**PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB**

**Bill No. 61 of 2025**

**THE PUNJAB ARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025**

A

Bill

*further to amend the Punjab Arms Ordinance, 1965.*

It is necessary further to amend the Punjab Arms Ordinance, 1965 (XX of 1965) 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 Punjab Arms (Amendment) Act 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 3 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 3:

(a) in sub-section (1):

(i) after clause (d), the following shall be inserted:

“(da) “gun shooting club” means a specialized facility, comprising of ranges, designed specifically to practice target shooting of non-prohibited bore arms;”;

(ii) in clause (g), for the full stop at the end, the expression “; and” shall be substituted;

(iii) after clause (g), the following shall be added:

“(h) “Secretary” means the Secretary to the Government, Home Department.”; and

(b) in sub-section (2), for the word “Government”, the word “Secretary” shall be substituted.

**3. Substitution of heading of Chapter ll of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Punjab Arms Ordinance, 1965 (XX of 1965), for brevity referred to as ‘the Ordinance’, in **CHAPTER ll**, for the heading, the following shall be substituted:

“**Sale, Repair, Manufacturing and Running of Gun Shooting Club**".

**4. Amendment of section 4 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 4:

(a) for the heading, the following shall be substituted:

“**Unlicensed sale, repair, manufacturing of arms and ammunition and running of gun shooting club prohibited**”;

(b) in sub-section (1), for the words “of any arms”, the expression “and manufacturing of any arms, ammunition and running of gun shooting club”, shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (2), for the words “District Coordination Officer”, the words “Deputy Commissioner” shall be substituted.

**5. Amendment of section 7 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 7, in sub-section (2), for the word “Magistrate”, the words “Deputy Commissioner” shall be substituted.

**6. Amendment of section 8 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 8, in sub-section (2), for the word “Magistrate”, the words “Deputy Commissioner” shall be substituted.

**7. Amendment of section 11A of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 11A, for the word “Government” wherever appearing, the word “Secretary” shall be substituted.

**8. Amendment of section 11B of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 11B:

(a) for the word “Government”, the word “Secretary” shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (3), for the word “Magistrate”, the words “Deputy Commissioner” shall be substituted.

**9. Amendment of section 12 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 12:

(a) in sub-section (1):

(i) in clause (a), for the words “District Coordination Officer”, the words “Deputy Commissioner” shall be substituted;

(ii) in clause (b), for the word “Government”, the word “Secretary” shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (2), for the word “Government”, the words “Chief Secretary” shall be substituted.

**10. Amendment of section 13 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 13;

(a) in sub-section (1):

(i) in clause (a), after the words “of any arms”, the expression “and manufactures any arms, ammunition and runs a gun shooting club” shall be substituted;

(ii) in clause (i):

1. the expression “keeps,” shall be omitted;
2. for the full stop “.”, the expression “; or” shall be substituted; and

(iii) after clause (i), as amended above, the following shall be added:

“(j) keeps any arms in contravention of an order issued under section 11A.”; and

(b) for sub-section (2), the following shall be substituted:

“(2) The offences provided in sub-section (1) shall be non-bailable and for:

(a) keeping or possessing of a non-prohibited bore weapon, ammunition of non-prohibited bore weapons or military stores, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years but shall not be less than three years and with fine not less than one million rupees, and in case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for six months; or

(b) carrying or displaying of a non-prohibited bore weapon, ammunition of non-prohibited bore weapons or military stores, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years but not less than three years and with fine not less than two million rupees, and in case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for six months; or

(c) keeping or possessing of a prohibited bore weapon or ammunition of prohibited bore weapons, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years but not less than four years and with fine not less than two million rupees, and in case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for one year; or

(d) carrying or displaying of a prohibited bore weapon or ammunition of prohibited bore weapons, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years but shall not less than seven years and with fine not less than two million rupees, and in case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for one year; or

(e) carrying or possessing of two or more prohibited bore weapons or five or more non-prohibited bore weapons or one prohibited bore weapon and two non-prohibited bore weapons, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to fourteen years but not less than ten years and with fine which shall not be less than three million rupees, and in case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for two years; or

(f) undertaking repairs or manufacturing any arms, ammunitions or running a gun shooting club, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years but not less than five years and with fine which shall not be less than three million rupees and in case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment of two years.".

**11. Amendment of section 14 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 14:

(a) in clause (b), for the expression “, or with fine, or with both”, the expression “and with fine not less than one million rupees, and in case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for six months” shall be substituted; and

(b) in the proviso, for the words “which is not less than two”, the words “not less than three” shall be substituted.

**12. Substitution of section 14A of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, for section 14A, the following shall be substituted:

“**14A. Cognizance and trial of offences**.- All offences under this Ordinance shall be cognizable and shall be tried in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898).”.

**13. Amendment of section 15 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 15, for the words “may extend to five thousand”, the words “shall not be less than one hundred thousand” shall be substituted.

**14. Amendment of section 16 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 16:

(a) in clause (b), for the expression “may extend to three years or with fine, or with both”, the expression “shall not be less than three years and with fine not less than five hundred thousand rupees, andin case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for six months” shall be substituted; and

(b) in the proviso, for the words “ which is not less than one year”, the expression “not less than five years, and with fine not less than five hundred thousand rupees, andin case of the default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for one year” shall be substituted.

**15. Amendment of section 17 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 17, for the words “may extend to two thousand rupees”, the expression “shall not be less than one hundred thousand rupees, and in case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for three months” shall be substituted.

**16. Amendment of section 18 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 18:

(a) for the word “Magistrate”, the words “Deputy Commissioner” shall be substituted; and

(b) for the words “or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both”, the expression “and fine not less than one hundred thousand rupees, and in case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for three months” shall be substituted.

**17. Amendment of section 19 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 19, for the expression “may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both”, the expression “shall not be less than six months, and with fine not less than one hundred thousand rupees, and in case of default of payment of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment for three months” shall be substituted.

**18. Amendment of section 22 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 22, for the word “Government”, wherever appearing, the word “Secretary” shall be substituted.

**19. Amendment of section 23 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, in section 23, in sub-section (1), for the word “Magistrate” the words “Deputy Commissioner” shall be substituted.

**20. Omission of section 27 of Ordinance XX of 1965**.– In the Ordinance, section 27 shall be omitted.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The Home Department has proposed to amend the Punjab Arms Ordinance, 1965 with an aim to enhancing punishments for illegal arms possession, trafficking and other firearms related offences to serve as deterrent. The draft Bill further aims at striking a balance between the right of self-defence and the need to protect the public safety, while also addressing emerging security challenges in the Province. The draft Bill has introduced strict control on firearms to address the growing threat of terrorism and organized crime in the province. There is an introduction of gun shooting clubs to promote a culture of responsible gun ownership while ensuring public safety, regulation and economic benefits. Hence, this Bill.

 **MINISTER INCHARGE**

**Lahore: CH AMER HABIB**

**April 22, 2025 Secretary General**