

A

Bill

further to amend the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. LIII of 2002);

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act shall be called the Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 6, Ordinance No. LIII of 2002.- In the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. LIII of 2002), hereinafter called as the said Ordinance, in section 6,-

(a) for sub-section (5), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(5) The Chairperson shall hold office for a period of two years and members shall hold office for a period of four years. In no case the Chairperson and members shall be eligible for re-appointment for more than one similar term.”; and

(b) after sub-section (5) substituted as aforesaid, the following new sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

“(5A) Notwithstanding anything in any order, notification, contract, agreement or any instrument containing the duration and terms of service, a Chairperson or a member who, on or after commencement of the Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021 completes the term or tenure as provided in sub-section (5), shall on such commencement forthwith cease to be the Chairperson or member, as the case may be.

Explanation.- Sub-section (5), as amended, shall have operation despite any vested right or right as a past and closed transaction in any appointment or terms thereof acquired or purported to have been acquired prior to coming into force of the Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021”.

3. Amendment of section 11, Ordinance No. LIII of 2002.- In the said Ordinance, in section 11, for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(1) The Government shall appoint an Executive Director on the recommendation of the Ministry of Federal Education who shall unless earlier removed on any of the grounds specified in sub-section (6) of section 6, shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be responsible for the various activities of the Commission.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In the new knowledge economies of 21st Century educational standards are shaping the destinies of nations. Particularly, in post-COVID era, the paradigm of Higher Education System and its delivery mode has undergone tremendous changes.

2. In order to align the Higher Education Commission with the fast-changing environment, the process and criteria of tenured appointments need to be reviewed so that the incumbents may keep pace with the changing eco-system of 21st Century skills.

3. The Bill is designed to achieve the afore-said objectives.

(SHAFQAT MAHMOOD)

Minister for Federal Education and
Professional Training