

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1992

AN ACT

To amend Section 4 of Public Law 7-3 I; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Salary Act Amendment of 1992 "

Section 2. Purpose. It is the purpose of the Commonwealth Legislature to correct certain problems which have been identified with Public Law T-3 I .

As amended by Public Law 1-31, 1 CMC §8214 includes certain provisions which conflict with the existing Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Civil Service Commission. Those provisions would create difficulties in administration of the Salary Act, and have the potential for creating morale problems for employees.

The amended 1 CMC § 8248(b) requires that the Governor request that salaries in excess of the salary cap be approved by the Chairman of the Legislature's fiscal committees. Certification to the Presiding Officers and the Civil Service Commission would provide notification of such action without infringing on the authority of the Executive Branch.

Section 3. Amendment. 1 CMC Section 8214 is amended as follows:

“Section 8214. Salary Adjustment and Conversion, The salary schedule established in the previous section shall be implemented retroactive to and based upon the pay level assigned to all positions on May 19, 1991. Employees may be converted to a higher pay level at the step whose annual compensation is equivalent to a two step increase in the adjusted salary for the level and step said employee occupies as of the

effective date of this act. Provided, however, no such conversion will be effected until a Personnel Audit finds said conversion is justified under Civil Service regulations. For the purpose of this Section, "equivalent" shall mean the same dollar amount but if said amount is not available in the converted pay level at any step, the step having the closest higher amount shall be awarded. For the purpose of conversion under this Section, a Personnel Audit of all Civil Service System positions shall be conducted within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the effective date of this Act and no conversions shall be awarded until said Personnel Audit is adopted by the Civil Service Commission."

Section 4. Amendment. CMC Section 8248(b) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) Medical doctors and dentists, whose primary responsibilities include giving professional medical advice; and U.S. or Commonwealth licensed engineers and architects whose primary responsibilities include practice within their profession; and professionals employed by the Legislative Branch may receive an annual salary in excess of \$50,000.00.

For the Executive Branch, such salaries must be certified by the Governor to the Presiding Officers of the Legislature and the Civil Service Commission.

For the Legislative Branch, such salaries **must** be approved by the official with expenditure authority."

Section 5. Amendment. Section 4, subsection (c) of Public Law 7-31 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 8246, Compensation of Executive Directors of Government Corporations, Semi- and Autonomous Agencies,

(a) The Executive Directors (the top administrative officers) of government corporations, as defined in 1 CMC, Section 7103 (n) and

of other agencies, commissions and offices shall receive an annual salary of not less than \$18,000.00 and not more than \$70,000 as determined by the applicable boards based on duties and responsibilities of such agencies.”

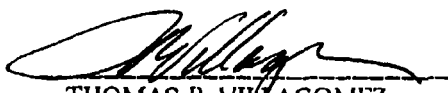
All subsequent sections are numbered accordingly.

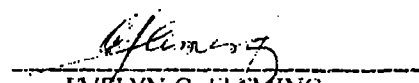
Section 6. Severability. If any portion of this Act is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.


CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:

  
THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ  
Speaker of the House

  
EVELYN C. FLEMING  
House Clerk

APPROVED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of Oct., 1992.

  
LORENZO I. DE LEON GUERRERO  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands