

**TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**PUBLIC LAW NO. 10-60
SENATE BILL
NO. 10-65**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1997

AN ACT

To establish a financial assistance fund for an Educational Leadership graduate program conducted by San Diego State University and coordinated by Northern Marianas College; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that the quality of public instruction is directly related to the educational level of instructors and that there is a continuing need to provide opportunities for self-improvement to educators for the benefit of the children of the Commonwealth. The Legislature further finds that, in addition to teacher training programs now in place at Northern Marianas College, there is a need to assist qualified educators with an additional opportunity for self-improvement in educational leadership master's degree program offered by San Diego State University and coordinated by Northern Marianas College. Furthermore, this will be a cost-effective way to provide an advanced degree to those residents whose work contribution to the betterment of our community precludes their option to obtain such education off-island and that it is in the interests of the Commonwealth to assist such individuals in improving their capability to serve our children.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to establish a financial assistance program for qualified residents to assist them in obtaining an advanced degree while continuing their work.

Section 3. Criteria and Requirements. To be eligible for this financial assistance program an individual must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen.
2. Be a CNMI resident for three years.
3. Meet all admission requirements and be accepted by San Diego State University.
4. Commit to work in the Commonwealth in the field of education for four years after completion of graduate program.

Section 4. Funding. Financial Assistance awards will be based on the cost of the program as determined by San Diego University and the Northern Marianas College, and will be funded out of existing scholarship educational/assistance funds. The scholarship administrator shall set aside sufficient funds to meet the needs of participants in the educational leadership graduate program for

a period not to exceed 2 (two) years after the start of instruction.

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:

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Jesus R. Sablan
JESUS R. SABLAN
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
SECRETARY

/s/ Henry Dlg. San Nicolas
HENRY DLG. SAN NICOLAS
SENATE LEGISLATIVE

_____ this _____ day of _____, 1997

FROILAN C. TENORIO
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Became Public Law 10-60 without signature on 6/17/97.