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:

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

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

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

“Section 381. Definitions

(1) ‘Valedictorian’ means an individual graduating with the highest Grade Point Average (GPA) of all students in that individual’s high school graduating class;

(2) ‘National Merit Scholar’ means an individual who:

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

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

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

(e) Was selected in accordance to the procedures set forth in Section 383."

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

"Section 382. Benefits

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

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

(2) Payment of undergraduate tuition and fees directly to the attending college or university (but not payment towards living expenses, books or other incidental expenses) of up to $25,000 per year for up to four years as long as the Merit Scholar maintains a minimum 3.2 grade point average (GPA)."
Section 5. Title 40 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby further amended by adding within the new subchapter VI of chapter 3 a new section 383 as follows:

"Section 383 - Selection

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

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

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

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

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

(6) A maximum of four applicants, and no more than one applicant per State, shall be selected as a National Merit Scholar per year. An applicant is considered an applicant of the State where the applicant permanently resides, and not of the State where the applicant attended high school, if the applicant attended a high school outside of the applicant’s usual State of residency. The applicant from each State who meets all
eligibility requirements and scores the highest COMET score shall be selected that State’s National Merit Scholar for the year.

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

(8) The Secretary is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to implement, administer and otherwise further the intent of this Program.”
Section 6. This act shall become law upon approval by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its becoming law without such approval.

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June 29, 2010

(for) Alik L.Alik

Manny Mori
President
Federated States of Micronesia