

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT PAKISTAN]

A

**BILL**

To provide for compulsory declaration of income and assets by Public officers on yearly basis

**WHEREAS**, it is expedient for assistance in the detection and prevention of corrupt behaviors and conflicts of interest in public administration, building a climate of integrity in public service and bolstering public confidence in the integrity of Government.

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title and commencement**.- (1) This act may be called the Compulsory declaration of income and assets by Public Officers Act, 2012.

(2) It shall apply to all the subjects of Federal Government including the military and the judiciary.

(3) It shall come into force at once

**2. Definitions**.- In this act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context

“**assets**” means property of any kind; moveable or immovable, shares; stocks; stock-in-trade; jewellery, furniture, machinery, a precious painting, sculpture, drawing or other work of art; a rare manuscript, folio or book; a coin or medallion; or an antique; or anything having market value of more than rupees five thousand on the thirtieth day of June of that year for which assets are being declared;

“**Declaration**” means a declaration in the prescribed manner under section 3 of the Act;

“**Prescribed**” means prescribed by rules

“**Public Officer**” means a person who holds public office; an official or the employee of Government.

3. **Declaration of assets.**- (1) On the commencement of this Act, every person who is an Governmental employee and in possession of assets having accumulated the value of five-hundred thousand or more on the thirtieth day of June of each year shall file a declaration on the prescribed form time to time to an authoritative and non-partisan Parliamentary Standing Committee on Asset Disclosures and Investigation.
  
4. **Verification and audit of declaration.**- (1) The Chairperson of the Parliamentary committee on Asset disclosure and Investigation shall select ten percent of all declaration through a computerized ballot for the purposes of actual or physical verification and may also entertain the complaints of aggrieved party against the public officer at the end of fiscal year.  
  
(2) The public officers selected for audit of declaration under sub-section (1) who declared their assets under section 3 of Act shall be served with a notice of no less than fifteen days and such person shall produce all the necessary accounts that would be sufficient to support their asset declaration statement.
  
5. **Penalty for failure to furnish declaration of income and assets.**- (1) Any person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to file a declaration under section (3) on or before the specified time period shall be liable for suspension until the declaration of income and assets.
  
6. **Punishment for false, misleading or less declaration of assets.**- (1) Any person who deliberately makes a statement in the declaration from which counterfeit, misleading or showing less assets or undervaluation of assets as compared to their market value, with approximate variation of nor less or more than ten percent of such assets, on the date of declaration shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of ten years or confiscation of such undervalued or not declared assets or both.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS**

When public officials pillage public assets, they debase society, create impediments to economic development and divest underprivileged citizens of indispensable human rights. Clearly, the exploitation of public office for private gain is a severe offense that must be addressed in order to restore fairness and safeguard citizens' trust in public institutions.

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