

THE MUSIC IN MUSLIM SHRINES ACT, 1942

(VII of 1942)

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TEXT

**'THE MUSIC IN MUSLIM SHRINES ACT, 1942
(VII of 1942)**

[1st May, 1942]

An
Act

to restrict singing and dancing in Muslim Shrines.

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

- 1. Short title and extent.**— (1) This Act may be called the Music in Muslim Shrines Act, 1942.
(2) It extends to the whole of the Punjab.
- 2. Definitions.**— For the purposes of this Act the expression “Muslim shrine” shall mean a shrine of a recognised Muslim saint and shall include the premises of the shrine and the premises owned by and attached to the shrine.
- 3. Punishment for singing or dancing in Muslim shrines.**— If any woman or girl sings to the accompaniment of a musical instrument or dances with or without a musical instrument in a Muslim shrine, she shall be guilty of an offence under this Act and shall be liable on conviction to be punished with fine not exceeding five hundred rupees or with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding six months or with both such fine and imprisonment.
- 4. Punishment for abetment.**— If any person abets an offence punishable under the last preceding section, he shall, whether such offence be or be not committed in consequence of such abetment, and notwithstanding anything contained in section 116 of the ²[Pakistan] Penal Code³, be liable on conviction to be punished with the punishment provided for the offence.
- 5. Procedure.**— An offence punishable under this Act shall be cognizable, bailable, non-compoundable and triable by a magistrate of the first class.

¹For Statements of Objects and Reasons, published in the Punjab Government Gazette, 1941, Part V, p. 37; for Report of the Select Committee see *ibid.*, pp. 56-57 and *ibid.*, 1942, pp. 13-16; for Proceedings in Assembly, see Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume XIV, pp. 782-789 and Volume XVIII, pp. 251-252 and 674-687. This Act received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on April 25, 1942 and published in the Government Gazette (Extraordinary), Punjab, dated May 1, 1942, p. 53.

²Substituted for the word “Indian” by the Punjab Laws (Adaptation, Revision and Repeal) Act, 1954 (XV of 1955), published in the Punjab Gazette (Extraordinary), dated January 21, 1955, pp. 87-108, s. 2 read with First Schedule.

³XLV of 1860.