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PART III

**Other Notifications, Orders, etc.**

**SENATE SECRETARIAT**

*Islamabad, the 16th September, 2020*

**No. F. 24(23)/2020-Legis.**—Pursuant of sub-rule (4) of Rule 194 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, the following reports of the Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting presented to the Senate on 16th September, 2020, are published for information:—

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING ON THE PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020**

I, Senator Faisal Javed, Chairman Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on “The Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2020,” introduced by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi in the Senate sitting held on 13th July, 2020 and referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:

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[6086(2020)/Ex. Gaz.]

1.	Senator Faisal Javed	<i>Chairman</i>
2.	Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi	<i>Member</i>
3.	Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar	<i>Member</i>
4.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	<i>Member</i>
5.	Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	<i>Member</i>
6.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	<i>Member</i>
7.	Senator Kamran Michael	<i>Member</i>
8.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	<i>Member</i>
9.	Senator Moula Bux Chandio	<i>Member</i>
10.	Senator Rubina Khalid	<i>Member</i>
11.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	<i>Member</i>
12.	Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	<i>Member</i>
13.	Senator Atta-ur-Rehman	<i>Member</i>
14.	Minister for Information and Broadcasting	<i>Ex-Officio Member</i>

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meeting held on 26th August, 2020. The following attended the meeting :

1.	Senator Faisal Javed	<i>Chairman</i>
2.	Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar	<i>Member</i>
3.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	<i>Member</i>
4.	Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	<i>Member</i>
5.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	<i>Member</i>
6.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	<i>Member</i>
7.	Senator Rubina Khalid	<i>Member</i>
8.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	<i>Member</i>
9.	Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	<i>Mover</i>

2. The Committee had detailed discussion on the Bill. The Mover of the Bill Senator Javed Abbasi highlighted the objectives of the amendment Bill. He opined that Press Council of Pakistan being a media monitoring body should be headed by a media or law expert as he would have comparatively better understanding of the field. He further added that members from Senate of Pakistan should also have representation in the council as the members from the National Assembly are represented.

3. Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar stressed that a social scientist with understanding of law should also be eligible for the position of Chairman of the Council. The Chairman Committee highlighted that the minimum requirement of relevant experience for such position should not exceed more than five years in order to engage young and energetic professionals.

4. The Committee after deliberations proposed following amendments in the Bill:

i. **Substitution of section 6, Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002:** For section 6, the following shall be substituted, namely:

“6. **Composition of the Council.**—(1) The Council shall consist of twenty one members including a Chairman. The Chairman shall be appointed by the President of Pakistan. The Chairman of the Council shall be an eminent professional of known integrity and competence having at least sixteen years education from Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized university and at least five years of experience in media, law or any other social sciences and other members shall be nominated as follows:—

- (a) Four members by the All Pakistan Newspapers Society;
- (b) Four members by the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors;
- (c) Four members by the professional bodies of journalists:

Provided that none of the organizations mentioned above shall nominate any member from its office bearers, nor any member of the Press Council shall contest an office of the Organization;

- (d) Vice-Chairman Pakistan Bar Council;
- (e) Chairperson or nominee of the Higher Education Commission;
- (f) one member by the Leader of the House in the National Assembly;
- (g) one member by the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly;
- (h) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the House in the Senate of Pakistan;

- (i) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the House;
  - (j) one mass media educationist to be nominated by the Council;
  - (k) one women member to be nominated by the National Commission on the Status of Women in Pakistan.
- (2) The members of Council, excluding the Chairman, shall not be entitled to any salary and shall function in honorary capacity, except out of pocket expenses as may be prescribed. The Chairman shall be entitled to such salary, allowances and privileges as may be prescribed.”

4. With the above amendments, the Bill was put to vote, whereupon, all members present in the meeting voted in favour of the Bill with amendments.

5. The Committee recommends that “The Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2020,” 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.

