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[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

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BILL

*further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 and
the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898*

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (XLV of 1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Omission of section 325, Act XLV of 1860.- In the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (XLV of 1860), section 325 shall be omitted.

3. Amendment of Schedule II, Act V of 1898.- In the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898), in Schedule II, the entries relating to section 325 shall be omitted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Suicide is the act of killing oneself, most often as a result of depression or other mental illness. According to a study, there is one completed suicide in every 40 seconds while five percent of people in the world try to kill themselves at least once during their lifetime. Around 79% suicides are from low or middle income countries. Despite the crucial nature of the act of suicide and reasons behind it, Pakistan Penal Code vide section 325, incriminates the person committing it and prescribes the sentence of simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. The issue of suicide ought to be dealt as disease and should be treated as one. Additionally, punishment is meant to create deterrence for a healthy person not for a mentally disturbed individual. The objective of this amendment in Pakistan Penal Code is to decriminalize the suicide attempt by any person as it is always done with some depression or mental illness or disorders.

SENATOR SHAHADAT AWAN
Member-in-Charge