

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

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BILL

further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic 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 shall be called the Constitution (Twenty Fourth Amendment) Act, 2014.

(2) It shall come into force at once and shall be deemed always have been enacted in the Constitution;

Explanation.

It is clarified that this Constitution (Twenty Fourth Amendment) Act, 2014 shall apply to all transactions past and closed, notwithstanding any order or judgment of any Court or Tribunal; and any proceedings pending before any forum in view of the law prior to this constitution (Twenty Fourth Amendment) Act, 2014, shall abate forthwith.

2. **Amendment of Article 51 of the Constitution.**- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as the Constitution, in Article 51, in clause 2, in paragraph (a), the following explanation shall be added, namely:-

“Explanation.- it is hereby clarified that the right of a citizen of Pakistan to vote shall remain unaffected in case the citizen of Pakistan acquires the nationality/citizenship of any country permitted under the Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951 or any other successor law in force or any letter, order, notification, rule or sub-ordinate/delegated legislation made or issued there under.”

3. **Amendment of Article 63 of the Constitution.**- In the Constitution, in Article 63, in clause 1, in paragraph (c), after the words “foreign state”, the words “except a country or a state in respect of which the acquisition of dual nationality/citizenship is permissible under the Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951 or any other successor law in force or any letter, order, notification, rule”, shall be inserted.

4. **Amendment of Article 106 of the Constitution**- In the Constitution, in Article 106, in clause 2, in paragraph (a), the following explanation shall be added, namely:-

"Explanation.- It is hereby clarified that the right of a citizen of Pakistan to vote shall remain unaffected in case the citizen of Pakistan acquires the nationality/citizenship of any country permitted under the Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951 or any other successor law in force or any letter, order, notification, rule or sub-ordinate/delegated legislation made or issued there under."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Pakistan is one such country which permits the holding of a dual citizenship/nationality in terms of the Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951 (Act II of 1951) (as amended by Act XXVII of 1972). Many countries of the world permit the holding of dual nationalities/citizenships. A direct result of this is that in those countries persons holding dual nationalities/citizenships can exercise the right to vote and can also run for Parliamentary elections. Our country's economy has always been considerably supported by overseas Pakistanis, whose allegiance to Pakistan is in no doubt. It has been a long-standing demand of the overseas Pakistanis that there should be no impediment or ambiguity in their right to vote and run for elections for the Parliament. The need for the support of overseas Pakistanis to our country's economy is the direst today than ever.

Sd/-

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