Sd/-  
(ADNAN IBNE ASAD),  
*Secretary Committee*

Sd/-  
(SENATOR FAISAL JAVED),  
*Chairman Committee.*

**Annex-A**

[AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE]

A

BILL

*further to amend the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002*

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Substitution of section 6, Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002.**—In the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002), for section 6, the following shall be substituted, namely:

“6. **Composition of the Council.**—(1) The Council shall consist of twenty one members including a Chairman. The Chairman shall be appointed by the President of Pakistan. The Chairman of the Council shall be an eminent professional of known integrity and competence having at least sixteen years education from Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized university and at least five years of experience in media, law or any other social sciences and other members shall be nominated as follows:—

- (a) Four members by the All Pakistan Newspapers Society;
- (b) Four members by the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors;
- (c) Four members by the professional bodies of journalists:

Provided that none of the organizations mentioned above shall nominate any member from its office bearers, nor any member of the Press Council shall contest an office of the Organization;

- (d) Vice-Chairman Pakistan Bar Council;
- (e) Chairperson or nominee of the Higher Education Commission;
- (f) one member by the Leader of the House in the National Assembly;
- (g) one member by the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly;
- (h) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the House in the Senate of Pakistan;
- (i) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the House;

- (j) one mass media educationist to be nominated by the Council;
  - (k) one women member to be nominated by the National Commission on the Status of Women in Pakistan.
- (2) The members of Council, excluding the Chairman, shall not be entitled to any salary and shall function in honorary capacity, except out of pocket expenses as may be prescribed. The Chairman shall be entitled to such salary, allowances and privileges as may be prescribed.”

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The people having research and education in the media shall also be given the opportunity to head the council as they have comparatively better understanding of the field. Also members from Senate of Pakistan shall also have the representation in the Council as the members from National Assembly are already represented.

SENATOR MUHAMMAD JAVED ABBASI,  
*Member-in-Charge.*

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Introduced on 13-07-2020

**Annex-B**

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

*further to amend the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002*

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Substitution of section 6, Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002.**—In the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. XCVII of 2002), for section 6, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“6. **Composition of the Council.**—(1) The Council shall consist of twenty one members including a Chairman. The Chairman shall be appointed by the President of Pakistan. The Chairman of the press council shall be an eminent professional of known integrity and competence having at least sixteen years education from Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized university and substantial experience in media or law or academia and other members shall be nominated as follows:—

- (a) Four members by the All Pakistan Newspapers Society;
- (b) Four members by the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors;
- (c) Four member by the Professional bodies of journalists:

Provided that none of the organizations mentioned above shall nominate any member from its office bearers, nor any member of the Press Council shall contest an office of the Organization;

- (d) Vice-Chairman Pakistan Bar Council;
- (e) Chairperson or nominee of the Higher Education Commission;
- (f) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the House in the National Assembly;
- (g) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly;
- (h) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the House in the Senate of the Pakistan;
- (i) one member to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate of Pakistan;
- (j) one mass media educationist to be nominated by the Council; and
- (k) one women member to be nominated by the National Commission on the Status of Women in Pakistan.

(2) The members of Council, excluding the Chairman, shall not be entitled to any salary and shall function in honorary capacity, except out of pocket expenses as may be prescribed. The Chairman shall be entitled to such salary, allowances and privileges as may be prescribed.”

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The people having research and education in the media shall also be given the opportunity to head the Council as they have comparatively better understanding of the field. Also members from Senate of Pakistan shall also have the representation in the council as the members from National Assembly are already represented.

SENATOR  
MUHAMMAD JAVED ABBASI,  
*Member-In-Charge.*

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**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING ON THE PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020**

I, Senator Faisal Javed, Chairman Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on “The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill 2020, introduced by Senator Faisal Javed, in the Senate sitting held on 8th June, 2020 and referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:

- |     |                                       |                 |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | Senator Faisal Javed                  | <i>Chairman</i> |
| 2.  | Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi           | <i>Member</i>   |
| 3.  | Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar           | <i>Member</i>   |
| 4.  | Senator Khushbakht Shujat             | <i>Member</i>   |
| 5.  | Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah      | <i>Member</i>   |
| 6.  | Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi | <i>Member</i>   |
| 7.  | Senator Kamran Michael                | <i>Member</i>   |
| 8.  | Senator Pervaiz Rashid                | <i>Member</i>   |
| 9.  | Senator Moula Bux Chandio             | <i>Member</i>   |
| 10. | Senator Rubina Khalid                 | <i>Member</i>   |



