

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

*to ensure publication of the text of the laws of Pakistan free from errors of reproduction,
updating and printing*

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for publication of the text of the laws of Pakistan free from errors of reproduction, updating and printing and to deal with ancillary matters;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Assemblies of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh have passed Resolutions under Article 144 of the Constitution to the effect that Parliament may by law regulate the issue;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent, commencement and application.— (1) This Act may be called the Publication of Laws of Pakistan Act, 2016.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

(4) This Act shall not apply to publication of laws of Pakistan by the Federal Government, a Provincial Government, any House of *Majlis-e-Shoora* (Parliament) or a Provincial Assembly, but the Governments and Legislatures shall maintain internal checks in order to ensure accuracy of the laws published by them.

2. Definitions.—In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) "bookseller" means a bookseller who predominantly sells law books, with or without commentary, containing laws of Pakistan;

(b) "Cell" means the Laws of Pakistan Cell to be established under section 6;

(c) "Director" means the Director of the Cell;

(d) "law of Pakistan" means a law passed under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, or by or under the authority of *Majlis-e-Shoora* (Parliament) or any of the Provincial Assemblies, which is

published in the Gazette of Pakistan or Gazette of any Province and includes principal and subordinate legislation and any other statutory instrument which is published in the Gazette of Pakistan or Gazette of any Province:

Provided that the commentary portion of any law of Pakistan and reproduction by photocopy or scanning of any law of Pakistan shall be out of the purview of this Act;

- (e) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (f) "public sector organization" means a concerned ministry, division, department, attached department, statutory body or an autonomous body of the Federal Government under the Rules of Business, 1973, a department, statutory body, an attached department or autonomous body of a Provincial Government under Rules of Business of the respective Provincial Government, a local government and Supreme Court of Pakistan, Federal Shariat Court or a High Court to the extent of Rules and Orders published under the authority of the Supreme Court, Federal Shariat Court or a High Court;
- (g) "publisher" means a natural person or a juristic person who publishes or engages another publisher, within or outside Pakistan, for publishing any law of Pakistan in the form of a book, booklet, pamphlet, journal, or in any electronic form; and
- (h) "reviewer" means a person who reviews a law of Pakistan under this Act.

3. **Registration of publishers.**—(1) A publisher shall not publish any law of Pakistan unless,—

- (a) he is registered with the Cell;
- (b) his proposed publication is reviewed by the Cell; and
- (c) the Cell has certified that his proposed publication is accurate and updated till the date of issuance of certificate.

(2) The Cell shall, on payment of prescribed fee and fulfillment of the prescribed conditions, register a publisher.

4. **Exemption from registration.**—A public sector organization and a Legislature shall be exempt from registration under this Act but the head of the public sector organization or the Secretary of the Senate or the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly, as the case may be, or any officer authorized by the head of the public sector organization, Senate, National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly, shall execute and publish a certificate of accuracy of the contents of a law of Pakistan published by the public sector organization or a Legislature and the certificate shall contain the date when the law of Pakistan is last updated.

5. **Compilation of authentic versions of laws of Pakistan.**— (1) The Federal Government shall, to the extent of Federal laws, compile and maintain an updated and accurate version of the laws of Pakistan and translation thereof in Urdu, both in paper and electronic form, which shall, besides other purposes, be used to determine the accuracy of the material submitted by a publisher for review under this Act.

(2) Each Provincial Government shall, to the extent of Provincial laws of the respective Province, compile and maintain an updated and accurate version of the laws of Pakistan and translation thereof in Urdu and Provincial languages, both in paper and electronic form, which shall, besides other purposes, be used to determine the accuracy of the material submitted by a publisher for review under this Act.

(3) The Federal Government and each Provincial Government shall ensure the safe custody of the Gazettes of Pakistan and Gazettes of the respective Province containing laws of Pakistan concerning the Federation or the Province and the publications of the updated and accurate versions of the respective laws of Pakistan.

6. **Cell.**— (1) The Federal Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette,