



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lieutenant Governor

The Honorable Francisco M. Borja
Senate President, The Senate
Nineteenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

16 SEP 2016

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan
Speaker, House of Representatives
Nineteenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill No. 19-81, SS1, HD1, entitled, "To amend 3 CMC § 10101(e), to authorize the Scholarship Office to use the voter registration information of parents, and amend 3 CMC § 10105(g), to authorize higher education financial assistance for eligible recipients enrolled at a trade institute or accredited institution of higher education and eligible high school students with dual or early enrollment at a postsecondary institution; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 19-65**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


VICTOR B. HOCO
ACTING GOVERNOR

cc: Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; CNMI Scholarship Office; Northern Marianas Trade Institute; Northern Marianas College; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review; Public Auditor



THE SENATE
Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
P. O. Box 500129
Saipan, MP 96950

August 10, 2016

The Honorable Victor B. Hocog
Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Capital Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Acting Governor Hocog:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action Senate Bill No. 19-81, SS1, HD1 entitled: "To amend 3 CMC § 10101(e), to authorize the Scholarship Office to use the voter registration information of parents, and amend 3 CMC § 10105(g), to authorize higher education financial assistance for eligible recipients enrolled at a trade institute or accredited institution of higher education and eligible high school students with dual or early enrollment at a postsecondary institution; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dolores S. Bermudes".

Dolores S. Bermudes
Senate Clerk

Attachments



THE SENATE
NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE BILL NO. 19-81, SS1, HD1

AN ACT

To amend 3 CMC § 10101(e), to authorize the Scholarship Office to use the voter registration information of parents, and amend 3 CMC § 10105(g), to authorize higher education financial assistance for eligible recipients enrolled at a trade institute or accredited institution of higher education and eligible high school students with dual or early enrollment at a postsecondary institution; and for other purposes.

SENATE ACTION

Offered by Senator(s): Justo S. Quitugua

Date: February 10, 2016

Referred to: Committee on Education and Youth Affairs

Standing Committee Report No.: 19-90 adopted on June 21, 2016


Final Reading: July 26, 2016

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to: Committee on Health, Education and Welfare

Standing Committee Report No.: None

First and Final Reading: July 14, 2016


DOLORES S. BERMUDES
SENATE CLERK



THE SENATE
 NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2016

S. B. NO. 19-81, SS1, HD1

AN ACT

To amend 3 CMC § 10101(e), to authorize the Scholarship Office to use the voter registration information of parents, and amend 3 CMC § 10105(g), to authorize higher education financial assistance for eligible recipients enrolled at a trade institute or accredited institution of higher education and eligible high school students with dual or early enrollment at a postsecondary institution; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Commonwealth
 2 of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) continues to have a shortage of United States
 3 (US) citizens and permanent resident workforce. The CNMI economy is recovering and
 4 growing each fiscal year. New investors and new businesses are emerging in the CNMI;
 5 however, the CNMI workforce is constricting partly due to the U.S. CNMI-Only
 6 Transitional Worker (CW-1). The CW-1 worker program will expire on December 2019
 7 leaving the CNMI without the requisite workforce necessary to service the government and
 8 businesses in our islands.

9 The Legislature further finds that the governor, legislators, government offices and
 10 non-profit agencies, and the private sector are diligently collaborating to train US citizens
 11 and permanent residents to take over many of the CW-1 worker jobs. One way to assist in
 12 the training and education of our people is to make education financial assistance more
 13 accessible to those who desire to pursue a higher education.

14 The Legislature finds that CNMI Scholarship Office's education financial
 15 assistance should be made available to high school students with dual enrollment at a high

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1 school that are taking college courses at the Northern Marianas College. These students are
2 getting a head start on their college courses and should be encouraged and supported in
3 their educational endeavors. The sooner these students graduate from college the sooner
4 they can enter the CNMI workforce.

5 The Legislature additionally finds that approximately over forty percent of the
6 CNMI government workforce is high school graduates. Encouraging these high school
7 graduates to pursue college education is an economic advantage for the CNMI. It is
8 important to encourage current employees in the workforce to pursue a higher education
9 because investing in the current workforce is equally beneficial to the employee and
10 employer.

11 In order to be ahead economically, the CNMI relies on its educated populace. The
12 Legislature finds that the CNMI needs additional educated workforce today and all persons
13 that desire to obtain a college or higher education should be supported so that they may
14 one day enter the CNMI workforce.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Scholarship Office
16 to provide financial assistance to eligible high school students with dual or early
17 enrollment at a postsecondary institution. In addition, the financial assistance should also
18 be extended to those already in the workforce and aspire to pursue higher education. This
19 legislation also authorizes the use of the parent's voter registration information to satisfy
20 the voter registration requirement for persons who cannot register to vote because they are
21 below the age of 18. This amendment would allow CNMI high school students and
22 fulltime employees seeking part-time school enrollment to receive scholarship awards to
23 pay for college tuition, books and expenses.

24 **Section 2. Amendment.** 3 CMC § 10101(e) of the Commonwealth Code is
25 hereby amended to read as follows:

26 “(e) “Resident” means a person who is a United States citizen, who has
27 resided in the CNMI for at least three consecutive years and is a registered voter in
28 the CNMI before applying for financial assistance administered by the board and
29 who is attending or has been accepted for enrollment at an accredited institution of

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1 higher education or a trade institution in the CNMI or any part of the United States
2 that is designed to develop the CNMI workforce. The residency requirement may
3 be met by proof of a parent residing on Saipan for the requisite period. Provided
4 further, that person(s) under the age of 18 may also be deemed “residents” if all
5 other criteria is met other than being a registered voter.”

6 **Section 3. Amendment.** 3 CMC § 10105(g) of the Commonwealth Code is hereby
7 amended to read as follows:

8 “(g) Establish programs and criteria for education financial assistance including,
9 but not limited to, grants, scholarships, or loans, for:

- 10 (1) Eligible applicants enrolled at a CNMI trade institution such as the
11 Northern Marianas Trade Institute, a United States trade institution,
12 or an accredited institution of higher education;
13 (2) Eligible high school students with dual or early enrollment at a
14 postsecondary institution;
15 (3) Employees in the CNMI who enroll, part-time or full-time, at the
16 Northern Marianas College; and
17 (4) The CNMI Scholarship Office shall promulgate necessary
18 guidelines to implement subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section.
19 Provided that the guideline shall specifically provide that the
20 financial assistance for early enrollment pursuant to subsection (2)
21 shall be used to pay the college tuition, books, and expenses and not
22 to pay tuition and fees of the high school institution.”

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

27 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not
28 be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under
29 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes.

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1 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant
2 to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any
3 way modifying, any liability civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the
4 date this Act becomes effective.

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

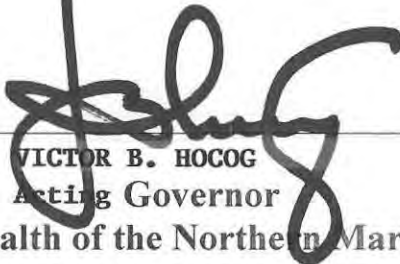
CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:


FRANCISCO M. BORJA
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE


TERESITA A. SANTOS
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 16th day of September 2016


VICTOR B. HOCOG
Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands