

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

further to amend the Elections Act, 2017

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Elections Act, 2017 in the manner hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) This Act shall be called the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment in section 94, Act XXXIII of 2017.**—In the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017). In section 94, for sub-section (I), the following shall be substituted namely:—

“(I) The Commission shall, with technical assistance of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), or any other Authority and Agency shall enable overseas Pakistanis to exercise their right to vote during general elections in their country of residence.”.

3. **Amendment in section 103, Act XXXIII of 2017.**—In the said Act, for section 103, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“**Electronic voting.**—The Commission shall procure electronic voting machines (EVMs) for casting of voters in general elections.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

Fair free and transparent elections have been a long outstanding demand of almost all the political parties including PTI. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is obligated to organize and conduct elections honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law and that corrupt practices are guarded against, under Article 218 (3) of the Constitution. Utilization of technology and modern gadgets have become essential to facilitate the ECP for ensuring transparency in elections. Similarly, there is a consensus amongst almost all the political parties to grant voting right to Overseas Pakistanis, which may only be possible by vesting exclusive authority in the ECP to enable Overseas Pakistanis, with technical assistance of NADRA and other agencies, to exercise their right to vote.

2. This Bill is designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives through amending sections 94 and 103 of the Elections Act, 2017.

(ZAHEER-UD-DIN BABAR AWAN)

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