



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

01.OCT 2019

The Honorable John Paul P. Sablan
Acting Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-First Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Victor B. Hocog
Senate President, The Senate
Twenty-First Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950



Dear Mr. Acting Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 21-21, HS1** entitled, "To update the Government Salary Ceiling, 1 CMC §8248(a), to be consistent with the civil service salary schedule established in Public Law 19-83; to amend the list of exempted professions provided under 1 CMC §8248(b); and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 21-9**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Civil Service Commission; Office of Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY
DATE 10/4/19 TIME 4:26 p



*Twenty-First Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 20, 2019

REPRESENTATIVE BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Joel C. Camacho, Luis John DLG. Castro, Joseph A. Flores, Richard T. Lizama, John Paul P. Sablan,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 21-21, HS1

AN ACT

TO UPDATE THE GOVERNMENT SALARY CEILING, 1 CMC §8248(A), TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE SALARY SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED IN PUBLIC LAW 19-83; TO AMEND THE LIST OF EXEMPTED PROFESSIONS PROVIDED UNDER 1 CMC §8248(B); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 21-16; adopted 7/12/19.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 12, 2019;**
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 21-21, HS1 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, AUGUST 21, 2019;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON JULY 12, 2019.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



*Twenty-First Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST DAY, FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 12, 2019

H. B. No. 21-21, HS1

AN ACT

TO UPDATE THE GOVERNMENT SALARY CEILING, 1 CMC §8248(A), TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE SALARY SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED IN PUBLIC LAW 19-83; TO AMEND THE LIST OF EXEMPTED PROFESSIONS PROVIDED UNDER 1 CMC §8248(B); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. The Legislature finds that Public Law
2 19-83 enacted a new base salary schedule for classified civil service government
3 employees pursuant to 1 CMC §8124(g) and §8133. This salary schedule provides
4 the framework for the classification of civil service positions within a 20-pay level
5 structure with 12 steps for each pay level. The new salary schedule was developed
6 in collaboration with the Civil Service Commission, after a review of the old salary

HOUSE BILL 21-21, HS1

1 schedule showed that increases in the federal minimum wage had made the first
2 ten pay levels no longer applicable. In addition to revising the hourly, bi-weekly,
3 and annual base salary for all classified civil service employees, the salary
4 schedule set forth in Public Law 19-83 increased the civil service salary ceiling.
5 This Act updates the government salary ceiling provided in 1 CMC §8248(a) to
6 match the top grade of the civil service salary schedule established by Public Law
7 19-83.

8 The Legislature also finds that certain professional positions critical for the
9 implementation of government programs and services have proven difficult to fill
10 or retain due to the government salary restriction set forth in 1 CMC §8248.
11 Furthermore, some of these professional positions are required by federal
12 programs in order to meet federally funded grant objectives. The Legislature finds
13 that it is appropriate to exclude such professional positions from the government
14 salary ceiling in order to enhance the government's ability to attract and retain
15 capable and knowledgeable individuals to fill these positions, and ensure the
16 efficient and effective delivery of public services. This Act therefore amends
17 1 CMC §8248(b) to expand the list of professional positions that are excluded from
18 the government salary ceiling.

19 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** 1 CMC §8248(a) and (b) of the Commonwealth
20 Code are amended to reads follows and 1 CMC §8248(c) is deleted in its entirety:

21 “(a) Except as provided by law, no employee of the Commonwealth

HOUSE BILL 21-21, HS1

1 government shall receive an annual salary of more than \$65,175.

2 (b) Medical professionals, whose primary responsibilities include
3 giving professional medical advice and are licensed to prescribe medicine,
4 U.S. or Commonwealth-licensed attorneys, certified public accountants,
5 engineers and architects whose primary responsibilities include practice
6 within their profession, professionals employed by the legislative branch,
7 biologists, chief geographic information system officers, biometricians, or
8 any other professional positions principal to federal programs and required
9 to meet federally funded grant objectives, may receive an annual salary in
10 excess of the salary ceiling. For the executive branch, such salaries must be
11 certified by the Governor to the presiding officers of the legislature and the
12 Civil Service Commission. For the legislative branch, such salaries must be
13 approved by the official with expenditure authority.”

14 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.** If any provisions of this Act or the application
15 of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a
16 court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
17 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
18 shall not be affected thereby.

19 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
20 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
21 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted

HOUSE BILL 21-21, HS1

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

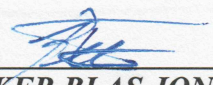
5 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval
6 by the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by:



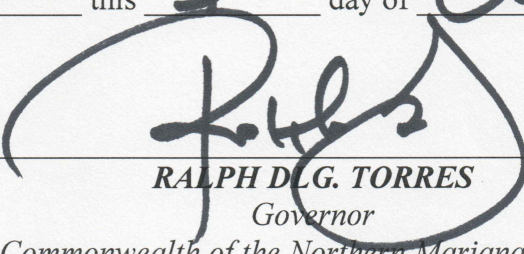
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



SPEAKER BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO
House of Representatives
21st Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 1st day of October, 2019



RALPH D.G. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands