

AN ACT

To amend Title 40 of the Code of the Federated states of Micronesia by adding a new subchapter VI within chapter 3 to establish a National Merit Scholarship Program awarding selected high school valedictorians a scholarship of up to \$25,000 per year for up to four years to be applied to the tuition and fees of the college or university of the valedictorian's choice, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA:

1           Section 1. Purpose. The Federated States of Micronesia  
2 hereby establishes a National Merit Scholarship Program. The  
3 intent of the Program is to create an exceptional scholarship  
4 program recognizing and awarding the very top high school  
5 valedictorians in the Federated States of Micronesia.

6           Section 2. Title 40 of the Code of the Federated States of  
7 Micronesia is hereby amended by adding a new subchapter VI within  
8 chapter 3 entitled "National Merit Scholarship Program."

9           Section 3. Title 40 of the Code of the Federated States of  
10 Micronesia is hereby further amended by adding within the new  
11 subchapter VI of chapter 3 a new section 381 as follows:

12                   "Section 381. Definitions

13                   (1) 'Valedictorian' means an individual graduating  
14 with the highest Grade Point Average (GPA) of all  
15 students in that individual's high school graduating  
16 class;

17                   (2) 'National Merit Scholar' means an individual who:

18                   (a) Is a citizen of the Federated States of  
19 Micronesia;

1                   (b) Graduated or will graduate as valedictorian  
2                   of a high school located within the Federated States of  
3                   Micronesia;

4                   (c) Plans to enroll in or attend any college or  
5                   university within twelve months after high school  
6                   graduation;

7                   (d) Has taken and passed the COM-FSM Entrance Test  
8                   (COMET); and

9                   (e) Was selected in accordance to the procedures  
10                  set forth in Section 383.”

11                Section 4. Title 40 of the Code of the Federated States of  
12                Micronesia is hereby further amended by adding within the new  
13                subchapter VI of chapter 3 a new section 382 as follows:

14                “Section 382. Benefits

15                Individuals selected as National Merit Scholars shall  
16                receive the following benefits:

17                   (1) Recognition as a National Merit Scholar under the  
18                   Federated States of Micronesia National Merit  
19                   Scholarship Program; and

20                   (2) Payment of undergraduate tuition and fees directly  
21                   to the attending college or university (but not payment  
22                   towards living expenses, books or other incidental  
23                   expenses) of up to \$25,000 per year for up to four years  
24                   as long as the Merit Scholar maintains a minimum 3.2  
25                   grade point average (GPA).”

1 Section 5. Title 40 of the Code of the Federated States of  
2 Micronesia is hereby further amended by adding within the new  
3 subchapter VI of chapter 3 a new section 383 as follows:

4 "Section 383 - Selection

5 (1) The Secretary of Education shall administer the  
6 National Merit Scholarship Program.

7 (2) Each year the Secretary shall invite applications  
8 from individuals meeting the requirements of Section  
9 381(2) (a) through (d).

10 (3) No application shall be accepted from individuals  
11 who graduated more than 12 months before the date of the  
12 application.

13 (4) Applications shall include the individual's COM-  
14 FSM Entrance Test (COMET) score.

15 (5) No later than 30 days from the closing date of  
16 receipt of applications, the Secretary shall announce  
17 the appointment of the National Merit Scholars.

18 (6) A maximum of four applicants, and no more than one  
19 applicant per State, shall be selected as a National  
20 Merit Scholar per year. An applicant is considered an  
21 applicant of the State where the applicant permanently  
22 resides, and not of the State where the applicant  
23 attended high school, if the applicant attended a high  
24 school outside of the applicant's usual State of  
25 residency. The applicant from each State who meets all

1           eligibility requirements and scores the highest COMET  
2           score shall be selected that State's National Merit  
3           Scholar for the year.

4           (7) In the event that two applicants from one State  
5           meet all eligibility requirements and score the same  
6           COMET score, each applicant will be designated a  
7           National Merit Scholar and receive the benefits set  
8           forth in Section 382. In the event there is no eligible  
9           applicant from a State in a given year, no National  
10          Merit Scholar from that State shall be selected for the  
11          year.

12          (8) The Secretary is authorized to promulgate rules  
13          and regulations to implement, administer and otherwise  
14          further the intent of this Program."

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