

Passed on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

BILL

*to provide for making compulsory teaching of Arabic Language to the students in all educational institutions*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient to provide for making compulsory teaching of Arabic language to the students in all educational institutions in the Islamabad Capital Territory including the educational institutions affiliated with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education and in all the public sector educational institutions owned and controlled by the Federal Government wherever they may be and for matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title, application and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Compulsory Teaching of Arabic Language Act, 2021.

(2) It shall apply to the students in all educational institutions of the Islamabad Capital Territory including the educational institutions affiliated with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education and in all the public sector educational institutions owned and controlled by the Federal Government wherever they may be.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Definitions.**- Unless there is anything repugnant in the subject,-

- (a) "**Federal Government**" shall have the same meaning as assigned to this expression in the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012 (XV of 2012);
- (b) "**educational institution**" means any school, college, institute, otherwise by whatever name called for, established and setup in public or private sector for imparting education to students irrespective of its status whether registered or not registered with the Federal Government or any other body;
- (c) "**prescribed**" means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and
- (d) "**rules**" means rules made under this Act.

**3. Compulsory teaching of the Arabic Language.-** (1) There shall be in all educational institutions compulsory teaching of;

- (a) Arabic language in classes, grades or, as the case may be, level I to V in prescribed manner; and
- (b) the grammar of Arabic language in classes, grades or, as the case may be, levels VI to XII in such prescribed manner so that proficiency in Arabic language is completed up to class, grade or, as the case may be, level XII.

(2) The Minister-in-charge of the Federal Government shall ensure implementation within six months of publication of this Act in the official Gazette.

**4. Power to make rules.-** The Minister-in-charge of the Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act within three months of publication of this Act in the official Gazette.

**5. Act not to be derogatory to any other law.-** The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force.

#### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

Besides having religious importance for the Muslims Arabic is among the five largest spoken languages of the world. A large number of population from around the world seeks to do business and employment in the rich Arab states. Thus knowledge of Arabic language will not only enlighten the understanding of Islam and the message of Holy Quran it will also broaden the employment and business opportunities for the citizens of Pakistan as well.

This Bill will make teaching of Arabic compulsory to the students of all educational institutions both in public and private sector in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), also the institutions owned and controlled by the Federal Government wherever they may be and all educational institutions affiliated with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad. It will help the students to understand the divine message enshrined in Holy Quran and also the Hadith of the Holy Prophet ﷺ besides widening their employment and business opportunities in the future.

**SENATOR MUHAMMAD JAVED ABBASI**  
Member-in-Charge