

**[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]**

**A**

**BILL**

*further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2017.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of Article 255 of the Constitution.-** In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as the Constitution, in Article 255, after clause (3), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(4) Where, under the Constitution, a non-Muslim person is required to make an oath before he enters upon an office or assumes any responsibility, he may not initiate oath with *Tasmiyah* or its translation given in the oath, and he may use the words “Ideology of Pakistan” instead of the words “Islamic Ideology” given in the oath.”

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan guarantees every citizen the right to profess, practice and propagate his religion within the boundaries of law, public order, and morality. International Law also guarantees every person the right to profess his religion and no one can be compelled to do an act required by religion other than his own. Oaths prescribed in the third schedule of the Constitution begin with *Tasmiyah* and also contains the provisions to strive for the protection of Islamic Ideology of Pakistan. It is one of the sacred, basic and fundamental duties of the Muslims of Pakistan to protect the Islamic Ideology of Pakistan; however a non-Muslim cannot be compelled to protect the same as he has not accepted Islam as his religion. Therefore, through this amendment, the non-Muslims shall not be required to initiate oath with *Tasmiyah* and to strive for the protection of Islamic Ideology.

The Bill has been designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.