



SENATE SECRETARIAT

Report No. 04

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE



"THE LEGAL AID AND JUSTICE AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024"

PRESENTED BY

**Senator Farooq Hamid Naek
Chairman
Standing Committee on Law and Justice**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE ON "THE LEGAL AID AND JUSTICE AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024"

I, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, have the honour to present report on "The Legal Aid and Justice Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2024" as passed by the National Assembly and introduced by Rana Tanveer Hussain Minister for National Food Security and Research on behalf of Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Law and Justice in the Senate sitting held on 29th October, 2024. The Bill, upon introduction, was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice is as under:-

1.	Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Chairman
2.	Senator Syed Ali Zafar	Member
3.	Senator Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan	Member
4.	Senator Shahadat Awan	Member
5.	Senator Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary	Member
6.	Senator Kamran Murtaza	Member
7.	Senator Khalil Tahir	Member
8.	Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
9.	Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro	Member
10.	Senator Hamid Khan	Member
11.	Minister for Law and Justice	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meetings held on 1st November, 2024, under the Chairmanship of Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, which was attended by the following hon'ble Members:-

1.	Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Chairman
2.	Senator Syed Ali Zafar	Member
3.	Senator Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan	Member
4.	Senator Shahadat Awan	Member
5.	Senator Kamran Murtaza	Member
6.	Senator Khalil Tahir	Member



7.	Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
8.	Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro	Member
9.	Senator Hamid Khan	Member

4. Secretary Ministry of Law and Justice briefed the Committee that the Law and Justice Division has administrative control of the Law and Justice Commission Ordinance, 1979, courts and tribunals in respect of Federal areas and the offices of the Attorney General and other law officers of the Federation. The mandate of Legal Aid and Justice Authority (LAJA) is also consonance with the business allocated to the Law and Justice Division under the Rules of Business, 1973. It would be more appropriate and in the best public interest to shift administrative control of the Legal Aid and Justice Authority (LAJA) from Ministry of Human Rights to the Ministry of Law and Justice, the institutional linkages of the Ministry of Law and Justice with other Law Officers and Commissions of the Federation that are under the administrative control of Law and Justice Division and with Bar Councils and Associations will enable LAJA to fulfill its mandate more effectively.

5. All members present, except Senator Khalil Tahir who expressed that the Authority should remain under the Ministry of Human Rights to maintain a positive international image, particularly concerning the GSP+ status, supported the proposed amendments and voted in favor of the Bill.

6. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that "The Legal Aid and Justice Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2024", may be passed by the Senate of Pakistan. (Copy of Bill is annexed).


(RABEEA ANWAR)
A.S / Secretary Committee


(SENATOR FAROOQ HAMID NAEK)
Chairman

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

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BILL

— further to amend the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020 (XVI of 2020), in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act shall be called the Legal Aid and Justice Authority (Amendment) Act, 2024.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 5, Act XVI of 2020.** - In the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020 (XVI of 2020), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 5, in sub-section (1), in clause (a) for the words "Human Rights", the words "Law and Justice" shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment of section 7, Act XVI of 2020.** - In the said Act, in section 7, for sub-section (4), the following shall be substituted, namely: -

"(4). Where the Director General is absent or unable to perform his functions due to any reason or the post of Director General is vacant pending appointment of a regular incumbent, the authority may authorize any officer to perform temporarily the functions of Director General, for a period not exceeding ninety days."

Statement of Objects and Reasons

The Law and Justice Division has administrative control of the Law and Justice Commission Ordinance, 1979, courts and tribunals in respect of Federal areas and the offices of the Attorney General and other law officers of the Federation. The mandate of Legal Aid and Justice Authority (LAJA) is also consonance with the business allocated to the Law and Justice Division under the Rules of Business, 1973. It would be more appropriate and in the best public interest to shift administrative control of the Legal Aid and Justice Authority (LAJA) from Ministry of Human Rights to the Ministry of Law and Justice, the institutional linkages of the Ministry of Law and Justice with other Law Officers and Commissions of the Federation that are under the administrative control of Law and Justice Division and with Bar Councils and Associations will enable LAJA to fulfil its mandate more effectively.

The Bill is designed to achieve the said object.

Sd/-
MINISTER-IN-CHARGE