

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

bill

further to amend the Pakistan Telecommunications (Re-organization) Act, 1996

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996 (XVII of 1996), in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement. – (1) This Act shall be called the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 3, Act XVII of 1996:-

In the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996 (XVII of 1996), in section 3 for sub-section (7), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

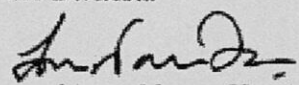
“(7) The Chairman and members of the Authority shall be paid such remuneration for their respective terms of office as may be determined by the Federal Government”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Section 3(T) of Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996 provides that *"The member of the Authority shall be paid the salary and shall be entitled to the privileges of an officer in MP-II and the Chairman shall be paid the salary and be entitled to the privileges of an officer in MP-I"*. However, according to Law and Justice Division clarification *"the word "salary" and "privileges" are not inter-connected and shall be read separately. Therefore, the member and Chairman of the Authority are entitled to only privileges to the officer in MP-II and MP-I respectively"*. By virtue of Law and Justice Division clarification, there is an ambiguity about the admissibility of "salary" to the Chairman and Members of PTA, which need to be determined.

2. Moreover, unlike the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act, 1996, the Acts/Ordinances of all other Regulatory Authorities under the Cabinet Division i.e. Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority (NAPHDA), National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority (NSDRA) and National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Authority (NAML&CFTA) authorize the Federal Government or Prime Minister to determine the remuneration of Chairmen and Members of the respective Authority.

3. The proposed amendment in the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act, 1996 aims to remove the ambiguity pointed out by the Law & Justice Division in the Act *ibid*, and will authorize the Federal Government to decide the pay package for Chairman and Members of PTA keeping in view the roles, responsibility and work associated with their respective positions in line with the similar provisions available in the Acts/Ordinances of other Regulatory Authorities under the Cabinet Division.


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Minister-in-Charge
Cabinet Division