

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

BILL

to provide for the facility of day care centres in public and private establishments

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the facility of day care centres in public and private establishments and for the purposes connected therewith and ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Day Care Centres Act, 2019.

(2) It extends to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

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

(a) "Code" means the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898);

(b) "Daycare" means child care during the day when the parents work;

(c) "establishment" means and includes any public, private, autonomous, semi-autonomous, corporation, body, society under the Society Registration Act, any club, any small and medium enterprise, any NGO, etc.

3. Establishing day care centre.- (1) The Federal Government shall ensure the establishment of day care centre at all those establishments having at least seventy employees.

(2) All private establishments having at least seventy employees shall ensure the establishment of day care centre at their premises to provide benefit to their employees.

4. Punishment for non-compliance.- Whosoever does not comply to the provisions of this Act, shall be given one warning in writing and in case of further non-compliance shall be punished with fine which may extend to one hundred thousand rupees. In case of further non-compliance, the person concerned shall be punished with imprisonment for six months.

5. **Cognizance of an offence.-** Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code, an offence punishable under this Act shall be tried under the Code, by the magistrate of first class.

6. **Application of the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.-** Any proceedings under this Act shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

7. **Removal of difficulties.-** If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any provision of this Act, the Government may make such order not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for the purpose of removing such difficulty.

8. **Power to make Rules.-** The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make Rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The labor force participation of mothers in Pakistan has risen sharply in recent years, and women have become much more likely to work continuously over their lifecycle. In recent years, rapid social change in Pakistan, has led to changes in family structure and an increased number of working mothers. This in turn has led increased the need for services for the care of preschool children while parents are away from home. There are currently very few day care centres provided by the public organizations in Pakistan. The objective of this Act is to provide binding provisions for the public and private organizations to establish day care centres at their premises to facilitate the working women.

SENATOR QURATULAIN MARRI
Member-in-Charge