

A

Bill

to make provisions for the constitution of Pakistan Allied Health Professionals Council

WHEREAS, it is expedient to regulate education, training, functions and registration of allied health professionals for public health in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

AND WHEREAS, it is expedient to constitute a Pakistan Allied Health Professionals Council in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes of making a uniform standard of basic and higher qualifications in various allied health disciplines and to consolidate the law relating to the registration of all disciplines of allied health and for matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act shall be called the Pakistan Allied Health Professionals Council Act, 2021.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.- (1) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the context or subject,-

(a) "allied health professional" or "AHP" means a person who assists in providing services for diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, curative or rehabilitative field in health care and has undergone a prescribed course of training in a recognized institution and is registered as an allied health professional by the Council in a discipline, as specified in the Schedule;

- (b) "bachelor degree" means any degree of allied health profession of at least four years duration, after acquiring certificate of higher secondary school, granted by a university or an institution and recognized by the Council under this Act;
- (c) "basic qualifications" means certificate or diploma course for allied health professionals recognized by the Council;
- (d) "certificate" means any certificate of qualification of allied health profession of at least one year duration granted by an institution and recognized by the Council under this Act;
- (e) "Council" means the Pakistan Allied Health Professionals Council constituted under section 3;
- (f) "continuous professional development" means skill enhancement and improvement of personal and professional competency in allied health profession which shall-
 - (i) comprise lectures, seminars, courses, individual study or other activities undertaken by a registered AHP; and
 - (ii) reasonably be expected to advance a registered AHP's development in his related profession;
- (g) "continuous professional development opportunity provider" means an institution or organization providing continuous professional development opportunities in allied health profession recognized by the Council under this Act;
- (h) "diploma" means any recognized qualification of at least two years duration of allied health profession granted by an institution and recognized by the Council under this Act;
- (i) "Division concerned" means the Division to which business of the Council stands allocated;

- (j) "doctorate degree" means any post masters or M. Phil degree in allied health profession recognized by the Higher Education Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and recognized by the Council under this Act;
- (k) "eligible" means any person eligible for registration of recognized qualification under this Act;
- (l) "healthcare establishment" means any premises used or intended to be used for the provision of health care services, including but not limited to hospitals, teaching hospitals, rural health centres, basic health units, surgical centers, blood banks, maternity homes, nursing homes, clinics, clinical laboratories, dispensaries, dental clinics, x-ray laboratories, diagnostic centers, centers for nuclear medicine or radiation therapy, ambulatories, psychiatric hospitals, burn units, psychiatric nursing homes, community mental health centers, hemodialysis centers, dialysis centers, rehabilitation centers or clinics or centers and such other health care premises as may be declared as such from time to time by the Federal or Provincial Governments or by law;
- (m) "higher qualification" means a bachelor's degree or higher qualification in allied health profession as recognized by the Council;
- (n) "institution" means an institute, college or university which is recognized under this Act to grant or train, or both, basic or higher qualification in allied health profession;
- (o) "masters degree" means any post graduate degree of allied health profession granted by a university or an institution and recognized by the Council under this Act;
- (p) "member" means a member of the Council;

- (q) "M. Phil" means any post-master degree of allied health profession granted by a university or an institution and recognized by the Council under this Act;
- (r) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules or regulations made under this Act; and
- (s) "recognized qualification" include-
- (i) a basic qualification for AHP recognized by the Council; or
 - (ii) a higher qualification for AHP recognized by the Council; or
 - (iii) a basic or higher qualification for AHP which was registered under any law, before the commencement of this Act and which shall be deemed to be a recognized qualification for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Any other expressions used but not defined in this Act shall have the same meanings assigned thereto in the respective laws and rules made thereunder.

3. Constitution of the Council.— (1) There shall be a council herein after known as the Pakistan Allied Health Professionals Council, to be constituted by the Prime Minister.

(2) The head office of the Council shall be at Islamabad and the Council may establish its offices in Provinces and other regions as it may deem fit.

(3) The Council shall consist of the following members, namely:-

S. No.	Nomination	Status
(1)	(2)	(3)
(a)	Director General Health of the Division concerned	Member
(b)	nominees of health departments of each Province, not below the rank of provincial additional secretary	Members

S. No.	Nomination	Status
(c)	a representative of the medical corps of the armed forces to be nominated by the Surgeon General	Member
(d)	one allied health professional to be nominated by each Provincial Government from public or private sector universities and affiliated colleges in the Province	Member
(e)	one allied health professional to be nominated by the Federal Government from public or private sector universities or affiliated colleges in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) or any Federal territory or region	Member
(f)	three members of civil society from amongst reputable philanthropists or professionals including jurists and accountants nominated by the Prime Minister	Members
(g)	upon the constitution of the advisory committees, the chairman of each advisory committee shall be a co-opted member of the Council subject to having voting right on issues of their discipline brought before the Council	Members

(4) The Council shall be a body corporate, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire, dispose of and hold property both movable and immovable and shall by said name sue and be sued.

4. Powers and functions of the Council.— (1) The Council shall perform the following functions, namely:-

- (a) regulate the standard of services for the practice of AHP;