

THE CHILDREN'S LIFE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025



An Act to amend the Children's Life Fund Act,
Chap. 29:01

Information Brief No. 2 of 2025-2026

1st Session, 13th Parliament

THE CHILDREN'S LIFE FUND

The Children's Life Fund is a charitable fund established under the **Children's Life Fund Act, Chap. 29:01**,¹ (hereinafter referred to as "**the Act**") for the purposes of collecting funds *"to facilitate the provision of specialist medical treatment to children suffering from life threatening illnesses for which the treatment required is unavailable at a local medical institution."*²

The Act was passed in both Houses without a dissentient voice and was assented to on December 13, 2010. Four days later, on December 17, 2010, the Act came into force upon proclamation by the President.³



- ✚ The Children's Life Fund (hereinafter referred to as the **Fund**) is managed by the **Children's Life Fund Authority**.
- ✚ Applications for grants are processed by the **Life Unit** which makes recommendations to the **Board of Management** (the **Board**).
- ✚ The Board may approve, reject or vary the recommendations of the Life Unit.
- ✚ To be eligible, the child must:
 - ◆ be a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago,
 - ◆ be unmarried and under the age of 18,
 - ◆ be referred by a medical specialist in the particular field of treatment required,
 - ◆ require treatment unavailable locally,
 - ◆ be diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, and
 - ◆ have medical expenses exceeding 25% of the family's income.
- ✚ The grants do not exceed 1 million dollars.

¹ The Children's Life Fund Act, 2010, Act No. 12 of 2010: <https://www.ttparliament.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/a2010-12.pdf>

² Section 4(2) of the Act

³ Proclamation No. 12 of 2010, Legal Notice No. 293: <https://www.ttparliament.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ln2011-293.pdf>

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The **Children's Life Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, (hereinafter referred to as "**the Bill**") was introduced in the House of Representatives on Friday June 13, 2025, by the Honourable Dr. Lackram Bodoë, Minister of Health. The key provisions are outlined below.

LIFE-LIMITING ILLNESSES



Clause 7 inserts a new schedule into the Act, **Schedule 3**. Proposed **Schedule 3** prescribes the life-limiting illnesses for which a diagnosis would be required in order to be eligible for a grant under the Fund. Some of the illnesses include acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, pancreatic tumours, severe aplastic anaemia, and congenital hyperinsulinemia pheochromocytoma. Currently, the Act refers to life-threatening illnesses and does not specify the illnesses for which a diagnosis must be obtained in order to access the Fund.



The insertion of Schedule 3 is reflected in the other proposed amendments. **Clause 3** seeks to amend **section 4(2) of the Act** which outlines the functions of the Authority, by deleting from **section 4(2)(b)** of the Act, the words "*life-threatening illnesses*" and substituting the words "*life-limiting illnesses listed in Schedule 3*". This change is also being proposed in **Clause 5** to amend **section 19(e)** of the Act regarding eligibility of beneficiaries.

POWERS OF THE MINISTER

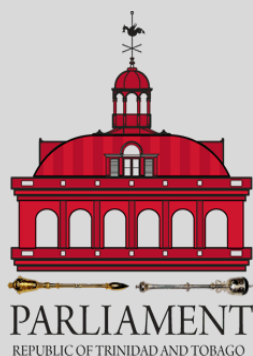


The Bill seeks to expand the powers of the Minister with responsibility for Health under the Act. **Clause 6** of the Bill introduces **new sections 21A and 21B**. **New section 21A** empowers the Minister to review, overturn or vary the decision of the Board after it has rejected an application.



Moreover, **new section 21B** allows the Minister to treat with an application for a grant in urgent or exceptional circumstances, once satisfied that the Board is unable to act in a timely manner or action is required in the public interest.

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