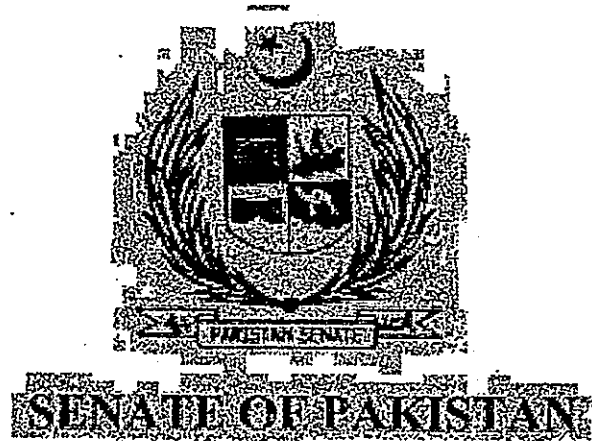


SENATE SECRETARIAT



**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY ON THE ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY FOOD
SAFETY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025**

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON THE ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY FOOD SAFETY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

I, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee on Science and Technology, have the honour to submit, on behalf of the Committee, this report on the Bill further to amend the Islamabad Capital Territory [The Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety (Amendment) Bill, 2025], introduced in the Senate sitting held on 19th May, 2025, and referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

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

(1)	Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Chairman
(2)	Senator Husna Bano	Member
(3)	Senator Nadeem Ahmed Butto	Member
(4)	Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro	Member
(5)	Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan	Member
(6)	Senator Ahad Khan Cheema	Member
(7)	Senator Musadik Masood Malik	Member
(9)	Senator Anwaar ul Haq	Member
(10)	Senator Faisal Javed	Member
(13)	Minister for Science & Technology	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee considered the said Bill in its meetings held on 7th July and 9th September, 2026. The last meeting was attended by the following Members and the Mover: -

(1)	Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Chairman
(2)	Senator Husna Bano	Member
(3)	Senator Muhammad Aslam Abrho	Member
(4)	Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan	Member
(5)	Minister for Science & Technology	Ex-Officio Member
(6)	Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri	Mover

4. While considering the said Bill, during the meeting held on 7th July, 2025, the DG PSQCA appreciated the spirit and intent of the proposed bill, observing that the issue extends beyond Islamabad and is prevalent across other provinces as well. She cited the example of the Government of Punjab, which has prohibited the sale of carbonated drinks in educational institutions through its education regulations, describing it as a commendable initiative. However, she was of the view that M/o of Science and Technology and the PSQCA should have

been consulted during the drafting stage. She pointed out that introducing separate provisions relating to standards could result in duplication of legislation, as PSQCA is the sole national authority responsible for formulation and notification of standards. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the mover may hold a consultative meeting with the PSQCA to deliberate upon the proposed amendments, examine the relevant technical and regulatory aspects, and prepare a comprehensive draft Bill, keeping in view international best practices, existing legal provisions, and stakeholder input, for further consideration of the Committee.

5. Accordingly, during the meeting of the Committee held on 9th September, 2026, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Mover of the Bill informed that on direction of the Committee, she consulted the DG, PSQCA on the proposed amendments including technical and regulatory aspects in detail. Accordingly, following amendments were made in the said Bill:-

➤ that for Clause 2 of the said Bill, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"2. Amendment of section 2, Act L of 2021. — In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2021 (L of 2021), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2, in sub-section (1), after paragraph "(xxxiii)", the following new paragraphs shall be inserted namely:-

"(xxxiv) **"High-Sugar Beverage"** means any beverage as defined in applicable Pakistan Standards notified by PSQCA;

(xxxv) **"High-Caffeine Beverage"** means any beverage as defined in applicable Pakistan Standards notified by PSQCA;

(xxxvi) **"Soft Drink"** includes carbonated drinks, energy drinks, and flavored beverages that fall under the definitions of High-Sugar or High-Caffeine Beverage;"

CLAUSE 3

➤ that in Clause 3 of the said Bill,-

- "
- a. in paragraph (ja), after the words **"limits"**, occurring for the second time, the words **"as notified under applicable Pakistan Standards"**, shall be inserted; and
 - b. in paragraph (jb), after the words **"beverages"**, occurring in the fourth line, the words **"as notified under applicable Pakistan Standards"**, shall be inserted."

CLAUSE 5

- that for Clause 5 of the said Bill, the following shall be substituted namely :-

“5. Insertion of New Section 20A, Act L of 2021. – In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2024, after Section 20, following new Section 20A shall be added namely:—

“20A. Mandatory Health Warnings. – All High-Sugar and High-Caffeine Beverages’ manufacturers and soft drink manufacturers shall be punished with the penalty of five hundred thousand rupees for the first offence, following cancellation of license in case of subsequent offences, on non-compliance of the mandatory display of clear health warnings and labeling requirement in accordance with Pakistan Standards notified by PSQCA.””

