

CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING REGARDING THE PUNJAB COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (AMENDMENT) BILL 2015 (BILL NO. 30 OF 2015)

The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Bill 2015 (Bill No.30 of 2015) was referred to the Standing Committee on Gender Mainstreaming on 25 May 2015. The Committee considered the bill in its meetings held on 28 May 2015 and 2 June 2015.

2. The following were present:-

1.	Mrs Raheela Khadim Hussain, MPA (W-345)	Chairperson
2.	Mrs Shamim Akhtar alias Shahzadi Kabir, MPA (W-342)	Member
3.	Mrs Tehseen Fawad, MPA (W-339) (attended on 2 June 2015)	Member
4.	Mrs Lubna Rehan, MPA (W-340)	Member
5.	Mrs Salma Shaheen Butt, MPA (W-341)	Member
6.	Mrs Nabira Indleeb, MPA (W-350)	Member
7.	Dr Nausheen Hamid, MPA (W-356)	Member

3. Mrs Irum Bukhari, Secretary to Government of the Punjab, Women Development Department and Mr Mohsin Bukhari, Deputy Director, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department represented their Departments. Hafiz Muhammad Shafiq Adil, Special Secretary, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab functioned as Secretary to the Committee.

4. The Secretary to Government of Punjab, Women Development Department apprised the Committee about the aims and objects of the bill. She stated that the Ombudsperson, appointed under the Punjab Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2012 was entitled to remuneration in MP-I scale. However, the Chairperson of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women was entitled to a salary equivalent BS-21. As a special Institution, the Punjab Commission of the Status of Women might had its Chairperson in MP-I scale on the analogy of the Ombudsperson appointed under the Punjab Protection against Harassment at the Workplace Act 2012. The Government might appoint private members of the Commission in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission. She further apprised the Committee that the disparity in salary packages between two heads of Special Institutions within the Department was unjustified. It was, therefore, proposed that her compensation be made equivalent to that of Punjab Ombudsperson in MP-I scale through an amendment in the Act *ibid*. The age limit for members of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women was defined between 30 years to 65 years under the Act. The said age restriction would be resulted in a bar on participation of eminent retired persons with a wealth of experience in policy making, legislation and human rights to guide the work of the Commission, therefore, revision of age was considered essential. She requested the Committee that the bill as introduced may be recommended to be passed by the Assembly.

6. The Committee after hearing the Members, having the view point of the Administrative Department as well as Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department and discussing various points, unanimously decided to recommend that the bill may be passed by the Assembly subject to the following amendment:-

AMENDMENT IN THE BILL

CLAUSE 3

in sub-clause (2), the words "seventy" occurring in line 2, be substituted by the words "sixty five"

7. A copy of the Bill as introduced in the Assembly is at Annexure-A and a copy of the Bill as recommended by the Committee is at Annexure-B.

Lahore
2 June 2015

(MRS RAHEELA KHADIM HUSSAIN)
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Gender Mainstreaming

Lahore
2 June 2015


(RAI MUMTAZ HUSSAIN BABAR)
Secretary

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB

Bill No. 30 of 2015

THE PUNJAB COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (AMENDMENT) BILL 2015

**A
BILL**

to amend the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act 2014.

It is necessary to amend the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act 2014 (I of 2014) for purposes hereinafter appearing;

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

1. **Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act 2015.
(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Amendment in section 4 of Act I of 2014.**— In the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act 2014 (I of 2014), for brevity cited as the said Act, in section 4, for subsection (3), the following shall be substituted:
“(3) The Chairperson shall be a full-time officer of the Commission entitled to remuneration in management position scale-I (MP-I).”
3. **Amendment in section 5 of Act I of 2014.**— In the said Act, for section 5, the following shall be substituted:
”5. **Appointment of members.**— (1) The Government shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, appoint members mentioned in clauses (b) and (c) of subsection (3) of section 3 in such manner and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and until so prescribed, as the Government may determine.
(2) A member appointed under subsection (1) shall not be less than thirty years of age and more than seventy years of age, and shall have experience of working on issues relating to women rights.
(3) The Government shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, within thirty days of occurrence of a vacancy, appoint a member for the residual term of the outgoing member.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Ombudsperson, appointed under the Punjab Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2012 is entitled to remuneration in MP-I scale. However, the Chairperson of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women is entitled to a salary equivalent BS-21. As a special institution, the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women may have its Chairperson in MP-I scale on the analogy of the Ombudsperson appointed under the Punjab Protection against Harassment at the Workplace Act 2012. The Government may appoint private members of the Commission in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission. Hence this Bill.

MINISTER INCHARGE

ANNEXURE - B

**(BILL AS RECOMMENDED BY THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING)**

**A
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It is necessary to amend the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act 2014 (I of 2014) for purposes hereinafter appearing;

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1. Short title and commencement.— (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act 2015.

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3. Amendment in section 5 of Act I of 2014.— In the said Act, for section 5, the following shall be substituted:

5. Appointment of members.— (1) The Government shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, appoint members mentioned in clauses (b) and (c) of subsection (3) of section 3 in such manner and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and until so prescribed, as the Government may determine.

(2) A member appointed under subsection (1) shall not be less than thirty years of age and more than sixty five years of age, and shall have experience of working on issues relating to women rights.

(3) The Government shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, within thirty days of occurrence of a vacancy, appoint a member for the residual term of the outgoing member.”
