

**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT**

To waive the repayment requirements of the Saipan  
Higher Education Financial Assistance Memorandum  
of Agreement.

**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.** The Legislature acknowledges that the  
2 Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) policy, through a Memorandum  
3 of Agreement, requires the financial assistance recipient to work for a Commonwealth  
4 employer within nine months after completion of the degree plan or six months within  
5 termination of degree plan or non-enrollment. If the requirement is not fulfilled, then the  
6 recipient is required to pay back the financial assistance.

7           The Legislature finds Covid-19 Pandemic has tremendously affected the state of  
8 the Commonwealth economy: tourist arrivals have dwindled to really low numbers, many  
9 businesses have shut down, employment opportunities reduced drastically, and the ripple  
10 effects of the rising of fuel costs have affected the commodity prices.

11           The Legislature finds that the SHEFA recipients need assistance to alleviate their  
12 dilemma of finding jobs when they return and there are those who are unable to complete  
13 their education plan and yet must pay the financial assistance they received.

14           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to waive the repayment of the SHEFA  
15 received for those who have completed their degree program as well as those who were  
16 unable to complete their degree program.

17           **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 10, Division 3, Chapter 9 of the Commonwealth  
18 Code is amended to add a new section 3929 to read:

19           “§ 3929. SHEFA Scholarship Requirements Waived.

1 (a) Notwithstanding any laws or regulations to the contrary, the Saipan Higher  
2 Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) requirement that the recipient work for a public  
3 or private employer in the Commonwealth after the termination or completion of the  
4 degree plan shall be waived.

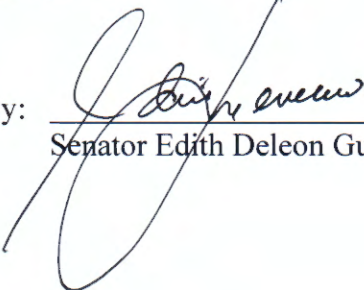
5 (b) On the effective date of this Act, any outstanding repayments of SHEFA  
6 grants or SHEFA loans in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement shall be  
7 waived.”

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

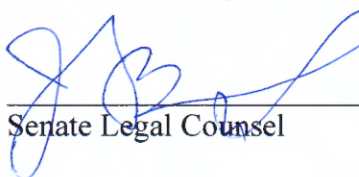
13 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not  
14 be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under  
15 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.  
16 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or  
17 pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating,  
18 or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in  
19 existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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

Date: 12/1/21

Introduced By:   
Senator Edith Deleon Guerrero

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
Senate Legal Counsel