHALID MAQBOOL
SIDDIQUI

ON 8th MAY, 2026

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR BUSHRA ANJUM BUTT
CHAIRPERSON SSC ON FEDERAL EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL
TRAINING

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ON GOVERNMENT BILL TO AMEND AREA STUDY CENTERS, (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026.

I, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, have the honor to present report of the Committee on a **Government Bill to Amend the Area Study Centers, (Amendment) Bill 2026**, introduced by Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training on 8th May, 2026.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

1. Senator Bushra Anjum Butt	Chairperson
2. Senator Ashraf Ali Jatoi	Member
3. Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan	Member
4. Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan	Member
5. Senator Falak Naz	Member
6. Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
7. Senator Rahat Jamali	Member
8. Senator Kamran Murtaza	Member
9. Senator Khalida Ateeb	Member
10. Senator Naseema Ehsan	Member
11. Senator Gurdeep Singh	Member
12. Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi	Member
13. Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training	Ex-Officio Member

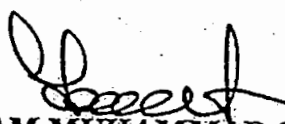
3. The Committee took up the Bill in its meeting held on 18th May 2026 which was attended by the following Members:

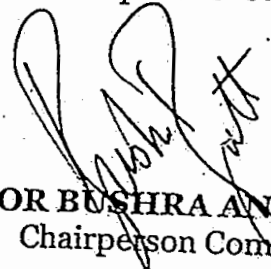
1. Senator Bushra Anjum Butt	Chairperson
2. Senator Khalida Ateeb	Member
3. Senator Rahat Jamali	Member
4. Senator Kamran Murtaza	Member
5. Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan	Member
6. Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan	Member

4. The Committee considered the Government Bill to amend the Area Study Centers, (Amendment) Bill 2026, moved by the Federal Minister for Federal Education & Professional Training, Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, in the Senate sitting held on 8th May, 2026, and referred by the House to the Committee for consideration and report. Members of the Committee were apprised that six Area Study Centers are currently functioning under the Ministry of Federal Education and

Professional Training and affiliated with the respective universities. These centers are governed under the Area Study Centers Act, 1975 and were established to study languages, cultures, social structures, and literature of different regions of Pakistan.

5. After detailed deliberations, the Committee unanimously approved the Bill with an amendment in Section 2 (Definitions), whereby clause (c) was amended to replace the definition of "Commission" from "University Grants Commission" to "Higher Education Commission". Further, Section 9-A, be omitted "Power to Transfer centers" "The Federal Government may by Order published in official Gazette and subject to such conditions, as may be specified therein, transfer any center to a university or as the case may be, the provincial Government". The Committee, thereafter, passed the Bill as amended and recommended that the Senate may consider and pass the Bill accordingly.
6. A copy of the Bill as introduced in the Senate is placed at **Annexure-A**, while a copy of the Bill as amended by the Committee is placed at **Annexure-B**. The Committee also approved the presentation of its report to the House. Accordingly, this report is submitted for the consideration of the House.


(GHULAM MUHAMMAD SHAR)
Secretary Committee


(SENATOR BUSHRA ANJUM BUTT)
Chairperson Committee

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

Bill

further to amend the Area Study Centres Act, 1975

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Area Study Centres Act, 1975 (XLV of 1975), 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 Area Study Centres (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 2, Act XLV of 1975.**— In the Area Study Centres Act, 1975 (XLV of 1975), hereinafter referred to as "the said Act", in section 2, after clause (d), the following shall be inserted, namely:-

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

3. **Amendment of section 4, Act XLV of 1975.**— In the said Act, in section 4, in clause (f), for the words "Federal Government", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.

4. **Amendment of section 5, Act XLV of 1975.**— In the said Act, in section 5, in sub-section (1), in clause (g),-

(a) after the word "experts", the comma and words "out of which one shall be female" shall be inserted; and

(b) for the words "Federal Government", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.

5. **Amendment of section 6, Act XLV of 1975.**— In the said Act, in section 6, in sub-section (1), for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted.

6. **Amendment of section 7, Act XLV of 1975.**— In the said Act, in section 7, in sub-section (1), in clause (c), after the word "experts", the comma and words "out of which one shall be female" shall be inserted.



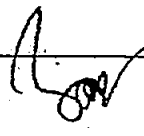
SHAH JEHAN
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Federal Education &
Professional Training
Government of Pakistan
Islamabad

7. Amendment of section 9, Act XLV of 1975.— In the said Act, in section 9,—

- (a) in sub-section (3), for the words "Federal Government", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted;
- (b) in sub-section (4), for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.

8. Amendment of section 9 A, Act XLV of 1975.— In the said Act, in section 9 A, for the words "Federal Government", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.

9. Amendment of section 11, Act XLV of 1975.— In the said Act, in section 11, for the word "Commission", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.


SHAH JEHAN
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Federal Education &
Professional Training
Government of Pakistan
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STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

Cabinet Division communicated Honorable Prime Minister's directives to ensure "33% women representations in all Federal Boards, Statutory Bodies, Public Sector Organizations and Allied Committees under Federal Government (Task No. T16367C)". In order to ensure the compliance of the above, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has started process of making necessary amendments in the existing laws of the autonomous organizations under the ambit of the Ministry.

2. There is a dire need to bring adequate amendments in the existing Area Study Centre Act No. XLV of 1975. The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid object.



Dr. Khalid Maqbool Saddiqui
Federal Minister for
Federal Education and Professional Training,
Islamabad

[AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE]

A

Bill

further to amend the Area Study Centres Act, 1975

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Area Study Centres Act, 1975 (XLV of 1975) 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 Area Study Centres (Amendment) Act, 2026.
(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Amendment of section 2, Act XLV of 1975.**- In the Area Study Centres Act, 1975 (XLV of 1975), hereinafter referred to as "the said Act", in section 2,-
 - (a) for clause "(c)" the following shall be substituted namely:-
"(c) "Commission" means the Higher Education Commission"
 - (b) after clause (d), the following shall be inserted, namely:-
"(d) "division concerned " means to which the business of the Act stands allocated;"
3. **Amendment of section 4, Act XLV of 1975.**- In the said Act, in section 4, in clause (f) for the words "Federal Government", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.
4. **Amendment of section 5, Act XLV of 1975.**- In the said Act, in section 5, in sub section (1), in clause(g),-
 - (a) after the word "experts", the comma and words ",out of which one shall be female" shall be inserted; and
 - (b) for the words "Federal Government", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.
5. **Amendment of section 6, Act XLV of 1975.**- In the said Act, in section 6, in sub-section (1), for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted.
6. **Amendment of section 7, Act XLV of 1975.**- In the said Act, in section 7, in sub-section (1) in clause (c) after the words "experts", the comma and words "out of which one shall be female" shall be inserted.

7. Amendment of section 9, Act XLV of 1975.- In the said Act, in section 9:-

- (a) in sub-section (3), for the words "Federal Government", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.
- (b) in sub-section (4), for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.

8. Amendment of section 11, Act XLV of 1975.- In the said Act, in section 11, for the words "Commission", the words "division concerned" shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

Cabinet Division communicated Honorable Prime Minister's directives to ensure "33% women representations in all Federal Boards, Statutory Bodies, Public Sector Organizations and Allied Committees under Federal Government (Task No. F16367C)". In order to ensure the compliance of the above, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has started process of making necessary amendments in the existing laws of the autonomous organizations under the ambit of the Ministry.

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