

[ *AS* INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ]

A

Bill

*further to amend the Pakistan Nursing Council Act, 1973*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Nursing Council Act, 1973 (XXVI of 1973), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**-(1) This Act shall be called the Pakistan Nursing Council (Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 2, Act XXVI of 1973.**— In the Pakistan Nursing Council Act, 1973 (XXVI of 1973), herein after referred to as the said Act, for section 2, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

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

- (a) **“bachelor degree”** means any recognized degree of at least four years duration after higher secondary school granted by a university or an institution recognized by the Council to grant such degree;
- (b) **“Board”** means a Provincial nursing and Midwifery examination Board constituted under the Act;
- (c) **“certificate”** means any recognized qualification of at least one year duration granted by an institution recognized by the Council to grant such qualification under the Act;

- (d) **“Clinical Nurse Specialist” or “CNS”** means a registered nurse who having enrolled in and successfully completed one year post basic diploma in a relevant discipline or Master Degree in Nursing (MSN) in specialized clinical tract who recognized and registered by the Council and is licensed to practice as a CNS under the Act;
- (e) **“Council”** means the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council established under the Act;
- (f) **“concerned Division”** means the Division who is allotted the business of this Act under the Rules of Business, 1973;
- (g) **“diploma”** means any recognized qualification of at least two years or greater duration granted by an institution recognized by the Council to grant such qualification under this Act;
- (h) **“institution”** means an institute, college or university which is registered under this Act to grant or train or both basic and higher qualification for nurses, midwives, lady health visitors and nursing auxiliaries;
- (i) **“lady health visitor” or “LHV”** means lady health visitor who has completed a diploma course recognized and registered by the Council and who is legally licensed to practice as a registered lady health visitor under the Act;
- (j) **“member”** means a member of the Council;

- (k) **“nurse”** means a person who has completed a recognized diploma or degree programme for the purpose of the nursing and is registered under the Act;
- (l) **“NP” or “Nurse Practitioner”** means a registered advanced practice nurse who having been enrolled to a master degree in nursing recognized by the Council, registered with Council as nurse practitioner and is currently licenced to practice autonomously including prescription under this Act;
- (m) **“other committees”** mean sub-committees constituted by the Council for special purpose under this Act;
- (n) **“prescribed”** means prescribed by rules and regulations made under the Act;
- (o) **“recognized higher qualification”** means a degree or qualification recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and granted by an institution, Board or university for nurses, midwives and LHV established and maintained by the Federal or Provincial Governments which is declared to be a recognised higher qualification for the purposes of this Act, and includes a qualification which was, immediately before the commencement of this Act, a recognised higher qualification under the Pakistan Nursing Council Act, 1952 (LIX of 1952).

- (p) **“recognised qualification”** means a qualification granted by a Board or university which is declared to be a recognized qualification for the purposes of this Act and includes-
- (i) a qualification specified in the Schedule; and
  - (ii) a qualification which was, immediately before the commencement of this Act, a recognised qualification under the Pakistan Nursing Council Act, 1952 (LIX of 1952);
- (q) **“register”** means the register of nurses, midwives, health visitors and nursing auxiliaries maintained under the Act;
- (r) **“registrants”** means nurses, midwives, lady health visitors and nursing auxiliaries registered under this Act;
- (s) **“regulations”** means regulations made under this Act;
- (t) **“RM”** or **“registered midwife”** means a registered midwife who having been enrolled to and has successfully completed a midwifery educational program or course, duly recognized and licensed by the Council to practice as a registered midwife within the prescribed scope of midwifery practice under the Act and who holds a registration certificate; and
- (u) **“rules”** means rules made under 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. **Insertion of new section 2A, Act XXVI of 1973.**- In the said Act, after section 2, the following new section 2A shall be inserted, namely:-

**“2A. Functions of the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council.**- The Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council shall perform the following functions, namely:-

- (a) to protect, promote, and maintain the public health and wellbeing;
- (b) to serve the public of Pakistan with regards to healthcare services in general, but nursing and Midwifery services provided by a nurse or RM, in particular;
- (c) to ensure competence of registered professionals of Council;
- (d) to liaison with all stakeholders about nursing and midwifery education, professional conduct and practice within and outside the Pakistan; and
- (e) any other function assigned to the Council by the concerned Division under the Act.”

4. **Amendment of section 3, Act XXVI of 1973.**- In the said Act, in section 3,-

- (a) in the heading, after the word “the”, the words “Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery” shall be inserted;

- (b) for the sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely;-

“(1) The Federal Government shall establish a Council to be called the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council at national level and Council shall elect an Executive Committee to administer and manage the affairs of the Council. The Executive committee shall be elected from the members of the Council for every three years and include nineteen voting members.”;

- (c) after sub-section (2), the following new sub-sections (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7) shall be inserted, namely:-

“(3) The eligibility and election process shall be in accordance with the Act and the rules and regulations as prescribed by the Council.”;

- (4) The Council, which shall be the general body and shall consist of the following members, namely:-

- (a) ex-officio non-voting Members; and
- (b) voting Members:

Provided that no person shall be eligible for membership of the Council if the individual or his

family has a vested interest in a private nursing or midwifery institution.

(5) The following shall consist of the Ex-officio non-voting members, namely:-

(a) the Director General Nursing in a province or the person holding the corresponding office;

(b) the Director General Nursing or the person holding the corresponding office of Gilgit Baltistan or any other new Province; and

(c) the Director General Nursing or the person holding the corresponding office Azad Jammu Kashmir.

(6) The following shall consist of the Voting Members, namely:-

(a) one teaching faculty member of a public school or college of Nursing and Midwifery, with an Bachelor of science in Nursing (BSN) or higher degree from each province to be nominated respectively by each provincial health ministry or equivalent provincial government body, or