

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

BILL

*further to amend the Offence of Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance,
1979*

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Offence of Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance, 1979 (Ordinance No. VII of 1979), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Offence of Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Ordinance No. VII of 1979.- In the Offence of Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance, 1979, (Ordinance No. VII of 1979), in section 2, for clause (a), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(a) "adult" means a person who has attained the age of eighteen years;"

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Offence of Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance, 1979 presently defines "adult" differently for males and females and also relies on the attainment of puberty, which has created ambiguity in the application of law and undermines the uniform protection of children. This Bill seeks to substitute the definition of "adult" to mean a person who has attained the age of eighteen years, thereby removing gender disparity, eliminating subjective reliance on puberty, and ensuring consistency with other statutes such as the Majority Act, 1875, the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, and the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018. The amendment also brings Pakistan's legal framework in conformity with its Constitutional guarantees of equality before law under Article 25 of the Constitution and its international commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

2. The Bill is designed to achieve the aforesaid object.

SENATOR SARMAD ALI
Member-In-Charge