

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

BILL

*further to amend the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997*

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 (XXVII of 1997), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2016.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 21, Act XXVII of 1997.** In the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 (XXVII of 1997), in section 21, after sub-section (4), the following new sub-section shall be added, namely:-

"(5) The Government shall make rules for a comprehensive programme for protection of a judge, Member, counsel, public prosecutor and the witnesses."

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

Witnesses need to have the confidence to come forward to assist law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities. They need to be assured that they will receive support and protection from intimidation and the harm that criminal groups may seek to inflict upon them in attempts to discourage or punish them from cooperating. Similarly, inadequate protection to the judges, prosecutors, etc. dealing with the anti terrorism cases has been identified as one of the major causes impeding the disposal of cases. The draft Bill will ensure that the government shall formulate and implement a comprehensive program for the protection of Judges, Members, Councils, Public Prosecutors, witnesses and every other person associated with the investigation or trial of the case.

The abovementioned Bill is designed to seek the said objectives.

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  2. SENATOR AITZAZ AHSAN,
  3. SENATOR COL. (R) SYED TAHIR HUSSAIN MASHHADI,
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  5. SENATOR SAEED GHANI,
  6. SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MEHMOOD,
  7. SENATOR MUSHAHID HUSSAIN SYED,
  8. SENATOR IQBAL ZAFAR JHAGRA,
  9. SENATOR MUHAMMAD USMAN KHAN KAKAR,
  10. SENATOR DR. JEHANZEB JAMALDINI,
  11. SENATOR BAZ MUHAMMAD KHAN,
  12. SENATOR HIDAYAT ULLAH,
  13. SENATOR NAUMAN WAZIR KHATTAK,
  14. SENATOR SIRAJUL HAQ AND
  15. SENATOR SYED MUZAFAR HUSSAIN SHAH
- MEMBERS-IN-CHARGE