11.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	<i>Member</i>
12.	Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	<i>Member</i>
13.	Senator Atta-ur-Rehman	<i>Member</i>
14.	Minister for Information and Broadcasting	Ex-Officio <i>Member</i>

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its two meetings held on 24th July, 2020 and 26th August, 2020. The following attended the meetings:

1.	Senator Faisal Javed	<i>Chairman/Mover</i>
2.	Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar	<i>Member</i>
3.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	<i>Member</i>
4.	Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	<i>Member</i>
5.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	<i>Member</i>
6.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	<i>Member</i>
7.	Senator Rubina Khalid	<i>Member</i>
8.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	<i>Member</i>

4. The Committee had detailed discussions on the Bill. The Mover Senator Faisal Javed explained that the Bill seeks to empower PEMRA to regulate employment related issues of the electronic media industry. He was of the view that the media workers are facing serious issues in the form of lay-offs, pay cuts and deferred payments and the Bill is aimed at averting exploitation of media employees through legislative measures by empowering PEMRA to look into HR (Human Resource) matters of the electronic media outlets.

2. Senator Pervaiz Rashid opined that empowering PEMRA with such a tool should not translate into misuse of authority by the regulatory body. He added that there have been such instances in the past where PEMRA has taken actions against licensees arbitrarily. Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar expressed that PEMRA being the regulatory authority is the appropriate forum for addressing employment issues of the media personnel. The Committee agreed in principle that financial interests of the media workers should be protected.

3. The Committee after deliberations proposed following amendments in the Bill:

- i. **Amendment of section 2, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—After clause (hc), the following new clause (hd) shall be inserted, namely:—

“(hd) “Employee” means an individual who works for the licensee for part-time or full-time under a contract of employment, whether oral or written, express or implied, and has recognized rights and duties; ”

ii. **Amendment of section 4, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—In section 4, after sub-section (1), the following new sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1A) The Authority shall also take cognizance on receipt of complaint from employee of the licensee regarding his employment grievances.”

iii. **Amendment of section 26, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—In section 26, following shall be inserted in the end of section 26(3A), namely:—

“and employment matters of the licensee”

iv. **Amendment of section 30, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—In section 30, in sub-section (1), after clause (a), the following new clauses, shall be inserted, namely:—

“(aa) the licensee has failed to maintain a valid contract and failed to ensure the compliance of the contract between channel and its employee; (aaa) the licensee has failed to pay any employee the due remuneration at due time;”

4. With the above amendments, the Bill was put to vote, whereupon, all members present in the meeting voted in favour of the Bill with amendments.

5. The Committee recommends that “The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill 2020,” 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.

Sd/-  
(ADNAN IBNE ASAD)  
*Secretary Committee.*

Sd/-  
(SENATOR FAISAL JAVED)  
*Chairman Committee.*

**Annex-A**

[AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE]

A

BILL

*further to amend the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory  
Authority Ordinance, 2002*

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. XIII of 2002) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 2, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—In the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. XIII of 2002), hereinafter referred to as the said Ordinance, in section 2, —

(i) the existing clause (ha), shall be re-numbered, as clause (haa), and before clause (haa), re-numbered as aforesaid, the following new clause (ha) shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ha) “Correspondent” means one who contributes news or commentary to a publication (such as a newspaper) or a radio or television network often from a distant place;

(ii) after clause (hc), the following new clause (hd) shall be inserted, namely:—

“(hd) “Employee” means an individual who works for the licensee for part-time or full-time under a contract of employment, whether oral or written, express or implied, and has recognized rights and duties;”

(iii) after clause (ka), the following new clause (kaa) shall be inserted, namely:—

“(kaa) “Journalist” means a person who writes news stories or articles for a newspaper or magazine or broadcasts them on radio or television;”

(iv) after clause (ta), the following new clause (taa) shall be inserted, namely:—

“(taa) “Reporter” means a person employed by a newspaper, magazine, or television company to gather and report or broadcast news;”

3. **Amendment of section 4, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—In the said Ordinance, in section 4, after sub-section (1), the following new sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1A) The Authority shall also take cognizance on receipt of complaint from employee of the licensee regarding his employment grievances.”

