



House of the Federation

## **SENATE OF PAKISTAN**

### **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT**

ON

**“The Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization)  
(Amendment) Bill, 2025”**

***Presented by:***

**SENATOR RANA MEHMOOD-UL HASSAN  
CHAIRMAN  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT**

# SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT.

I, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat, have the honour to present this report on "The Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) (Amendment) Bill, 2025", introduced by Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Law & Justice on behalf of Minister Incharge Cabinet Secretariat, in the Senate sitting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. The Bill, upon introduction, was referred to the Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee is as follows:-

1.	Senator Rana Mehmood-ul Hassan	Chairman
2.	Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Member
3.	Senator Saleem Mandviwalla	Member
4.	Senator Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary	Member
5.	Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee	Member
6.	Senator Saadia Abbasi	Member
7.	Senator Aimal Wali Khan	Member
8.	Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
9.	Senator Atta-Ur-Rehman	Member
10.	Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti	Member
11.	Senator Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan	Member
12.	Minister In-charge Cabinet Secretariat	Ex-officio Member

3. The Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat considered the Bill in its meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 under the Chairmanship of Senator Rana Mehmood-ul Hassan. The following Honorable Senators were present on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 at the time of the final consideration of the Bill:-

1.	<b>Senator Rana Mehmood-ul Hassan</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
2.	Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Member
3.	Senator Saleem Mandviwalla	Member
4.	Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee	Member
5.	Senator Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan	Member
6.	Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
7.	Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti (via zoom)	Member

4. The Committee was informed that the subject amendment in the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996 has been made in light of the ambiguity pointed out by the Law and Justice Division. The Committee was apprised that Section 3 (7) of the 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

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the Chairman shall be paid the salary and be entitled to the privileges of an officer in MP-I.' It was also informed that according to the clarification of Law and Justice Division '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.'

5. The Committee was also informed that 'unlike the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act 1996, the Acts/Ordinances of all other Regulatory Authorities under the Cabinet Division i.e. Oil and 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.'

6. The Committee considered the Bill in four meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025. During all these meetings, the Committee maintained that it did not have any objection to the content of the Bill however different members of the Committee highlighted the fact that in accordance with the Rule of Business 1973, the said bill should not have been sent to this Committee.

7. The Secretary and his representatives in successive meetings maintained that as the administrative control of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) is with the Cabinet Division therefore the said bill has been referred to this particular Committee. The representative from the Law Ministry in all the meetings when the said bill was considered reiterated the position taken by Cabinet Division. The Committee also sought views of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications wherein Member Legal, from the Ministry informed the Committee that in principle they do not oppose the bill however they were not consulted by the Cabinet Division.

8. The Committee highlighted that according to SCHEDULE II [Rule 3 (3)] of the Distribution of Business among the Divisions entry 6 under Information Technology and Telecommunication Division, 'Planning, policy making and legislation covering all aspects of telecommunications excluding radio and television and issuance of policy directives', legislation falls under this category hence this bill should have been referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication. The Committee also inquired whether the line Ministry was consulted however it was informed that no such consultation took place however the Committee was informed that as the Cabinet gave approval of this amendment

which includes Prime Minister and all Ministers including the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications. The Committee reiterated that they have no objection to the contents of the Bill but were highlighting the procedural/technical issue.

9. Accordingly, the Chairman Committee put the bill to vote and the Committee voted in favour of it and recommended that the "The Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) (Amendment) Bill, 2025", introduced in the Senate, may not be passed with an additional note stating that in pursuant to the Rules of Business 1973, the said Bill may be moved by the Ministry/Division concerned. (Copy of Bill introduced in the Senate is annexed).

  
**(WAJEEHA RIAZ)**  
S.O/ Secretary Committee

  
**(SENATOR RANA MEHMOOD-UL HASSAN)**  
Chairman Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat

**INTRODUCED ON 24.01.2025**

**[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:-**

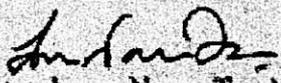
**"(7) The Chairman and members of the Authority shall be paid such remuneration for their respective terms of office as may be determined by the Federal Government".**

### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Section 3(7) 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.

  
(Senator Aazam Nazeer Tarar)  
Minister-in-Charge  
Cabinet Division