

AN ACT

To amend subsection 1342(a) of Title 3 to establish a cap on the amount for scholarships awarded under the Postsecondary Education Scholarship Act of 1990; and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to amend the Postsecondary Education Scholarship Act of 1990, Section 1342 (a) of Title 3, by specifying a cap on the amount of the scholarship award and for other purposes.

Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that the Commonwealth is continuing to experience a decline in actual revenue collections exacerbated by the Asian economic turmoil plaguing the region. Thus, there is a direct impact and strain on available financial resources for government operations and funded programs. Therefore, because of limited funds, in order to ensure some measure of continuity of legislatively mandated programs, the Legislature finds it necessary to specify a limit on the amount of funds available for certain programs.

Section 3. Amendment. Subsection 1342(a) of Title 3 is amended to read as follows:

“There are hereby established annual scholarships to any accredited college or university in the Commonwealth or the United States or its territories to pay for textbooks, tuition, a fixed stipend, room and board, other school fees and costs, and transportation, for a period of up to five consecutive years; provided, however, that the total amount of the annual scholarship shall not exceed \$15,000.00 per student per academic year.”

Section 4. Applicability. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, this Act shall apply to any person eligible to receive an annual scholarship under the Postsecondary Education Scholarship Act commencing in the Fall 1999 academic year.

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. The Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed of under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes.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 on the date this Act becomes effective.

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

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Jesus T. Attao
JESUS T. ATTAO
Acting Speaker
House of Representatives

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

Approved this 6th day of April, 1999

/s/ Pedro P. Tenorio
PEDRO P. TENORIO
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands