

SENATE OF PAKISTAN
House of the Federation



**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND
COORDINATION**

**ON
THE MENTAL HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 INTRODUCED
BY SENATOR MOHAMMAD HUMAYUN MOHMAND, IN THE
SENATE SITTING HELD ON 19TH MAY, 2025**

REPORT NO. 8

PRESENTED BY

Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti
Chairman
**Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services,
Regulations and Coordination**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION ON THE MENTAL HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MOHAMMAD HUMAYUN MOHMAND, IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 19TH MAY, 2025

I, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, Chairman Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination have the honour to present, on behalf of Committee, this report on a Private Member's Bill titled "The Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, 2025" introduced by Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand, in the Senate sitting held on 19th May, 2025 referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

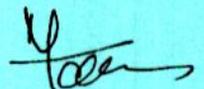
1. Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti	Chairman
2. Senator Syedaal Khan (Deputy Chairman Senate)	Member
3. Senator Muhammad Ahad Khan Cheema (Minister for Economic Affairs)	Member
4. Senator Tallal Badar (Minister of State for Interior)	Member
5. Senator Abdul Qudoos	Member
6. Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan	Member
7. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
8. Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand	Member
9. Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
10. Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
11. Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
12. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee took up the matter in its meeting held on 19th August, 2025 which was attended by the following Members along with the mover:

1 Senator Muhammad Humayun Mohmand	Member/Mover
2 Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan	Member
3 Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
4 Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
5 Senator Sarmad Ali	Mover
6. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination	Ex-officio Member

4. At the outset, Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand briefed the Committee that in the mental health, the role of psychologists was as important as the role of psychiatrists, and stressed on their inclusion. He agreed with definition of psychologist as proposed by the Ministry and its alteration from medical practitioner to health practitioner. However, he emphasized on their registration which was not in place at the moment. The Ministry replied that psychologists' registration was carried out by Allied Health Professional Councils. The Member In-charge, then, agreed with the amendments in the Bill as proposed by the Ministry.

5. Senator Sarmad Ali, the Special Invitee, questioned the non-establishment of Federal Mental Health Authority in Islamabad Capital Territory as proposed under the Mental Health Ordinance, 2001. The President, PMDC replied that initially, it applied to the whole of Pakistan and subsequently, after devolution, the same was transferred to the Provinces. This



led to creation of concerned authorities in the provinces; however, for establishment of the same in the ICT, the proposal had been submitted.

6. The Bill (Annexure-B) was presented before the Committee after thorough discussion and clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The Committee adopted the amendments proposed by the M/O NHSR&C after deliberation the Committee proposed the following amendments namely:-

(i) In clause 2, for the proposed inserted clause (ta) the following shall be substituted namely:-

“(ta) “Psychologist” means a practitioner who has trained for minimum 4 years in a clinical setting academic and has at least a master degree in clinical psychology and can work as an ancillary service mental health unit like other allied practitioners;”

(ii) In clause 3, in sub-clause (i),

(a) In the paragraph (b) for the proposed substituted clause “v” the following shall be substituted namely:-

“(v) Four eminent psychiatrists, two of professor level and two of associate professor level with the minimum of 15 years in clinical experience; and”

(b) In the paragraph (c) for the proposed inserted clause (vi) the following shall be substituted namely:-

“(vi) two clinical psychologists with clinical degree at least of master level with 15 years clinical experience in psychometrics and different kinds of therapies in recognized clinical unit.”

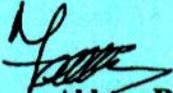
(c) In the paragraph (c) the proposed inserted clause (vii) shall be omitted.

(iii) In clause 4, sub clause (i), (ii) for the proposed inserted clause (b) and (ba) the following shall be substituted namely:-

“(b) Four eminent psychiatrists, two of professor level and two of associate professor level with the minimum of 15 years in clinical experience;”

“(ba) two clinical psychologists with clinical degree at least of master level with 15 years clinical experience in psychometrics and different kinds of therapies in recognized clinical unit;”

7. After in-depth discussion, the Bill was unanimously passed by the Committee with the above amendments. The Committee recommended that “The Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, 2025”, as reported by the Committee, be passed by the Senate of Pakistan (Copy of the Bill as reported by the Committee is annexed as “A” and the Bill as introduced in the Senate is annexed as “B”).


