A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend section 613 of title 19 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), as enacted by Public Law No. 21-227, to clarify that the At-Sea Perdiem for seamen of national government owned and operated vessels cannot be cut or reduced based on receipt of other vessel training work related stipends, and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Section 613 of title 19 of the Code of the
Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), as enacted by
Public Law No. 21-227, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 613. Seamen’s wages.

(1) Each seaman’s wages shall commence on the day
specified and agreed to in the Shipping Articles or at the
time the seaman reports on board the vessel for the purpose
of commencing work, whichever first occurs, and shall
terminate on the day of the seaman’s discharge or upon
expiration of the Shipping Articles.

(2) In the absence of any agreement to the contrary, the
owner or master of the vessel shall pay to every seaman the
seaman’s wages, overtime and any unpaid leave entitlement
within two days after the expiration of the Shipping Articles
or at the time the seaman is discharged, whichever first
occurs.

(3) At-Sea Perdiem. Seamen of vessels owned and
operated by the national government shall be entitled to a
nontaxable ten dollars per 24-hour day at-sea benefit which
shall be calculated from vessel cast-off time from the port
of departure, to when vessel is secured at dock or
designated anchorage which that particular vessel departed
from. Upon completion of a voyage, a designated senior
office of the vessel shall provide a list of crewmen on the
voyage for the Master’s signature, which list shall be
submitted to the Secretary of the Department of
Transportation, Communications and [±]Infrastructure for
payment processing. The payment for at-sea perdiem shall be
made on a quarterly basis, or upon recommendation of the
Secretary. The nontaxable ten dollar at-sea benefit shall
not be cut nor reduced based upon a seaman’s receipt of
other stipends for the seaman’s training and/or training
related vessel work.

(4) Before the seaman is discharged or the Shipping
Articles expire, every master shall deliver to the seaman a
full and true account in the prescribed form of the
seaman’s wages, including any and all deductions made
therefrom.”
Section 2. This act shall become law upon approval by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon it becoming law without such approval.

Date: 5/24/23  Introduced by: /s/ Joseph J. Urusemal

Joseph J. Urusemal