

INTRODUCED ON 16.01.2023.

[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, 2023.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of Article 19 of the Constitution.- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in Article 19, the expression ", friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality," shall be omitted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Under Article 19 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan every citizen has been entrusted with right to free speech, freedom of expression and freedom of press. In the contemporary world the right to express one's self through various forums has been embedded in the fundamental human rights. In our State these freedoms are not immune to conditions i.e. reasonable restrictions imposed by the law in the interests of the glory of Islam, security, integrity and defense of Pakistan along with the Public order, contempt of court and friendly relations with foreign countries.

2. It make sense in a situation of national security, integrity and defense of Pakistan to limit the constitutionally protected freedoms but, the contours of public order, friendly relations with foreign States and above all morality and decency have been the stumbling blocks to enforce freedom of speech and expression in its letter and spirit.

3. This Bill seeks to achieve the above-said objective.

**SENATOR MUSHTAQ AHMED
MEMBER IN CHARGE**