(Naeem Akhtar Bhatti)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti)
Chairman Committee

[AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE]

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further to amend the Mental Health Ordinance, 2001

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Mental Health Ordinance, 2001 (Ordinance VIII of 2001), in its application to the Islamabad Capital Territory, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Mental Health (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Ordinance No. VIII of 2001.- In the Mental Health Ordinance, 2001 (Ordinance No. VIII of 2001) hereinafter referred to as the said Ordinance, in section 2, in sub-section (1), after clause (t), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(ta) “psychologist” means a practitioner who has trained for minimum 4 years in a clinical setting academic and has at least a master degree in clinical psychology and can work as an ancillary service mental health unit like other allied practitioners;”

3. Amendment of Section 3, Ordinance No. VIII of 2001.- In the said Ordinance, in section 3,-

(i) in sub-section (3), -

(a) in paragraph (iv), the word “and” shall be omitted.

(b) for paragraph (v), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(v) Four eminent psychiatrists, two of professor level and two of associate professor level with the minimum of 15 years in clinical experience; and”

(c) After paragraph (v), amended as aforesaid, the following new paragraph shall be inserted, namely:-

(vi) two clinical psychologists with clinical degree at least of master level with 15 years clinical experience in psychometrics and different kinds of therapies in recognized clinical unit.

(ii) In sub-section (7), for paragraph (k), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(k) maintain two separate registers to register psychiatrists and psychologists respectively practicing in the Islamabad Capital

Territory, in such manner as may be prescribed; and”

4. Amendment of section 4, Ordinance No. VIII of 2001.- In the said Ordinance, in section 4, in sub-section (2), -

- (i) For paragraph (b), the following shall be substituted, namely:-
- “(b) Four eminent psychiatrists, two of professor level and two of associate professor level with the minimum of 15 years in clinical experience;”
- (ii) After paragraph (b), amended as aforesaid, the following new paragraph shall be inserted, namely:-
- “(ba) two clinical psychologists with clinical degree at least of master level with 15 years clinical experience in psychometrics and different kinds of therapies in recognized clinical unit;”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Mental Health Authority Ordinance, 2001, was enacted to consolidate and amend the law concerning mentally disordered persons, particularly regarding their care, treatment, management of property, and related matters. However, the law has largely failed to achieve its intended objectives.

A key shortcoming is the lack of representation from elected members of Parliament, who could play a vital role in safeguarding the rights and interests of mentally disordered persons. Additionally, the law overlooks the crucial role of psychologists in improving mental health outcomes. Their inclusion is essential for a more comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to mental healthcare.

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to establish a robust system for registering psychologists and psychiatrists practicing in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). A structured registration framework would enhance professional accountability, improve service quality, and ensure better access to qualified mental health practitioners.

To strengthen mental healthcare in ICT, legislative amendments are necessary. Incorporating parliamentary oversight, integrating psychologists into mental health policy, and establishing a formal registration system for mental health professionals will lead to a more effective and inclusive mental health framework. These reforms are essential to ensuring that the rights and needs of mentally disordered persons are adequately protected and that mental health policies are implemented in both letter and spirit.

2. This Bill is aimed to achieve the above-said objective.

**SENATOR MOHAMMAD HUMAYUN MOHMAND
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**

^{As}
[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

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"(ta) "psychologist" means a medical practitioner possessing a recognized postgraduate qualification in psychology and registered with the Higher Education Commission;"

3. Amendment of Section 3, Ordinance No. VIII of 2001.- In the said Ordinance, in section 3,-

(i) in sub-section (3), -

(a) in paragraph (iv), the word "and" shall be omitted.

(b) for paragraph (v), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(v) Five eminent psychiatrists of minimum associate professor level with at least ten years good standing;"

(c) After paragraph (v), amended as aforesaid, the following new paragraphs shall be inserted, namely:-

(vi) Four eminent psychologists of minimum associate professor level with at least ten years good standing; and

(vii) Two Members from the Senate and the National Assembly, one from each House, to be nominated by the Chairman Senate and the Speaker National Assembly;

Provided one of them shall be from the treasury and opposition in the either House of the Parliament;

Provided further that they shall serve as ex-officio members of the authority."

(ii) In sub-section (7), for paragraph (k), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(k) maintain two separate registers to register psychiatrists and psychologists respectively practicing in the Islamabad Capital Territory, in such manner as may be prescribed; and”

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(i) For paragraph (b), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(b) two psychiatrists of minimum associate professor level, with one having at least ten years in government service;”

(ii) After paragraph (b), amended as aforesaid, the following new paragraph shall be inserted, namely:-

“(ba) two psychologist of minimum associate professor level with one having at least ten years in government service;”

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**SENATOR MOHAMMAD HUMAYUN MOHMAND
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**