

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING, NATIONAL HISTORY AND LITERARY HERITAGE ON THE PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA REGULATORY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017

I, the Chairman of Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage, have the honor to present this report on the Bill further to amend the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (No. XIII of 2002) [The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2017] (Private Member's Bill) referred to the Committee on 7th March, 2017.

2. The Committee comprises of the following: -

1)	Pir Muhammad Aslam Bodla	Chairman
2)	Malik Shakir Bashir Awan	Member
3)	Mr. Muhammad Khan Daha	Member
4)	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
5)	Mr. Waseem Akhtar Shaikh	Member
6)	Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch.	Member
7)	Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana	Member
8)	Ms. Zeb Jaffar	Member
9)	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
10)	Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez	Member
11)	Ch. Muhammad Tufail	Member
12)	Ms. Leila Khan	Member
13)	Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote	Member
14)	Mr. Imran Zafar Ieghari	Member
15)	Ms. Belum Hasnain	Member
16)	Mr. Murad Saeed	Member
17)	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
18)	Ms. Saman Sultana Jaffri	Member
19)	Ms. Naccma Kishwer Khan	Member
20)	Malik Muhammad Aamir Dogar	Member
21)	Ms. Marriyum Aurengzeb,	Ex-officio Member
	Minister of State for Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage	

3. The Committee considered the Bill placed at Annex 'A' in its meetings held on 28-04-2017, 20-06-2017, 20-07-2017, 28-09-2017 and 25-10-2017. The Committee recommends that the Bill may not be passed by the Assembly.

Sd/-
(JAWAD RAFIQUE MALIK)
Secretary
Islamabad, the 29th November, 2017

Sd/-
(PIR MUHAMMAD ASLAM BODLA)
Chairman
Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting,
National History and Literary Heritage

[AS REPORTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE]

A
BILL

further to amend the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002
(No. XIII of 2002)

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (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, 2017.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 26, Ordinance XIII of 2002.**- In the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (No. XIII of 2002), in section 26, after sub-section (1), the following new sub-section shall be added, namely.-

“(1-A) Each Council shall have the following composition.-

- (i) a Chairman to be appointed for a period of three years by the Authority from amongst a panel of three retired District & Sessions Judges to be nominated by the respective High Court, in the area in which the Council is established;
- (ii) there shall be four members of each Council to be appointed for a period of two years:
 - (a) an eminent Professor of department of Media or Journalism from a public sector university to be nominated by the President of Pakistan in case of the Council at Islamabad and the Governor of respective province in case of the regional Councils;
 - (b) a retired police officer to be nominated by the Prime Minister of Pakistan in case of the Council at Islamabad and the Chief Minister of respective province in case of the regional Councils;
 - (c) a retired officer from armed forces equivalent to the rank of Brigadier to be nominated by the Inter Services Public Relations; and
 - (d) an eminent journalist to be nominated by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority;

Provided that at least one member of the Council shall be female;

- (iii) each Council shall be a permanent body and its Chairman or member shall be appointed within fortnight from the day the office thereof becomes vacant; and
- (iv) the Authority shall have the powers to remove the Chairman or any member of a Council upon a complaint substantiated with cogent evidence.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, there is no mechanism for appointment of the Chairman and the members of the Councils of Complaints established under the Ordinance.

- 2. The Councils remain non-functional due to non-availability of the Chairman or members thereof.
- 3. In order to have a workable and effective mechanism for the said appointments, the Ordinance is required to be amended.
- 4. The Bill seeks to achieve the afore-mentioned objectives.

Dr. Fouzia Hameed
Member-in-charge