CLAUSE 6

- that for Clause 6 of the said Bill, the following shall be substituted namely :-

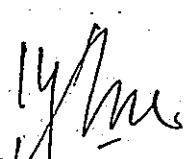
“6. Amendment in Section 36, Act L of 2021. - In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2024, in section 36, after the word, “rules” occurring in the third line, the expression, “within three months” shall be inserted.”

CLAUSE 7

- that for Clause 7 of the said Bill, the following shall be substituted namely :-

“7. Amendment in Section 37, Act L of 2021. – In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2024, in section 37, after the word, “regulations” occurring in the third line, the expression, “within three months”, shall be inserted.”

6. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the mover in introducing the proposed legislation, recognizing its objective of promoting public health and strengthening the food safety regulatory framework, particularly for the protection of children from the harmful effects of unhealthy food and beverage products. The Committee recommends that the Bill, as reported by the Committee, may be passed by the Senate. The Bill, as reported by the Committee, is at Annex-A and the Bill, as introduced in the Senate, is at Annex-B. The Committee also gave approval for presentation of this report to the House.


(KAMAL AHMAD FEROZ)
Secretary Committee


(SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA)
Chairman Committee

[AS REPORTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE]

A

BILL

further to amend the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2021

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2021 (Act no. L of 2021) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Act L of 2021. - In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2021 (L of 2021), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2, in sub-section (1), after paragraph "(xxxiii)", following new paragraphs shall be inserted namely:-

"(xxxiv) **"High-Sugar Beverage"** means any beverage as defined in applicable Pakistan Standards notified by PSQCA.

(xxxv) **"High-Caffeine Beverage"** means any beverage as defined in applicable Pakistan Standards notified by PSQCA.

(xxxvi) **"Soft Drink"** includes carbonated drinks, energy drinks, and flavored beverages that fall under the definitions of High-Sugar or High-Caffeine Beverages.

3. Amendment in Section 4, Act L of 2021. - In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2021, in Section 4, in sub-section (1), after paragraph (j) following new paragraphs shall be added namely:

"(ja) establish maximum permissible limits for sugar and caffeine content in beverages sold within the Islamabad Capital Territory. Beverages exceeding these limits as notified under applicable Pakistan Standards shall be classified as "unsafe" and removed from the market;

- (jb) collaborate with beverage manufacturers to promote the production and distribution of low-sugar and sugar-free alternatives. Tax incentives may be granted to manufacturers producing beverages in accordance with PSQCA prescribed Pakistan Standards;
- (jc) designate officers to monitor compliance with the provisions of this Act, for regulating and restricting the sale of high caffeine and high sugar beverages and soft drinks through monthly inspections of retail outlets and schools;
- (jd) launch campaigns in educational institutions as well as through social media, television, radio, and print media in order to educate the young persons and public about the health risks associated with High-Sugar and High-Caffeine Beverages and soft drinks;"

4. Insertion of New Sections 11A and 11B, Act L of 2021. - In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2024, after section 11, following new sections 11A and 11 B shall be added namely:-

"11A. Prohibition on Sale in Educational Institutions. - Any person or food business operator who sells or distributes High-Sugar and High-Caffeine Beverages to any educational institution shall be punished with a fine of not less than one hundred thousand rupees for the first offense, and two hundred thousand rupees for subsequent offenses."

11B. Age Restrictions, - Any person, food business operator, or vendor who sells High-Caffeine and High-Sugar Beverages to individuals under the age of 18 or without verifying the age of purchaser through his/her Identity Card, shall be punished with a penalty of fifty thousand rupees for the first offense and one hundred thousand rupees for subsequent offenses."

5. Insertion of New Section 20A, Act L of 2021. - In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2024, after Section 20, following new Section 20A shall be added namely:-

"20A. Mandatory Health Warnings. -All High-Sugar and High-Caffeine Beverages' manufacturers and soft drink manufacturers shall be punished with the penalty of five hundred thousand rupees for the first offence, following cancellation of

license in case of subsequent offences, on non-compliance of the mandatory display of clear health warnings and labeling requirement in accordance with Pakistan Standards notified by PSQCA."

6. Amendment in Section 36, Act L of 2021. - In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2024, in section 36, after the word, "**rules**" occurring in the third line, the expression, "**within three months**" shall be inserted.

7. Amendment in Section 37, Act L of 2021. - In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2024, in section 37, after the word, "**regulations**" occurring in the third line, the expression, "**within three months**", shall be inserted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The amendments proposed through this bill aim at protecting public health by regulating the availability and consumption of the high-sugar and high-caffeine beverages and soft drinks in Islamabad educational institutions, particularly among vulnerable populations such as children and adolescents. By imposing restrictions and promoting healthier alternatives, the Islamabad Food Authority should strive for creating a safer and healthier food environment for all residents. Incorporating these provisions would align the Islamabad Food Authority Act with its core objective of safeguarding public health. By addressing the consumption of potentially harmful products like *Sting, Redbull etc*, the Act would not only prevent the serious health risks after consuming these so-called energy drinks, but also set a benchmark for food safety standards in ICT. Hence, recognizing the adverse health effects of excessive sugar and caffeine consumption, particularly among children and adolescents, and in alignment with the objectives of the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2021, to ensure the availability of safe and healthy food products, the amendments have been proposed through this bill.

