

INTRODUCED ON 30.01.2023.

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

**A
BILL**

further to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997 (XXXIII of 1997) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Act, 2023.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Substitution of section 2, Act XXXIII of 1997.** - In the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997 (XXXIII of 1997), for section 2, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"2. Maximum Number of Supreme Court Judges apart from Chief Justice.- In the Supreme Court of Pakistan, other than the Chief Justice, the maximum number of judges shall be nineteen, including at least one woman judge."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Supreme Court of Pakistan is the highest appellate court of the country and court of last resort. The pendency of cases in the said court has constantly been on the rise due to constant and never-ending increase in institution of cases. Similarly, tremendous back-log of unresolved cases has also placed burden on this apex court. The Supreme Court has four jurisdictions, named as, original, appellate, advisory and review jurisdiction. Being responsible for maintaining rule of law in the country, its legal responsibilities are manifold, numerous and diverse in nature, which resulted into continuous pendency of existing stockpiles of cases for unforeseeable future. Therefore, it is the need of hour to increase number of Judges in the highest court of country.

2. In the light of afore-mentioned work-load of cases before the highest judiciary, with the current composition of the said Court, it has become difficult to conclude cases and pronounce prompt judgments in efficient and effective manner. Hence, this amendment has proposed increase in number of Judges and also ensures reservation of seats for women judges in the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

3. This Bill is aimed to achieve the above-said objective.

**SENATOR FAWZIA ARSHAD
MEMBER IN CHARGE**