**PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB**

**Bill No. 44 of 2025**

**THE DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025**

A

Bill

*further to amend the Drugs Act, 1976.*

It is necessary further to amend the Drugs Act, 1976 (XXXI of 1976) for the purposes hereinafter appearing.

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

**1. Short title and commencement**.– (1) This Act may be cited as the Drugs (Amendment) Act 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 31 of Act XXXI of 1976**.- In the Drugs Act, 1976 (XXXI of 1976), in section 31, for sub-section (2), the following shall be substituted:

“(2) A Drug Court shall consist of:

(a) a Chairperson who is or has been a District and Sessions Judge or Additional District and Sessions Judge to be appointed, in consultation with the Chief Justice, Lahore High Court, for a period of three years, by the Provincial Government on such terms and conditions as it may determine; and

(b) two members, each from the field of pharmaceutical and medical with fifteen years’ experience in such field, to be appointed, for a period of three years, by the Provincial Government on such terms and conditions as it may determine.

(2a) The Chairperson and one of the members shall constitute the quorum of a Drug Court for deciding the matters, other than final hearing and decision of the case, under the Act.”.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

In consequence of the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010, the subject of drugs and medicines was devolved to the provinces on abolition of the concurrent legislative list of the Constitution. Accordingly, the Drugs Act, 1976 came within the legislative competence of the provinces in terms of Article 142 (c) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. The provinces have full power to amend the existing legislation on the subject of drugs and medicines in terms of Article 270AA (6) of the Constitution. Earlier, the Drugs Act, 1976 was amended vide the Punjab Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2016 in relation to the Drug Courts and all the powers exercisable by the Federal Government in respect of existing Drug Courts in Punjab shall be the powers of Provincial Government under the Drugs Act, 1976 from the commencement of the said Amendment Act 2016. Therefore, it is imperative to strengthen the Drug Courts in Punjab and in order to provide terms and conditions concerning Drug Courts by amending the Drugs Act, 1976 on the analogy of Environmental law and Labour law etc.

 **MINISTER INCHARGE**

**Lahore: CH AMER HABIB**

**April 16, 2025 Secretary General**