

A
BILL

further to amend the Constitution of Islamic the 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, 2024.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of Article 62 of the Constitution. - In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in Article 62, in clause (1),-

- i. in paragraph (f), the word "and" occurring at the end shall be omitted;
- ii. in paragraph (g) for the full stop ".", occurring at the end a semi colon and word ";and" shall be substituted and after paragraph (g), amended as aforesaid, the following new paragraph shall be added, namely:-

"(h) "he is at least graduate, possesses a bachelor's degree in any discipline or any degree recognized as equivalent thereto by the Higher Education Commission or any other law for the time being in force, in case of his appointment to the office of the President of Pakistan, Prime Minister, Governor, Chief Minister of a Province, Chairman Senate, Deputy Chairman Senate, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Federal Minister, Minister of State and Provincial Minister."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Formal education always provides Members of Parliament not only with skills and knowledge that are relevant for their political responsibilities but also with political self-confidence, which promotes political efficacy. Scholars in the field of political participation argue that formal education has an absolute effect upon political engagement in that it provides individuals with resources in terms of beliefs, skills and knowledge that are beneficial for political activity (e.g. Rosen stone & Hansen. Citation 1993; Verba, Schlozman, & Brady. Citation 1995). Verba et al. (Citation 1995. p. 305) state in their seminal work that 'Education enhances participation more or less directly by developing skills that are relevant to politics—the ability to speak and write, and the knowledge of how to cope in an organizational setting'. It has also been claimed that higher education favours individuals' political efficacy, which is associated with self-confidence concerning one's political abilities and competence.

2. In this regard, appointment of members' parliaments on public offices such as the President of Pakistan, Prime Minister. Governor. Chief Minister of a Province, Chairman Senate, Deputy Chairman Senate. Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Federal Minister, Minister of State and Provincial Minister holds special significance assuming an enhanced role and highest expectations being in a public office. Therefore, it is important that during their selection for such offices, besides all other requirements, a condition of graduation must also be mandatory to be qualified for such public offices.

3. This Bill has been designed to achieve the said purpose.

SENATOR SAMINA MUMTAZ ZEHRI
MEMBER IN CHARGE