

A

BILL

to provide for biometric electoral voting relating to the conduct of elections.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for biometric electoral voting relating to the conduct of elections and matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.** — (1) This Act may be called the Biometric Electoral Voting Act, 2020.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

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

i. "DRE Voting Machine" means the Direct-Recording Electronic Voting Machine in which the votes of the voters are recorded through electronic server.

ii. "Nadra" means National Database and Registration Authority constituted under Nadra Ordinance 2000, in order to facilitate the registration of all persons and the establishment and maintenance of multipurpose databases, data warehouses, networking, interfacing of databases and related facilities.

iii. "National Bank of Pakistan" means Pakistani government-owned commercial bank which is a subsidiary of State Bank of Pakistan.

iv. "Habib Bank Limited" means the multinational and the largest bank of Pakistan.

v. "Disabled People" means someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

vi. "Rural Area" means a geographic area that is located outside towns and cities which has lesser facilities as compared to Urban Area.

vii. "Foreign Voters" means the residents of abroad, who wants to vote for the elections being conducted in Pakistan, also known as the Overseas Pakistani.

viii. "Authorized Person/s" means the persons who will be appointed by the government for conducting the process of elections.

**3. Elections by Direct-Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines.** - (1). The Elections shall be conducted by Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machines, which shall be procured as intended by way of legal procedures, by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication.

(2). The Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machines shall be affiliated with National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

(3). National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) shall be responsible for providing all the data of the citizens to the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication.

**4. Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machines' setup.** - (1) The Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machines' shall be setup in all the branches of National Bank of Pakistan and Habib Bank Limited and they shall be responsible to entertain the voters for their vote casting.

(2). The aforementioned branches shall remain open during the election days and for the hours as prescribed for voting.

(3). There shall be a commission consisting of 5 people, in every districts of Pakistan, in order to reach out to disabled people for their vote casting, and to the rural areas, where the facilities of concerned banks are not established.

(4). Each commission shall be provided one Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machine, accompanying all required appliances for its operation.

**5. Online Voting Site:** - (1) There shall be an online voting site, for the foreign voters, which shall be designed by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication.

(2). The online voting site can only be accessed by the foreign voters, present in abroad, by entering their personal required information.

**6. Online Commission:** - (1) There shall be a commission, consisting of number of peoples as required for serving the purpose, shall control the Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machines online.

(2). After the conclusion of polling, the authorized person/s (as appointed by the Government for serving the purpose) shall access the voting machines, and will gather all the votes, which shall be announced accordingly.

#### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

Electronic voting technology intends to speed the counting of ballots, reduce the cost of paying staff to count votes manually. Also, in the long term, expenses are expected to decrease. Results can be reported and published faster. Voters save time and cost by being able to vote independently from their location. This may increase overall voter turnout. The citizen groups benefiting most from electronic elections are the ones living abroad, citizens living in rural areas far away from polling stations and the disabled with mobility impairments. For the country, electronic voting may improve the country's image and serve as a promotion.

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Member National Assembly