

A

Bill

to amend the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Act, 2022

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Act, 2022 (IV of 2023), in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. **Short title and commencement:** - (1) This Act shall be called the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

(2) It shall come into force at once; and

2. **Amendment of section 2, Act IV of 2023.**- In the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Act, 2022 (IV of 2023), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2, after clause (x), the following new clause (xa) shall be inserted, namely:-

(xa) "registered mental health practitioner" means a mental health practitioner whose name is included in the register of mental health practitioners under this Act;"

3. **Insertion of new section 21A, Act IV of 2023.**- In the said Act, after section 21, the following new section 21A shall be inserted, namely:-

"21A. Recognition of mental health training institutes. (1) The Federal Government through Minister-in-charge may grant recognition to any institution in Pakistan which trains or grants or both trains and grants mental health practitioner trainings, qualifications and certifications. All such recognized mental health training institutions or qualifications shall be included in the Schedule, by notification in the official Gazette, after approved of the Federal Government on the recommendation of the Minister-in-charge

(2) The Federal Government may frame rules or regulations to regulate the functioning and operation of such recognized mental health training institutions."

4. **Insertion of new section 24A, Act IV of 2023.**- In the said Act, after section 24, the following new section 24A shall be inserted, namely:-

"24A. Power of the Council to certify certain persons to be possessed of sufficient qualification as a mental health practitioner.—(1) If the Council is satisfied that a person holding a qualification granted by an institution outside Pakistan, is possessed of sufficient knowledge and skill to be registered as a mental health practitioner for the purpose of this Act, it may recommend to the Federal Government through Minister-in-charge to issue a notification in favour of such person to register him and his qualification. Upon such notification, the Council shall register the qualification possessed by the person without it being entered in any of the Schedule of this Act."

5. **Insertion of new section 37A, Act IV of 2023.**- In the said Act, after section 37, the following new section 37A shall be inserted, namely:-

"37A. Maintenance of register of mental health practitioner. --(1) The Council shall maintain a register of mental health practitioners possessing qualifications which are recognized mental health qualifications for the purposes of this Act and may prescribe necessary particulars to be entered in the register.

(2) The practitioner shall be deemed to hold valid registration and entitled to be known and eligible for privileges of a registered mental health practitioners if his name is retained on the register after fulfillment of requirements of continuation of registration as laid down by the Council from time to time and provided he has paid the dues of the Council."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Act, 2022 only governs medical and dental practitioners. In order to bring mental health practitioners within the ambit of the Act, the entire law will have to be tweaked. I have proposed certain amendments to the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Act, 2022. However, similar amendments will have to be made through the breadth of the law to govern matters of registration and entitlements of mental health practitioners.

2. The minute details regarding the qualification of mental health practitioners may be detailed in rules and regulations (as has been done for medical and dental practitioners). Please find below a skeletal outline of proposed Mental Health Practitioners (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Policy and Regulations 2024.

3. The Bill is designed to achieve the said objects.

SD/-
MS. SHAISTA PERVAIZ
Member, National Assembly