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[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

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BILL

further to amend the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961, (ORDINANCE NO. VIII OF 1961) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

AND WHEREAS there is no specific provision in the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 enabling elderly and infirm parents to claim maintenance from their children;

AND WHEREAS parents who are unable to maintain themselves from their own resources should be entitled to claim maintenance from their children other than minors;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the **Muslim Family Laws (Maintenance of Parents) Amendment Act, 2026.**

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Insertion of section 9A, Ordinance VIII of 1961.**- In the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 (VIII of 1961), after section 9, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

"9A. Maintenance of parents. - A parent who is unable to maintain himself or herself from his or her own resources shall be entitled to claim maintenance from his or her children other than minors."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In Pakistan, the care and protection of elderly parents is a matter of serious social and legal concern. Parents who spend their lives caring for and supporting their children often become dependent in old age due to illness, infirmity, lack of income or absence of resources. The Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 provides for maintenance in certain family matters. Section 9 of the Ordinance deals with maintenance payable by a husband to his wife. However, the Ordinance does not contain a specific provision enabling elderly or infirm parents to claim maintenance from their children.

The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan has already considered this issue and recommended insertion of section 9A in the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961, so that a parent who is unable to maintain himself or herself from his or her own resources may claim maintenance from children other than minors. This Bill seeks to give legal effect to that recommendation by inserting section 9A in the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961. The purpose of the Bill is to provide elderly and infirm parents with a clear, simple and enforceable legal right to claim maintenance from their children other than minors, and to protect their dignity, welfare and self-respect in old age.

Sd/-

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri
Member-in-Charge