

PUBLIC LAW NO. 10-85

TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
H.B. NO. 10-470, SD1

SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION, 1997

AN ACT

To approve an amendment to the PSS Classification and Compensation Guideline that increases Deputy and Associate Commissioners, principals, vice principals, and counselors salaries to be competitive with starting principals, vice principals, and school counselors salaries nationwide and provides more career advancement opportunities for professional educators considering careers in education administration; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the "School Administrator Reclassification Act of 1997".

Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that there is a need to provide a salary increase and more career advancement opportunities to recruit and retain qualified principals, vice principals and school counselors. This is accomplished through an expansion of principal and vice principal grades (from Principal I & II and Vice Principal I & II to Principal I-IV and Vice Principal I-IV) that rewards educational achievement and relevant work experience. This is also accomplished for school counselors through upward salary adjustment of up to \$700 per month per certified school counselor (must possess at least a baccalaureate degree from a U.S. accredited college enrolled in a Master's Program in Guidance Counseling or related field as approved by PSS) so that school counselor salaries are competitive with average school counselor salaries in the mainland.

Section 3. Amendment. 1 CMC 8213(b) is hereby created as follows:

“The Classification and Compensation Guideline for the PSS as approved by the Legislature through 1 CMC Section 8213 is hereby amended to incorporate an expanded salary schedule of up to \$70,000 for Deputy and Associate Commissioners of Education, which shall not number more than the number so employed on December 22, 1997; up to \$60,000 per annum for principals, up to \$56,000 per annum for vice principals and up to \$50,000 per annum for school counselors. This expanded salary schedule for principals, vice principals and school counselors shall be effective subject to availability of funds. Principals, vice principals, counselors, and Deputy and Associate Commissioners of Education that receive this benefit

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will be required to enter into a contractual agreement that reflects this expanded salary schedule and the requisite obligations in accordance with provisions as promulgated by the BOE. Deputy and Associate Commissioners, principals, vice principals and school counselors 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:

ATTESTED BY:

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

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

Approved this 9th day of January, 1998.

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