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**NHLS Amendment Bill – A Summary**

The key changes proposed in the NHLS Amendment Bill include the following:

**Finances of the Service**

In terms of Finances of the Service**,** the Amendment Bill is proposing that a new clause be inserted which outlines how the Service will be funded. In terms of this new clause:

* The Minister of Health, in consultation with the Finance Minister, must prescribe a financing mechanism for the Service in order to ensure that the Service is adequately and sustainably funded and thereby enabling the Service to achieve its mandate.
* It is proposed that the Service be funded through:
	+ Money appropriated by Parliament on such terms and conditions as the Minister, with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance, may determine;
	+ Fees collected for services rendered;
	+ Income earned on surplus moneys deposited or invested;
	+ Grants, donations and bequests made to it;
	+ Royalties; or
	+ Money received from any other source.
	+ The Service must charge such fees for services rendered that are not covered by the financing mechanism determined by the Minister of Health in consultation with the Minister of Finance.

**Composition of the Board**

The Board of the NHLS will consist of the following members appointed by the Minister of Health:

* The Chief Executive Officer by virtue of his or her office;
* The Chief Financial Officer of the Service by virtue of his or her office;
* Three members representing the National Department of Health, the Department of Science and Technology, nominated by the Director-General of that Department and the higher education sector, nominated by the Council on Higher Education.
* The Board will further consist of six members who have extensive experience and technical expertise in one or more of the following fields: Commerce, finance, auditing and economic matters; corporate management; public health; diagnostic laboratory services; legal matters; and epidemiology.
* And lastly, one representative from organised labour.

This means instead of having a 22-member board with representatives from all nine provinces, the new NHLS Board will be smaller in size and have a significant number of members with technical expertise. This will not only assist in speedy decision-making, but availing a range of technical expertise to the organization at Board level.

**Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer**

Finally, the Bill also proposes that the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer should bemade by the Board in consultation with the Minister of Health.