

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

to amend the Pakistan Academy of Letters Act, 2013

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Pakistan Academy of Letters Act, 2013 (IV of 2013) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act shall be called Pakistan Academy of Letters (Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Act IV of 2013.- In the Pakistan Academy of Letters Act, 2013 (IV of 2013), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2,-

(a) in clause (i), the word "and", occurring at the end, shall be omitted; and

(b) in clause (j), for the full stop at the end, a semi colon and the word "and" shall be substituted and thereafter the following new clause shall be added, namely:-

"(k) "secretary" means secretary of the Division concerned."

3. Amendment of section 4, Act IV of 2013.- In the said Act, in section 4, in sub-section (1),-

(a) for the words "Federal Government", the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted;

(b) for clause (b), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(b) Joint Secretary of the Division concerned"; and

(c) in clause (f), for the expression "FATA, FANA, NA", the words "Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan" shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 7, Act IV of 2013.- In the said Act, in section 7, in sub-section (2), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted.

5. Amendment of section 8, Act IV of 2013.- In the said Act, in section 8,-

- (a) in sub-section (2), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Prime Minister or a person authorized by him" shall be substituted; and
- (b) in sub-section (4), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Prime Minister or a person authorized by him" shall be substituted.

6. Amendment of section 10, Act IV of 2013.- In the said Act, in section 10,-

- (a) in sub-section (1), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Prime Minister or a person authorized by him" shall be substituted; and
- (b) in sub-section (2), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted.

7. Amendment of section 12, Act IV of 2013.- In the said Act, in section 12,-

- (a) in clause (w), for the word "Ministry", the word "Division" shall be substituted; and
- (b) in clause (y), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted.

8. Amendment of section 13, Act IV of 2013.- In the said Act, in section 13, in sub-section (1), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted.

9. Amendment of section 16, Act IV of 2013.- In the said Act, in section 16, in sub-section (2), for the words "Chairman of the Academy", the words "secretary of the Division concerned" shall be substituted.

10. Amendment of section 18, Act IV of 2013.- In the said Act, in section 18, for the words "Federal Government", the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted.

11. Amendment of section 19, Act IV of 2013.- In the said Act, in section 19, for the words "Federal Government", the words "Division concerned in consultation with the Establishment and Finance Divisions and all other concerned ministries and divisions" shall be substituted.

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Federal Cabinet in its meeting held on 08-11-2017, in case No.419/199/2017, decided that all Ministries and Divisions should in consultation with Law & Justice Division, make amendments in the respective Acts/ Rules and replace the words "Federal Government" with appropriate authority(ies).

The amendments in the Pakistan Academy of Letters' Act, 2013 through this bill namely "Pakistan Academy of Letters (Amendment) Act, 2019" will bring clarity in the statute. Besides decentralizing of powers and their conferment at appropriate levels. It will help to avoid unnecessary delays and will speed up the decision making. Moreover, uncalled for references to the Federal Cabinet will also be avoided. Therefore it is deemed imperative to introduce this Bill.

Minister-in-Charge