2. This bill has been designed to achieve the said purpose.

SENATOR SAMINA MUMTAZ ZEHRI
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE

BILL

further to amend the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2021

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2021 (L of 2021) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.-(1) This Act may be called the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Act L of 2021. - In the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2021 (L of 2021), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2, in sub-section (1),-

(i) After paragraph "(xvi)", the following new paragraphs shall be inserted, namely:-

(a) "(xvia) **"High-Caffeine Beverage"** means any beverage containing more than 32 milligrams of caffeine per 100 milliliters;

(b) "(xvib) **"High-Sugar Beverage"** means any beverage containing more than 6 grams of sugar per 100 milliliters;"

(ii) After paragraph "(xxvii)", the following new paragraph shall be inserted, namely:-

"(xxviiia) **"soft drink"** includes carbonated drinks, energy drinks and flavored beverages that fall under the definitions of High-Sugar or High-Caffeine Beverages;"

3. Amendment of section 4, Act L of 2021.- In the said Act, in section 4, in sub-section (1), after paragraph (j) the following new paragraphs shall be inserted, namely:-

"(ja) establish maximum permissible limits for sugar and caffeine content in beverages sold within the Islamabad Capital Territory. Beverages exceeding these limits shall be classified as "unsafe" and removed from the market;

- (jb) collaborate with beverage manufacturers to promote the production and distribution of low-sugar and sugar-free alternatives. Tax incentives may be granted to manufacturers producing beverages with sugar content below 3 grams per 100 milliliters;
- (jc) designate officers to monitor compliance with the provisions of this Act, for regulating and restricting the sale of high caffeine and high sugar beverages and soft drinks through monthly inspections of retail outlets and schools;
- (jd) launch campaigns in educational institutions as well as through social media, television, radio and print media in order to educate the young persons and public about the health risks associated with High-Sugar and High-Caffeine Beverages and soft drinks;".

4. Insertion of section 11A, and 11B, Act L of 2021. - In the said Act, after section 11, the following new sections shall be inserted, namely:-

"11A. Prohibition on sale in educational institutions.- Any person or food business operator who sells or distributes High-Sugar and High-Caffeine Beverages to any educational institution shall be punished with a fine of not less than one hundred thousand rupees for the first offense and two hundred thousand rupees for subsequent offenses.

11B. Age Restrictions.- Any person, food business operator, or vendor who sells High-Caffeine and High-Sugar Beverages to individuals under the age of 18 or without verifying the age of purchaser through his/her Identity Card, shall be punished with a penalty of fifty thousand rupees for the first offense and one hundred thousand rupees for subsequent offenses."

5. Insertion of section 20A, Act L of 2021. - In the said Act, after section 20, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

"20A. Mandatory Health Warnings.- (1) The manufacturers of High-Sugar Beverages, High-Caffeine Beverages and soft drinks shall clearly display health warning on their packaging, covering at least 20 percent of the label, stating " Excessive sugar consumption may lead to obesity, diabetes and dental issues, and high caffeine content is not recommended for children, pregnant women, or individuals sensitive to caffeine."

(2) Any person who violates of provision of sub- section (1) shall be punished with penalty of half million rupees for the first offence, followed by cancellation of license in case of subsequent offence."

6. **Amendment of section 36, Act I of 2021.**— In the said Act, in section 36, for the expression "may," the expression "shall," shall be substituted, and thereafter, after the expression "Gazette," the expression "within a period three months after coming into force of the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety (Amendment) Act, 2025 (Act No. of 2025)," shall be inserted.

7. **Amendment of section 37, Act I of 2021.**— In the said Act, in section 37, for the expression "may," the expression "shall," shall be substituted, and thereafter, after the expression "Gazette," the expression "within a period of three months after coming into force of the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety (Amendment) Act, 2025 (Act No. of 2025)," shall be inserted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The amendments proposed through this bill aim at protecting public health by regulating the availability and consumption of the high-sugar and high-caffeine beverages and soft drinks in Islamabad educational institutions, particularly among vulnerable populations such as children and adolescents. By imposing restrictions and promoting healthier alternatives, the Islamabad Food Authority should strive for creating a safer and healthier food environment for all residents. Incorporating these provisions would align the Islamabad Food Safety Act with its core objective of safeguarding public health. By addressing the consumption of potentially harmful products like Sting, Redbull etc., the Act would not only prevent the serious health risks after consuming these so-called energy drinks, but also set a benchmark for food safety standards in ICT. Hence, recognizing the adverse health effects of excessive sugar and caffeine consumption, particularly among children and adolescents, and in alignment with the objectives of the Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Act, 2021 to ensure the availability of safe and healthy food products, the amendments have been proposed through this bill.

2. This Bill has been designed to achieve the said purpose.

SENATOR SAMINA MUMTAZ ZEHRI
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE