



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

VICTOR B. HOCOG
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

09 NOV 2018

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

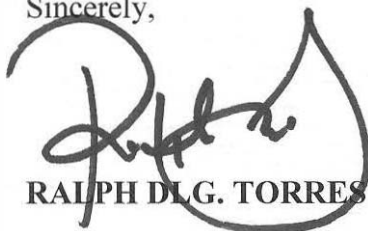
The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios
Senate President, The Senate
Twentieth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 20-174**, entitled, "To amend 1 CMC §2264 to ensure that the Board of Education members receive compensation for committee meetings, which are vital to the development of policy and the functioning of the Public School System.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-80**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Public School System; Chairman, Board of Education; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



House of Representatives

20th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

October 1, 2018

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H.B. No. 20-174**, entitled: "To amend 1 CMC §2264 to ensure that the Board of Education members receive compensation for committee meetings, which are vital to the development of policy and the functioning of the Public School System.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



*Twentieth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sixth Special Session

July 30, 2018

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, and Francisco S. Dela Cruz,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H.B. NO. 20-174

AN ACT


TO AMEND 1 CMC §2264 TO ENSURE THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS, WHICH ARE VITAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY AND THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The Bill was referred not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 31, 2018;
without amendments and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON JULY 31, 2018.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



Twentieth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST DAY, SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 31, 2018

H. B. No. 20-174

AN ACT

TO AMEND 1 CMC §2264 TO ENSURE THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS, WHICH ARE VITAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY AND THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

1 **Section 1. Findings.** The Legislature finds that the Board of Education uses the
2 standing and ad hoc committee process to meet its Constitutional and statutory mandates to
3 exercise control over, and establish policy for, the Public School System (PSS). Furthermore,
4 Board members spend a considerable amount of time working to support PSS and the
5 educational services provided to our children. Their time and effort must, at least, be
6 acknowledged through the minimal honorarium established by law. To address such
7 concerns, House Bill 20-96 was passed by the Legislature in the form of House Bill 20-96,
8 Senate Draft 1. The specified legislation was subsequently transmitted to the Governor.
9 However, pursuant to Governor's Communication 20-177, the Governor vetoed the proposed
10 legislation due to the fact that it did establish a rate as to how much the respective board
11 members were to be compensated. Furthermore, the Legislature further finds that under

HOUSE BILL 20-174

1 Article VII, Section 8 of the Board of Education By-laws establishes rates for Board
2 members' compensation for meetings. The Legislature finds that the amounts set forth in the
3 specified By-law are adequate in compensating these board members for the amount of hard
4 work that they exert to ensure that the Public School System (PSS) is operating efficiently
5 and effectively. Therefore, the proposed legislation aims to address the concerns brought up
6 by the Governor and allow for our Board members to be compensated justly.

7 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC §2264 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 “(a) Members of the Board may receive compensation for meetings
9 attended at a rate consistent with Commonwealth law. A member who is employed
10 by any branch or agency of the Commonwealth government shall receive his or her
11 regular salary under administrative leave status in lieu of compensation for meetings
12 held during working hours.

13 (b) Board members may also receive administrative leave or compensation
14 for Board of Education committee meetings attended at a rate consistent with
15 Commonwealth law in the same manner as regular board meetings; provided that
16 board members shall not be compensated for more than three committee meetings
17 each month. Notwithstanding 1 CMC § 9902(d), for purposes of this section, standing
18 committee and subcommittee meetings are compensable.

19 (c) A member traveling on official business shall receive travel and per
20 diem compensation at rates and guidelines established for Public School System
21 employees. All payments for compensation for travel and expenses to the members
22 of the board shall be paid by warrants signed by the Chairman of the Board of
23 Education.”

24 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
25 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
26 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
27 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

28 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
29 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
30 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers

HOUSE BILL 20-174

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

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

Attested to by:




Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



SPEAKER RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN
House of Representatives
20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 9th day of November, 2018



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands