

[~~AS~~ : INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

*to provide protection to the interest of minority students, their identity, beliefs, citizenship and their welfare and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto;*

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of religious minorities and for promotion of social justice;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called the Minority Educational Seats Act, 2019.

(2) It extends to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

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

(a) "Act" means the Minority Educational Seats Act, 2019;

(b) "affiliated college" means an educational institution affiliated to the University but not maintained or administered by it;

(c) "college" means a constituent college or an affiliated college;

(d) "constituent college" means an educational institution, by whatever name described, maintained and administered by the University;

(e) "constituent school" means an educational institution, by whatever name described, maintained and administered by the Federal Government under any law;

(f) "institution" means institution that provides education as its main purpose, such as a school, college, constituent college, university or training centre;

(g) "minority" for the purpose of this Act means a community notified as such by the Federal Government;

(h) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and

(i) "University" means any of the degree-awarding institutions listed in the Schedule to the Federal Universities Ordinance, 2002 (CXX of 2002).

**3. Allocation of additional seats for minorities.-** The Federal Government shall allocate five percent additional seats for admissions of the sanctioned strength in the institution for the students belonging to minority communities within six months after the commencement of this Act.

4. **Liability of institution.**-The institution in the Islamabad Capital Territory shall be liable to ensure allocation of five percent seats of the sanctioned strength to the students for the minority communities.

5. **Responsibility of Higher Education Commission.**- Higher Education Commission shall be responsible for the implementation of the Act.

6. **Penalties.**- (1) Whoever does or attempts to do, any act in contravention of this Act, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred thousand rupees.

(2) Whoever is again convicted thereunder shall, on every subsequent conviction, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six month, or with fine which may extend to one million rupees, or with both.

7. **Act not in derogation.**- The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

8. **Power to make rules.**- The Federal Government may, by a notification in the official Gazette, make rules to carry out the purpose of this Act.

9. **Cognizance of offence.**- No Court inferior to a court of Magistrate of the first class shall try offence against this Act.

#### **STATEMENTS OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

It is the responsibility of the state to protect the rights of the minorities envisaged under the Islamic principles and under Articles 36 and 37 of the Constitution of Pakistan. Special education seats under the law will elevate the status of the minorities in Pakistan and will spread a positive message to the International community. It is the duty of the state under Articles 36 and 37 of the Constitution to ensure the minority interests and their due representation. Seats for minorities will provide bright future of the religious minorities. It is also International obligation to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of religious minorities and promote social justice.

Sd/-

**MR. JAMES IQBAL**  
Member, National Assembly