

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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 51 of the Constitution.- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in Article 51, for clause (5), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(5) The seats in the National Assembly shall be allocated to each Province, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and the Federal Capital on the basis of population in accordance with the last preceding census officially published subject to the condition that each constituency shall be based on equal number of votes as entered in the electoral rolls prepared by the Election Commission under Article 219 of the Constitution.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Democracy is based on mandate of people through their elected representatives elected by eligible voters entered in the electoral rolls of the constituencies. Voters are only entitled to elect their representatives during the General Elections or for filling of casual vacancies. However, there is a great number of disparity of number of votes for different constituencies as there are different number of votes for different constituencies in different provinces, areas or territories of Pakistan. Due to this reason there is disproportionate representation of people or voters belonging to different Provinces, areas or territories becoming cause of concern and frustration and having the seedlings of mutual distrust of people of Pakistan. Article 25 of the Constitution provides for equality but same principle of equality is not being applied for division of votes into electoral constituencies.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above said objective.