

**TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**PUBLIC LAW NO. 10-58  
H. B. NO. 10-270, HD4, SD4**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1996**

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**AN ACT**

To establish a Teacher Education Program as the post-secondary companion program to the Teacher Academy Program; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that there is a need to create a scholarship program to encourage more CNMI scholars to become teachers to serve our rapidly growing student population and to decrease the costly dependence on recruiting teachers from outside the CNMI. Those costs include recruitment, expatriation, repatriation, and housing. Considering that eighty to ninety teachers must be obtained yearly from the United States and from abroad in that manner, the Legislature finds that is necessary to more actively encourage our own students to enter the profession of education and to return and teach in the CNMI. The Legislature feels that this need could be met, in whole, or part, by the establishment of a scholarship program which builds upon the successes of the Public School System Teacher Academy Program.

Section 2. Teacher Education Program Scholarships. There is hereby established a Teacher Education Program for the purpose of awarding college scholarships in the amount of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000.00) per year for a period of up to four (4) years to students who are pursuing a professional degree in teaching and who have met the following criteria:

- a. are a United States citizens or national;
- b. have resided in the CNMI for at least three (3) years prior to enrollment in a college or university;
- c. are or will be a full time student enrolled in an accredited teacher training program at a college or university; provided however, that this requirement shall not apply to students currently enrolled at an off-island institution of higher learning under the auspices of the Teacher Academy Program of the Commonwealth Public School System;
- d. have signed a fully executed Teacher Academy Post Secondary Education Scholarship Agreement, or successor agreement;
- e. agrees to return to the CNMI after graduation from college and teach in the CNMI public or private schools for a period of two years for each year of scholarship assistance, or if failing or refusing to complete this obligation agrees to remit the whole amount of the moneys provided through this scholarship fund to the CNMI government;
- f. as a condition of continuing assistance, scholarship recipients must maintain a

cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale;

g. as a condition of continuing assistance, scholarship recipients must maintain full time enrollment in the college or university they attend;

h. as a condition of continuing assistance, scholarship recipients are required to submit a certified copy of their grades for each semester/quarter to the CNMI Scholarship Office.

Section 3. Program Administration. The Teacher Education Program and its scholarships shall be administered under the auspices and regulation of the CNMI Scholarship Office.

Section 4. Sunset. The provisions of this Act shall expire six (6) years after the effective date of this Act, or at the conclusion of any extension hereof, unless the Scholarship Board shall first extend the life of this program in the manner prescribed by this section. No extension may be made earlier than 180 days or later than 90 days prior to the scheduled date of expiration. If upon completion in each instance of a thorough study of the need for teachers in the Commonwealth and the effectiveness of this program, the Scholarship Board finds a need for continued operation of this program, the Scholarship Board may then, and only then, extend the program for additional periods not to exceed two years each.

Section 5. 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 6. 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 7. 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1997

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Froilan C. Tenorio\_\_\_\_\_  
FROILAN C. TENORIO  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands