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PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME REGARDING "THE PUNJAB VAGRANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025 (BILL NO. 20 OF 2025)"

The subject Bill was referred to the Committee on 12.02.2025 and the same was considered by the Committee in its meeting held on 27.02.2025.

2. The following were present:-

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| 1. Mr Safdar Hussain Sahi, MPA (PP-77) | Chairperson |
| 2. Mr Khalid Mehmood Ranjha Parliamentary Secretary for Law & Parliamentary Affairs | ex-officio Member |
| 3. Ms Safia Saeed, MPA (W-323) | Member |
| 4. Mr Arif Iqbal, MPA (PP-44) | Member |
| 5. Mr Jaffar Ali Hocha, MPA (PP-102) | Member |
| 6. Mr Shuaib Ameer, MPA (PP-281) | Member |
| 7. Mr Farrukh Javaid, MPA (PP-161) | Member |

3. Mr Imran Hussain Ranjha, Additional Secretary, Government of the Punjab, Home Department and Mr Shan ul Haq, Special Secretary, Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department, represented their respective departments. Mr Khalid Mahmood, Acting Secretary General, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, functioned as Secretary to Committee.

4. Mr Imran Hussain Ranjha, Additional Secretary, Home Department apprised the Committee about the aims and object of the subject Bill. He briefed that the Home Department intends to curb the menace of organized begging which has been emerged as an organized criminal activity in the Punjab. The issue of organized begging needs to be addressed urgently. In addition, begging in all forms is rampant which is causing deterioration in the law and order situation. Accordingly, enhancement of punishment in the Ordinance is need of the hour. He requested the Committee that the Bill, as introduced may be recommended for passage by the Assembly.

5. The Committee, after hearing the members, having viewpoints of the Administrative Department as well as Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department, unanimously decided to recommend that the bill, as introduced, in the Assembly, may be passed by the Assembly.

6. A copy of the Bill as introduced in the Assembly and as recommended by the Committee is Annexed.

Lahore:
February 27, 2025

(MR SAFDAR HUSSAIN SAHI)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Home

Lahore:
February 27, 2025

(KHALID MAHMOOD)
Acting Secretary General

(Bill as introduced in the Assembly and as recommended by the Standing Committee on Home)

A

Bill

further to amend the Punjab Vagrancy Ordinance, 1958.

It is necessary further to amend the Punjab Vagrancy Ordinance, 1958 (XX of 1958) 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 Vagrancy (Amendment) Act 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2 of Ordinance XX of 1958.— In the Punjab Vagrancy Ordinance, 1958 (XX of 1958), for brevity referred to as 'the Ordinance', in section 2, after clause (d), the following shall be inserted:

"(da) "organizer" means a person who organizes or employs or causes to employ one or more person or child for the purpose of vagrancy;

"(db) "person" includes a transgender person as defined in the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018 (XIII of 2018);".

3. Substitution of section 10 of Ordinance XX of 1958.— In the Ordinance, for section 10, the following shall be substituted:

"10. Punishment for organizing, employing or causing a person or child to ask for alms.— (1) Whoever, being organizer, employees or causes:

(a) a person, without any injury or incapacitation, to solicit or receive alms or uses him as exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years and fine up to three hundred thousand rupees but not less than one hundred thousand rupees and in case of default of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment of six months; or

(b) more than one person, without any injury or incapacitation, to solicit or receive alms or uses them as exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to five years but not less than three years and fine up to five hundred thousand rupees but not less than three hundred thousand rupees and in case of default of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment of six months; or

(c) a child, without any injury or incapacitation, to solicit or receive alms or uses him as exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to five years but not less than three years and fine up to five hundred thousand rupees but not less than three hundred thousand rupees and in case of default of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment of six months; or

(d) more than one child, without any injury or incapacitation, to solicit or receive alms or uses them as exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to seven years but not less than five years and

fine up to seven hundred thousand rupees but not less than five hundred thousand rupees and in case of default of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment of one year; or

- (e) one or more than one person, or child with any injury or incapacitation, to solicit or receive alms or uses such child as exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to ten years but not less than seven years and fine up to two million rupees but not less than one million rupees and in case of default of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment of two years.

(2) Whoever, being guardian, employs, connives at or causes a child to solicit or receive alms or uses such child as exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years and fine up to three hundred thousand rupees but not less than one hundred thousand rupees and in case of default of fine, the offender shall undergo further imprisonment of six months.

(3) Whoever, being organizer or guardian, as the case may be, previously convicted of an offence under this Ordinance, is convicted for the same offence, shall be liable to double punishment provided for that offence under this Ordinance.”.

4. Substitution of section 19 of Ordinance XX of 1958.— In the Ordinance, for section 19, the following shall be substituted:

“19. Cognizance and bail.— All offences under this Ordinance shall be cognizable and non-bailable, except the offence punishable under section 9 which shall be cognizable and bailable.”.

5. Substitution of section 20 of Ordinance XX of 1958.— In the Ordinance, for section 20, the following shall be substituted:

“20. Jurisdiction.— The offences punishable under section 10 shall be tried in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898).”.