(1B) The Authority shall be responsible for ensuring that the contract must include description of duties of employee and remuneration to be paid.”

4. **Amendment of section 26, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—In the said Ordinance, in section 26, in sub-section (3), after clause (A), the following shall be inserted in the end, namely:—

“and employment matters of the licensee”

5. **Amendment of section 30, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—In the said Ordinance, in section 30, in sub-section (1), after clause (a), the following new clauses, shall be inserted, namely:—

“(aa) the channel / company has failed to maintain a valid contract and failed to ensure the compliance of the contract between channel and its employee;

(aaa) the channel/ company has failed to pay any employee the due remuneration at due time;”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Although in the past few years the media industry of Pakistan has expanded but these days it is facing a slowdown. The brunt of which is faced by media employees, reporters, newscasters and correspondents etc., in the form of lay-offs, pay cuts and late or no payments of salaries. In some companies, employees have been forced to take pay cuts which they accepted without any resistance fearing the consequence of losing a job. Many news channels have discontinued primetime shows and downsized its employment. This resulted in massive un-employment and poverty.

2. Thus need is felt to comprehensively deliberate and legislate upon the exploitation of media employees by the channels and companies. The situation clamors to introduce the said bill.

3. The Bill has been designed to achieve the above said purpose.

SENATOR FAISAL JAVED,  
*Member-In-Charge.*

**Annex-B**

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

*further to amend the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory  
Authority Ordinance, 2002*

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. XIII of 2002) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 2, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—In the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. XIII of 2002), hereinafter referred to as the said Ordinance, in section 2,—

- (i) the existing clause (ha), shall be re-numbered, as clause (haa), and before clause (haa), re-numbered as aforesaid, the following new clause (ha) shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ha) “Correspondent” means one who contributes news or commentary to a publication (such as a newspaper) or a radio or television network often from a distant place;

- (ii) after clause (hc), the following new clause (hd) shall be inserted, namely:—

“(hd) “Employee” means an individual who works part-time or full-time under a contract of employment, whether oral or written, express or implied, and has recognized rights and duties;”

- (iii) after clause (ka), the following new clause (kaa) shall be inserted, namely:—

“(kaa) “Journalist” means a person who writes news stories or articles for a newspaper or magazine or broadcasts them on radio or television;”

- (iv) after clause (ta), the following new clause (taa) shall be inserted, namely:—

“(taa) “Reporter” means a person employed by a newspaper, magazine, or television company to gather and report or broadcast news;”

3. **Amendment of section 4, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—In the said Ordinance, in section 4, after sub-section (1), the following new sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1A) The Authority shall be responsible for ensuring of signing, renewal and execution of valid contract between a channel and Correspondent, Employee, Journalist and Reporter.

(1B) The Authority shall be responsible for ensuring that the contract must include description of duties of employee and remuneration to be paid.”

4. **Amendment of section 30, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.**—In the said Ordinance, in section 30, in sub-section (1), after clause (a), the following new clauses, shall be inserted, namely:—

- “(aa) the channel/company has failed to maintain a valid contract and failed to ensure the compliance of the contract between channel and its employee;
- (aaa) the channel/company has failed to pay any employee the due remuneration at due time;”

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### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Although in the past few years the media industry of Pakistan has expanded but these days it is facing a slowdown. The brunt of which is faced by media employees, reporters, newscasters and correspondents etc., in the form of lay-offs, pay cuts and late or no payments of salaries. In some companies, employees have been forced to take pay cuts which they accepted without any resistance fearing the consequence of losing a job. Many news channels have discontinued primetime shows and downsized its employment. This resulted in massive un-employment and poverty.

2. Thus need is felt to comprehensively deliberate and legislate upon the exploitation of media employees by the channels and companies. The situation clamors to introduce the said bill.

3. The Bill has been designed to achieve the above said purpose.

SENATOR  
FAISAL JAVED,  
*Member-In-Charge.*

---

DR. SYED PERVAIZ ABBAS,  
*Secretary.*