[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

BILL

to amend the Archival Material (Preservation and Export Control) Act, 1975

WHEREAS, it is expedient to amend the Archival Material (Preservation and Export Control) Act, 1975 (XLVI of 1975), 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 Archival Material (Preservation and Export Control) (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 2, Act XLVI of 1975.-** In the Archival Material (Preservation and Export Control) Act, 1975 (XLVI of 1975), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2,-

(a) in paragraph (a) for the expression, "Federal Government" the expression, "Prime Minister" shall be substituted; and

(b) after paragraph (c), the following new paragraph (ca) shall be inserted, namely: -

"(ca). "Division concerned" means the Division to which business of this Act stands allocated;".

3. **Amendment of section 3, Act XLVI of 1975.-** In the said Act, in section 3, for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring, the words "Secretary of the Division concerned" shall be substituted.

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In the judgment of the Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan in the Mustafa Impex, Karachi v. Government of Pakistan (PLD 2016 SC 808), it was clarified that executive decisions involving policy, financial or administrative implications are to be taken by the Federal Cabinet collectively, and not by individual office holders, unless duly authorized by law.

In the aftermath of the aforesaid judgment, it has been observed that several existing laws continue to vest routine, procedural and administrative powers in the "Federal Government," which necessitates repeated submission of minor and non- policy matters to the Federal Cabinet. This practice has resulted in avoidable burden on the Cabinet, and delays in administrative processes.

With a view to streamlining governance, improving administrative efficiency, and ensuring that the Federal Cabinet focuses on matters of national policy and strategic importance, the Cabinet Division, in pursuance of the direction of the Federal Cabinet, has undertaken a comprehensive review of relevant laws and has prepared the amendment bill to rationalize and reassign such powers to the appropriate authorities.

The Bill, therefore, intends to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

Minister In-Charge