

TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

H.B. NO. 10-282

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1996

AN ACT

To amend the Public School System Classification and Compensation Guidelines from 1 CMC §8213 so as to increase teacher and teacher aide salaries to be competitive with such salaries nationwide, as a means to recruit and retain qualified educators for the CNMI.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Short Title. This Act may be known and cited as the “CNMI Public School System Reclassification and Compensation Act of 1996”.

Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that there is a pressing need to increase teacher salaries so that the CNMI can recruit and retain qualified teachers. Further, the Legislature finds that a one-item across the board upward salary adjustment of \$700 per month per certified teacher (must possess at least a baccalaureate degree from a U.S. accredited college) and a one-time upward salary adjustment of \$350 per month per teacher aide (with additional incremental payment for every fifteen credit hours earned that will total to an additional \$350 per month available once a baccalaureate degree is obtained) is necessary to be competitive with average teacher salaries in the mainland.

Section 3. Amendment. 1 CMC §8213 is hereby amended to add a new subsection (d) as follows:

"(d) The Classification and Compensation Guidelines for the Public School system as approved by the Legislature through 1 CMC §8213 are hereby repealed and as a result, teachers and teachers aides in the Public School System shall hereafter be paid as provided in the incorporated new salary schedule (See Attachment "A"); such attached salary schedule is hereby incorporated as part of this Act by reference herein. This new salary schedule for teachers and teachers aides shall not take effect until after sufficient funds are appropriated

for this purpose. Further, as stated in the saving clause of this Act, for teachers and teachers aides that are employed on a contractual basis, such increases shall take effect not only after the aforementioned appropriation, but also, only after such teachers and teacher aides have entered into a new contractual agreement that reflects this new salary schedule in accordance with any applicable rules and regulations as promulgated by the Board of Education to implement such increases. Teachers and teacher aides that receive this salary increase, whether they are on-island or off-island hires, and regardless of whether or not they are hired on a contractual basis, shall not receive any kind of housing benefit(s) in addition to their salaries."

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

/s/ Diego T. Benavente
DIEGO T. BENAVENTE
Speaker
House of Representatives

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Evelyn C. Fleming
EVELYN C. FLEMING
House Clerk

Approved this 21st day of OCTOBER, 1996

/s/ Jesus C. Borja
~~FROILAN C. TENORIO~~ JESUS C. BORJA
Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands