



**GOVERNORS-GENERAL  
(PENSIONS AND BENEFITS)  
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2012**

**(NO.5 OF 2012)**





**GOVERNORS-GENERAL (PENSIONS AND  
BENEFITS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012**

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**A**

**BILL**

**Entitled**

**AN ACT** TO AMEND THE GOVERNORS-GENERAL (PENSIONS AND  
BENEFITS) ACT 2007

**ENACTED** by the National Parliament of Solomon Islands.

## GOVERNORS-GENERAL (PENSIONS AND BENEFITS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012

Short title and  
commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Governors-General (Pensions and Benefits) (Amendment) Act 2012.

Section 10  
amended

2. The Governors-General (Pensions and Benefits) Act 2007 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal Act”) is amended in section 10 -

(a) by renumbering the existing provision as subsection (1); and

(b) by adding the following new subsection -

“(2) If no official residence is provided in accordance with subsection (1), a Governor-General on retirement shall be entitled to a monthly housing allowance at a rate equivalent to the upper limit of the range prescribed or determined from time to time by the Members of Parliamentary (Entitlements) Commission in respect of Cabinet Ministers irrespective of whether the Governor-General lives in his own house”.

Section 11  
amended

3. The principal Act is amended in section 11 -

(a) by renumbering the existing provision as subsection (1); and

(b) by adding the following new subsections -

“(2) If no official vehicle is provided in accordance with subsection (1), a Governor-General on retirement shall be entitled to a monthly transport allowance at a rate determined or prescribed from time to time by the Members of Parliamentary (Entitlements) Commission in respect of Cabinet Ministers irrespective of whether the Governor-General owns a private vehicle.

(3) Where a Governor-General is provided with an official vehicle in accordance with subsection (1), the cost of fuel, maintenance or running costs shall be met by the Government.”

4. The principal Act is hereby amended by adding after section 11 the following as section 11A -

Addition of  
new section  
11A

“Entitlements  
under section 10  
and 11 to continue

11A. The entitlements or benefits granted to a Governor-General on retirement under sections 10 and 11 shall continue to be enjoyed by the surviving spouse of the Governor-General after his or her death unless such surviving spouse remarries, in which event such entitlement or benefit shall cease”.

5. Section 12 of the principal Act is hereby repealed and the following new section substituted -

Repeal and  
replacement of  
section 12

“Medical  
treatment

12. A Governor-General on retirement shall be entitled to medical treatment free of charge. This entitlement or benefit shall continue to be enjoyed by the surviving spouse of the Governor-General after his or her death unless such surviving spouse remarries, in which event such entitlement or benefit shall cease”.

6. The amendment made to the principal Act by section 2 of this Act shall be deemed for all purposes to have come into effect on 1st January 2012.

Retrospective  
effect

**GOVERNORS-GENERAL (PENSIONS AND BENEFITS)  
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2012**

**OBJECTS AND REASONS**

This Bill seeks to rectify certain anomalies in the principal Act which relate to the provision of housing and transport entitlements of Governors-General.

The retrospective effect of the provisions of section 2 is to address specifically a situation where the Government was unable to meet a statutory obligation due to a strict interpretation of section 10 of the principal Act.

It further seeks to extend such entitlements to the surviving spouse of a Governor General after his or her death.

.....  
PRIME MINISTER

d  
payment

7. Any pension payable under this Act-

(a) shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund; and

(b) shall be paid fortnightly.

if

8. Any pension payable under this Act shall not -

(a) be assignable or transferable except for the purpose of satisfying a debt due to the government or an order of any court for the payment of periodical sums of money towards the maintenance of the spouse, and a child being a minor of the person to whom the pension is payable; or

(b) be liable to be attached, sequestered or levied upon for or in respect of any debt or claim whatever except a debt due to the government or any sum recoverable pursuant to such order of any court as is mentioned in paragraph (a).

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9. (1) A Governor-General who ceases or has ceased to hold office shall be paid a terminal grant or ex-gratia payment of \$75,000.00 or such greater sum, equivalent to and payable to a Prime Minister under the current Parliamentary Entitlements Commission Regulations for each term of office he has served.

(2) The spouse of a Governor-General shall also be qualified to receive an ex-gratia payment equivalent to fifty percent of the payment received by the Governor-General pursuant to subsection (1).

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10. A Governor-General on retirement shall be provided with an official residence free of rent and the cost of water, gas and electricity shall be paid for by the Government.

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11. A Governor-General on retirement shall be provided with an official vehicle for use in connection with his normal duties.

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12. A Governor-General on retirement shall be entitled to medical treatment as prescribed from time to time for public officers.

13. Where a Governor-General whilst on retirement is assigned to undertake any assignment on behalf of Solomon Islands, he shall be entitled to receive protocols, courtesies and benefits, as may be appropriate.

