

[AS] INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

to provide quota in the admissions at higher education level to students belonging to the minority community in the Public and Private Institutions;

WHEREAS it is expedient to introduce reforms to provide minority community students with equal opportunity in the field of higher education for the purposes hereinafter appearing;
It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. **Short title and Commencement.**— (1) This Act may be called the Minorities Access to Higher Education Act, 2019.

(2) This Act shall extend to every public and private educational institution of higher education including all colleges, universities and professional institutions in Pakistan, duly recognized by the higher education commission;

(3) It shall come into force at once.

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

(a) “higher education” means education at the bachelors and higher level degree courses including postgraduate certificates, diplomas, research and development activities;

(b) “minority communities” means community of person(s) defined in paragraph (b) of clause (3) of Article 260 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

(c) “public institution” means an institution setup by the Federal Government or a Provincial Government and receiving aid from public revenues; and

(d) “private institution” means an institution run on private funds and grants.

3. **Access to Higher Education.**— All Public institutions in Pakistan imparting higher education at the college, vocational and professional levels shall ensure allocation of five percent of the total seats and give admissions to the students belonging to the minority communities.

4. **Rules.**— The Federal Government shall monitor and ensure the allocation of reserved seats for students belonging to the minority communities and shall make such rules, as it may deem necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Bill is in line with the National and International commitments of Government of Pakistan including Article 36 and 37 of the Constitution to safeguard the legitimate rights and

interests of religious minorities and promotion of social justice. The passage of this Bill is intended to mainstream minority communities in the field of higher education in Pakistan.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above-mentioned objectives.

Sd/-

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