

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

to provide for making compulsory teaching of the Holy Quran to Muslim students in all educational institutions

Whereas it is expedient to provide for making compulsory teaching of the Holy Quran to Muslim students in all educational institutions in the Islamabad Capital Territory and in all the public sector educational institutions owned and controlled by the Federal Government wherever they may be and for matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, application and commencement.— (1) This Act shall be called the Compulsory Teaching of the Holy Quran Act, 2017

(2) It shall apply to only Muslim students in all educational institutions-

- (a) in the Islamabad Capital Territory; and
- (b) owned and controlled by the Federal Government wherever they may be.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.— Unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

- (a) “appropriate Government” shall have the same meaning as assigned to this expression in the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012 (XXIV of 2012);
- (b) “educational institution” means any school, college, institute, or otherwise by whatever name called for, established and setup in public or private sector for imparting education to students irrespective of its status whether registered or not registered with the appropriate Government or any other body;
- (c) “Naazrah Quran” means recitation by sighting of the Arabic text;
- (d) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and

(e) "rules" means rules made under this Act.

3. **Compulsory teaching of the Holy Quran.**— (1) There shall be, in all educational institutions, compulsory teaching of—

- (a) the *Naazrah* Quran in classes, grades or, as the case may be, levels I to V in prescribed manner; and
- (b) the translation of the Holy Quran in classes, grades or, as the case may be, levels VI to XII in such prescribed manner so that the entire Holy Quran is completed upto class, grade or, as the case may be, level XII.

(2) The Minister-in-charge of the appropriate Government shall ensure implementation of this Act in the manner as may be prescribed.

4. **Power to make rules.**— The Minister-in-charge of the appropriate Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

5. **Act not to be derogatory to any other law.**— The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The bill will make teaching of entire Naazrah Quran in classes/grades I to V and translation of the entire Holy Quran in classes/grades VI to XII compulsory to the Muslim students of all educational institutions both in public and private sector in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), FATA and also the institutions owned and controlled by the Federal Government wherever they may be.

It will make the divine message understood; ensure the repose of society, peace and tranquility; Promote the supreme human values of truth, honesty, integrity, character building, tolerance, understanding others' point of view and way of life. It will lead towards spreading goodness and auspiciousness and towards ending chaos and uncertainty.

This bill will also help the state to discharge its Constitutional responsibility. Article 31(2) of the Constitution also requires that the "State shall endeavour, as respects the Muslims of Pakistan," to "make the teaching of Holy Quran & Islamiyat compulsory".

The Bill is being moved in the context of above-mentioned reasons.

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Ministry of Federal Education and
Professional Training