

INTRODUCED ON 07.08.2023.
[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A
BILL

to provide for the establishment and regulation of Students Unions in Educational Institutions of the Islamabad Capital Territory

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish and regulate the Students Unions in Educational Institutions of the Islamabad Capital Territory for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Islamabad Capital Territory Students Unions Act, 2023.

(2) It extends to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) "Educational Institution" means an educational and training institution and includes a university, its constituent and affiliated institutions, a college whether in public or private sector, by whatever name called;

(b) "Government" means the Federal Government;

(c) "Prejudicial activity" means any activity which is contrary to law, good order or discipline and includes any act which amounts, or is likely to –

(i) prejudice or in any manner interrupt the normal functioning of any Educational Institution;

(ii) cause or create dissatisfaction or hatred amongst any group, class or body of students of any Educational Institution;

(iii) promote feelings of enmity or hatred amongst students and staff or cause fear or alarm to the public or the parents of the students of any Educational Institution or result into any act of violence or use of force, show of force, in an Educational Institution or disruption in the smooth operation of education and extra-curricular activities in the

Educational Institution;

- (iv) result in collection, storage or carriage of fire-arms, weapons, ammunition or explosive within the premises of any Educational Institution or any other building or place connected with or related to any Educational Institution;
- (v) result in a strike in any Educational Institution or cause threat of any kind to the staff or any other employee of any Educational Institution;
- (d) "Student" means any person enrolled and studying in the Educational Institution and does not include a person who was a student of the Educational Institution or who is not enrolled or taking any semester or course in the Educational Institution; and
- (e) "Students Union" means a body or association of students of an Educational Institution, established under section 3 of this Act, for promoting the general interests of its members for academic, disciplinary, extra-curricular or other matters relating to the affairs of the students in the Educational Institution.

3. Students Unions in Educational Institutions.- (1) There shall be a Students Union in every Educational Institution consisting of bona fide students of the Educational Institution.

(2) The Students Union shall consist of seven to eleven members elected by the students of the particular Educational Institution.

(3) Subject to the principles provided in this Act and the rules, each Educational Institution shall, within two months of coming into force of this Act, formulate regulations and procedures for the conduct of the Students Union and its election.

(4) The Educational Institution shall, on yearly basis, conduct the elections for the Students Union.

(5) Every Educational Institution shall have at least one nominee of the elected Students Union in its Syndicate, Senate, Board and other decision making body.

(6) Every Educational Institution, which is open to all irrespective of sex, shall constitute a committee for protection against harassment which shall have at least one nominee of the elected Students Union.

4. Functions of the Students Unions.- (1) The Students Unions shall be bona fide representatives of the students of the respective Educational Institutions.

(2) The Students Union shall,-

- (i) work for maintaining social and academic welfare of the students;
- (ii) ensure the rights and interests of all students are suitably represented and protected;
- (iii) organize such social, cultural, intellectual or other extra-curricular events which help in forming students' personality and make them responsible citizens;
- (iv) promote and strengthen relations between students and Educational Institutions;
- (v) oppose and bring to light any discrimination or injustice that obstructs the social and academic life of students;
- (vi) endeavor to make students responsible citizens, aware of their rights and obligations towards their country as provided under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and other laws;
- (vii) play the role of a bridge between the students, Educational Institution and its staff to further the objective of academic excellence;
- (viii) coordinate and liaison with other Students Unions of different jurisdictions in the country;
- (ix) assist the Educational Institution in maintaining discipline and ensure the respect of teachers and staff of the Educational Institution; and
- (x) ensure democratic and inclusive atmosphere for healthy debate, that respects others' opinions.

(3) The Students Union shall perform such other activities as may be prescribed by the rules or regulations of the respective Educational Institutions.

5. No indulgence in any prejudicial activity. - (1) No person or student shall indulge in any prejudicial activity in any manner whatsoever

within the premises of any Educational Institution or any other place connected with or related to any Educational Institution.

(2) If any person or student acts in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1), he shall be dealt with in accordance to the disciplinary rules or regulations of the respective Educational Institution.

6. Government to make rules.- The Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

7. Overriding effect. - The provisions of this Act shall have overriding effect notwithstanding anything contrary contained in any law for the time being in force.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Constructive activities in the Educational Institutions are necessary ingredients for establishing a true democratic and vigilant society in a country. Students Unions are nurseries for training future leadership. Students Unions provide forums to students for constructive activities, civic life, understanding of rights, obligations and their enforcement.

2. Students Unions had played very constructive role in the movement for Pakistan. After independence of Pakistan in 1947, Students Unions worked and played their role for upholding the rule of law and democratic principles in the country. However, due to the ban imposed by the Military Dictator in 1984, these nurseries for training future leadership and constructive activities remained missing for almost four decades. Due to this, the grass root level training of the country's leadership has severely been impaired. In order to establish a true democratic and vigilant society, it is necessary to revive, establish and regulate the Students Unions in the Islamabad Capital Territory.

3. Through this Bill, Students Unions will be established in the Islamabad Capital Territory which will play its role as nurseries for training future leadership and will provide forums to students for constructive activities, civic life, understanding of rights, obligations and their enforcement.

4. The Bill has been designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

SENATOR BAHRAMAND KHAN TANGI
Member-in-Charge