**PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB**

**Bill No. 07 of 2024**

**THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024**

A

Bill

*to amend the laws relating to Provincial Assembly of the Punjab*

It is expedient further to amend the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Privileges Act 1972 (II of 1972) and to amend the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Secretariat Services Act 2019 (IX of 2019) in the manner hereinafter appearing to streamline the working of the Assembly Secretariat and to provide for ancillary matters;

Be it enacted by Provincial Assembly of the Punjab as follows:

**1. Short title and commencement.–** (1) This Act may be cited as the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Laws (Amendment) Act 2024.

 (2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendments in Act II of 1972.–** In the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Privileges Act 1972 (II of 1972):

i) in section 2, in subsection (1), for para (gb), the following shall be substituted:

 “(gb) “Officer of the House” means Secretary General of the Assembly or any other officer authorized by him;”

ii) in section 10, for the word “Secretary”, wherever occur, the words “Secretary General” shall be substituted; and

iii) in section 12, for the word “Secretary”, the words “Secretary General” shall be substituted.

**3. Amendments in Act IX of 2019.–** In the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Secretariat Services Act 2019 (IX of 2019):

i) in section 2:

a) in subsection (1), for clause (s), the following shall be substituted:

“(s) “Secretary General” means the Secretary General of the Secretariat who shall have the status of a Secretary to the Government and, in case of absence of Secretary General, includes any other officer of the Assembly Secretariat authorized by the Speaker to perform the functions as Acting Secretary General for the time being;”

b) after subsection (3), the following new subsection (4) shall be added:

 “(4) Any expression referring to “Secretary of the Assembly Secretariat”, used and contained in ‘The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Secretariat (Services) Rules 2019’, ‘Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Finance Committee Rules 1974’, ‘Rules of Business, Government of the Punjab 2011’, ‘The Punjab Delegation of Financial Power Rules 2016’, ‘Punjab Procurement Rules 2014’, ‘Revised Leave Rules 1981’ and ‘Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Hostel Rules 2002’, shall be deemed as expression referring to “Secretary General of the Assembly Secretariat”, who shall exercise and perform the powers and functions of head of the Assembly Secretariat.”;

ii) for section 3, the following shall be substituted:

**“3. Secretariat.–** There shall be a separate Secretariat of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab headed by the Secretary General.”; and

iii) in section 4, in subsection (3), for the word “Secretary” appearing at the end, the words “Secretary General” shall be substituted.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Secretariat Services Act 2019 (IX of 2019) was enacted to regulate the recruitment and the conditions of service of the persons appointed in the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Secretariat, as required by Article 87(2), read with the Article 127, of the Constitution.

Over a period of five years since its enactment, various eventualities have surfaced which require remedy in order to ensure smooth running of the Assembly Secretariat. For instance, the office of Secretary, i.e. the head of the Secretariat is vacant for a period over than a year. In the past as well, this office remained vacant on several occasions owing to various counts and ad hoc arrangements had to be adopted to run the affairs of the Assembly Secretariat. It is not advisable to keep this important office of administrative head vacant for indefinite period without any cogent reason.

It has become indispensable to remove this anomaly keeping in view that after the general elections held in February 2024, the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab has been constituted and the administrative incharge, i.e. the Secretary is not available and is likely to be unavailable in near future. Consequential amendments in the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Privileges Act 1972 have also been included.

Hence this Bill.

 **SAMI ULLAH KHAN, MPA (PP-145)**

 **MEMBER INCHARGE**

**Lahore: CH AMER HABIB**

**16 April 2024 Secretary General**