

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SESSION, 2023

H. L. B. 23-15

A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT

To establish a scholarship for Saipan residents attending international colleges/universities or technical education programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT
DELEGATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF
THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 The Delegation has established a Board under the Saipan Mayor's Office to
3 oversee financial assistance for residents of Saipan. See 10 CMC Div. 3, Chapter
4 9. Saipan Mayor's Office, Article 2. Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistant
5 Act. This bill expands the authority of that Board to award financial assistance to
6 students seeking an education abroad in a foreign country.

7 The Delegation finds that almost every country around the world possesses
8 their own educational systems and/or vocational technical training programs. Each
9 of those systems contains different forms of sophisticated teachings, methods,
10 practices, and trainings that are intended to provide a great opportunistic benefit to

1 all who undergo such instruction. The Delegation finds that despite their systematic
2 differences, the respective colleges/universities and technical training programs
3 provide unique perspectives on how to undertake various occupations in various
4 fields. The Delegation further finds that such exposure to foreign countries'
5 perspective in different fields can be highly beneficial for future development for
6 the municipality. Cognizant of the aforementioned systematic differences, such
7 perspectives may be applicable to the municipality in the near or distant future. This
8 would be a great opportunity for any eligible resident of our island to learn with
9 hopes to one day return to our islands and become a better contributor to our society.

10 The Delegation further finds that the Study-Abroad Program is a program
11 offered by various colleges to give chances to college students to pursue college
12 studies in a foreign country. Upon embarking on this journey, students are given a
13 newer perspective on life and gain invaluable amounts of knowledge that they can
14 take with them back to their home country. The Delegation finds that this would be
15 a great opportunity for Saipan residents to expand their horizons from either an
16 educational or technical training standpoint. Cognizant of such opportunity, it will
17 be highly pertinent to provide a scholarship to such eligible individuals provided
18 that they return back to our islands and convey all that they learned from such
19 foreign country. The Delegation finds that our municipality will extremely benefit
20 from the exposure and will be allowed to implement such knowledge for the
21 betterment of our municipality. In today's day and age, where advancements are

1 taking place at a rapid pace, the Delegation finds that the municipality must adjust
2 with the times and stay updated on newer developments going on around the world.

3 **SECTION 2. ENACTMENT.**

4 10 CMC § 3921 is amended by changing subsection (c) and adding a new
5 subsection (f) as follows:

6 “(c) “Financial assistance” includes but is not limited to grants, loans, merit-
7 based scholarships and other programs of student financial assistance provided by
8 regulation or statute, including a Saipan Study-Abroad Scholarship. The SHEFA
9 financial assistance as defined under 10 CMC § 3921(c) shall also be available for
10 students who have not obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent and are
11 enrolled in a trades-type institution such as the Northern Marianas Trades Institute;
12 provided further, that it shall also be available for students who have obtained their
13 high school diploma or its equivalent and are enrolled in other post-secondary
14 educational programs that offer training and certification for nurses or other related
15 medical occupations.-

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17 [no changes to subsections (d) and (e)]

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19 (f) Saipan Study-Abroad Scholarship means financial assistance to students
20 who are attending an university/college or international technical training program
21 in a foreign country, paying for costs directly related to the student's educational

1 needs, including tuition, textbooks and school supplies, transportation, and housing.
2 The maximum scholarship may be \$6,000 in financial assistance for no more than
3 one year.”

4 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

5 If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any
6 person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction,
7 the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
8 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected
9 thereby.

10 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

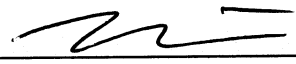
11 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as
12 affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
13 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
14 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to
15 prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in
16 any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in
17 existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

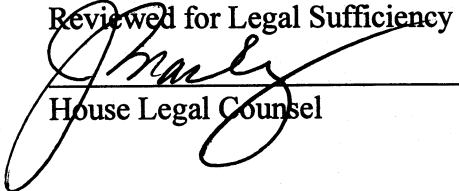
18 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**


19 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or it becoming
20 law without such approval.

HOUSE LOCAL BILL 23-15

Prefiled: 6/8/2023

Date: 6/8/2023 Introduced by: 
Rep. Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

House Legal Counsel

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