

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

BILL

further to amend the National Institute of Health (Re-organization) Act 2021

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the National Institute of Health (Re-organization) Act 2021 (XIII of 2021) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the National Institute of Health (Re-organization) (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 16, Act XIII of 2021. - The National Institute of Health (Re-organization) Act 2021 (XIII of 2021), in section 16, after sub-section (2), the following new sub-section shall be added namely:

“(2A) The center shall assure the registration of cancer patients in central repository, as a vital step to understand the actual burden of disease, and to implement a national action plan for cancer prevention, and management strategies to control the growing epidemic and to provide for matters ancillary thereto; to collect the report data on Cancer cases; to acquire, and form a data base including names and CNIC numbers of cancer patients from all over the country in the repository; in particular,-

- (a) to call any hospital or laboratory to provide data related to cancer patients in any form;
- (b) to analyze the data and have updated statistics;
- (c) to encourage and participate in the awareness regarding cancer even at the village and union council level;
- (d) to work with other Governmental and non-governmental agencies whose goal is eradication of cancer;
- (e) to co-operate with and assist the institutions having similar functions in the spirit of solidarity to achieve humanitarian objectives of those countries; and
- (f) also, to do such supplementary, incidental or consequential acts and things as are necessary or convenient for carrying out its functions.

For the purposes of this sub section "cancer" means,-

- (a) a neoplasm of human tissue;
- (b) in which cell multiplication is uncontrolled and progressive; and
- (c) that, if unchecked, may invade adjacent tissues or extend beyond its site of origin; and
- (d) that has the propensity to recur, either locally or remotely in the body; or
- (e) The Federal Minister of health may, by Gazette notice, declare a disease to be cancer for this sub-section.

(2B) The center shall cause the registry of cancer in the following categories namely,-

- (a) Confirmed cancer cases;
- (b) Deaths due to cancer;
- (c) Recoveries from cancer;
- (d) Hospitalized pendency of cancer; and
- (e) Cancer Demographic information (age, gender, location):

Provided that the personal particulars of a cancer patient shall not be disclosed to any unauthorized person without the prior written consent of the patient.

(2C) The center shall cause collection of Data from the sources including,-

- (a) Hospital records;
- (b) Laboratory reports; and
- (c) Surveillance systems.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The incidence of cancer is rising globally at a remarkable rate. According to the global cancer Observatory, the total number of cases in Pakistan were 178,388 in 2020; and these figures were provided by the Punjab Cancer Registry which represents the population of Lahore and some parts of central Punjab. Considering the overall 220 million populations, these figures are severe underestimation of the true cancer burden in Pakistan. Unfortunately, several attempts at establishing a national cancer registry in the country have failed in the past. Resource limitations, including funds, manpower and infrastructure, and the lack of interest on the part of the governments are behind the failure of the establishment of a national cancer database. There is a dire need for establishing a national cancer registry to understand the actual burden of disease, and to implement a national action plan for cancer prevention, and management strategies to control the growing epidemic. The Bill is designed to achieve the aforesaid objects.

SENATOR SALEEM MANDVIWALLA
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE