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[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

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Bill

further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (XLV of 1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898) for the purposes hereinafter appearing:

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of Section 286 of the Act XLV of 1860.- In the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (XLV of 1860), hereinafter referred to as the Code, for the expression "of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to three thousand rupees, or with both.", the expression, "of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to two hundred thousand rupees, or with both. ", shall be substituted.

3. Insertion of Section 286A, in the Act XLV of 1860.- In the Code, after Section 286, as amended , the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

" 286A. Illegal decanting of Liquefied Petroleum Gas.- Whoever, except in the manner prescribed by law, transfers Liquefied Petroleum Gas from one container to another or performs the act of decanting , in a manner that is unauthorized, unsafe, or likely to endanger human life, property, or public safety, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, or a fine which may extend to one million rupees, or with both.

Explanation: For the purposes of this section, "decanting" means the transfer of Liquefied Petroleum Gas from one container (including cylinders, tanks, or other vessels) to another, whether for the purpose of resale, sub-metering, or any other commercial or non-commercial use. The absence of a valid licence or authorization by the authorized Government or Authority shall be deemed sufficient proof of illegality unless the accused proves authorization to the contrary on a balance of probabilities."

4. Amendment of Section 261, Act V of 1898.- In the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898), hereinafter referred to as the Code, in paragraph (a), the number "286", shall be omitted.

5. Amendment of schedule II, Act V of 1898.- In the Code, in Schedule II, for the entries relating to section 286, the following entries shall be substituted, namely:-

286	So dealing with any explosive substance.	May Arrest without Warrant	Warrant	Not Bailable	Not Compoundable	Imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to two hundred thousand rupees, or with both.	Magistrate of the first or second class.
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6. Amendment of Schedule II, Act V of 1898.-In the Code, in Schedule II, after the entries relating to section 286, as amended, the following new entries shall be inserted, namely:-

286 A	Illegal decanting of Liquefied Petroleum Gas	Ditto	Warrant	Not Bailable	Not Compoundable	Imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, or a fine which may extend to one million rupees, or with both.	Court of Session
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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The unauthorized transfer of the LPG from commercial cylinders into the smaller or unregulated containers remains a pervasive and unregulated practice across Pakistan, particularly in the rural and semi-urban areas. This illicit activity circumvents licensed distribution channels, enabling roadside vendors and informal traders to supply gas at lower prices. The implications of decanting are stark and multifaceted. Safety hazards include improper decanting leading to overfilling, faulty valves, and substandard containers, resulting in frequent cylinder explosions,

leaks and fires. The criminal laws of Pakistan address the issue as explosive materials that cannot be termed as reasonable regulation of the offence. This amendment provides definition of decanting in the Pakistan penal Code and prescribes rigorous penalties for the offence.

Sd/-
Senator Shahadat Awan
Member-in-Charge