

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

**A
BILL**

further to amend the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Act, 1973, (XXXV of 1973) for the purposes hereinafter appearing:-

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act shall be called the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 5A, Act XXXV of 1973.- In the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973 (XXXV of 1973), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 5A,-

a) in clause (a), for the word "five", the word "ten", shall be substituted; and

b) in clause (b), for the word "fifteen", the word "twenty", shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of section 11A, Act XXXV of 1973.- In the said Act, in section 11A, in clause (a), for the word "five", the word "ten", shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Given that Bar Councils function as regulatory bodies for the legal profession, it is anticipated that their members possess substantial experience and maturity. To qualify as President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, a minimum of ten years of practice before the Supreme Court is mandated under Rule 9A of the Supreme Court Bar Association Rules, 1989. Furthermore, the 26th Amendment to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan stipulates that the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) shall nominate a senior advocate of the Supreme Court for a two-year term as a member of the Judicial Commission. In the interest of justice, it is essential that Pakistan Bar Council members have relevant experience.

The Bar Councils play a pivotal role in upholding constitutional supremacy, the rule of law, and the independence of the judiciary. Therefore, it would be judicious to extend the required length of legal practice for eligibility to contest Bar Council elections to a minimum of ten years standing as an Advocate of the High Court for membership in Provincial Bar Councils and the Islamabad Bar Council. Similarly, a minimum of ten years standing as an Advocate of the High Court should be required for candidates contesting for membership in the Pakistan Bar Council. This measure would ensure that candidates possess the requisite expertise and experience to fulfil these critical responsibilities effectively.

**SENATOR FAROOQ HAMID NAEK
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**