

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

*further to amend the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act,
1974*

WHEREAS, the Members of Parliament are entitled to medical facilities under section 12 of the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1974;

AND WHEREAS, the facilities provided in the Government health institutions are normally not sufficient to cater for the medical needs and there is need to introduce the concept of Health Insurance Medical Card as in vogue in many countries of the world;

Now, therefore, it is expedient further to amend the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1974 (XXVII of 1974) as follows:

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Act, 2018.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Act XXVII of 1974.- In the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1974 (XXVII of 1974), hereinafter, referred to as the said Act, in section 2,-

(i) after clause (c), the following new clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

“(cc) **“Insurance Card”** shall mean a card whereby a Member of the Senate or his family may be entitled to get appropriate treatment from the hospital other than the Government hospital within the limits provided by an agreement with an insurance company in terms of section 2A for the reimbursement of the expenditure incurred on such medical treatment;

(ccc) **“Insurance Company”** includes any company engaged in the business of life insurance or health insurance;”

(ii) after clause (g) the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(gg) “Schedule” means a schedule of hospitals annexed to the Act.”

3. Amendment of section 12, Act XXVII of 1974.- In the said Act, in section 12, after sub-section (2), the following new sub-sections (3) and (4) shall be added, namely:-

“(3) The medical facilities referred to in this section could also be availed from any hospital as stated in the Schedule, in accordance with the Insurance Card.

(4) The Secretariat of the Senate may amend the Schedule from time-to-time and in accordance with contracts executed with different insurance companies.”

4. Insertion of a new section 12A in Act XXVII of 1974.- In the said Act, after section 12, amended as aforesaid, the following new section 12A shall be inserted, namely:-

“**12A. Arrangements of Health Insurance with Insurance Company.-** The Secretariat of the Senate shall enter into a contract of health insurance with an insurance company for the provision of health facilities to the Members of the Senate in terms of section 12 of the Act and within the budget allocated for medical care.”

5. Insertion of a new Schedule to Act XXVII of 1974.- In the said Act, the following Schedule shall be inserted, namely:-

“SCHEDULE
(see section 2 (gg) and section 12A)

Hospitals to be listed and amended by the Senate Secretariat from time to time and in accordance with the contracts executed with different Insurance Companies

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1974 provides for free medical treatment to the Members of the Senate and their families at State expenditure in terms of section 12 of the Act read with Federal Services Medical Attendance Rules, 1990. The facility provided in the health institutions established by the Federal and Provincial Governments is not sufficient to cater for the needs of the patients, therefore, there is need to introduce a concept of Medical Insurance Card for the Members of the Senate within the limits prescribed for such treatment.

2. The Bill is not a Money Bill as already ruled by the Honourable Chairman Senate vide his Ruling dated 8th July, 2015, wherein in a similar matter the Government was asked to amend sub-section (2) of section 12 of the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1974, through the process provided in Article 70 of the Constitution, 1973, to avoid any test on the touchstone of the principles laid down in the Judgments of the Supreme Court.

3. This Bill is designed to achieve the above objective.

**SENATOR SITARA AYAZ
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**