

SECOND CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1981

C.B. No. 2-144

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish a housing policy for the National Government, and for other purposes.

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

1 Section 1. Statement of purpose. It is determined that at
2 this early stage of its history, the National Government needs to
3 continue to provide housing in order to ensure recruitment of the
4 qualified personnel necessary for successful development. It is also
5 determined that the best housing policy will minimize expense, emphasize
6 phasing out as the need phases out, and ensure fairness to the greatest
7 degree practicable. This act, therefore, provides for the housing
8 necessary for the Nation's development while imposing appropriate
9 conditions herein prescribed.

10 Section 2. Eligibility for housing. The following employees and
11 officials of the National Government are eligible for housing benefits:

12 (1) Nonresidents of the State where the job is located who
13 are in pay level 21 or above or who receive salaries equivalent to the
14 highest amount in that pay level or above, as set out in the Public Service
15 System Act, and residents of said State who live beyond normal commuting
16 distance from the job location as determined by the Committee on Need,
17 as created in section 6 of this act;

18 (2) Expatriate employees of the National Government who are in
19 pay level 21 or above or who receive salaries equivalent to the highest
20 amount in that pay level or above, as set out in the Public Service
21 System Act;

22 (3) The President, Vice President, Speaker, and Chief Justice,
23 who each shall be entitled to receive free housing and shall not be
24 affected by the housing stipend provisions set out in section 3 of
25 this act; and

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1 (4) Any other National Government employee or official
2 pursuant to the decision of the Committee on Need as created in
3 section 6 of this act.

4 Section 3. Nature of housing benefits. Housing benefits shall be
5 provided in the following manner:

6 (1) Employees or officials who occupy National Government
7 houses shall be charged the fair market value in rent for the costs of the
8 units and furnishings;

9 (2) All eligible National Government employees and officials,
10 whether citizens or expatriates, shall receive a housing allowance in the
11 form of a stipend which they may use to pay rent on government housing or
12 to defray the cost of their private housing arrangements. The stipend
13 shall be inversely related to their salary, to wit: pay level 21, or
14 salary equivalent to the highest amount in that pay level, receives a
15 \$250 monthly stipend, and each pay level thereafter, or salary equivalent
16 to the highest amount in that pay level, receives \$5 less per month
17 than the preceding pay level. In annual figures the stipend shall be
18 \$3,000 for pay level 21 with each pay level thereafter receiving \$60 less
19 per year. National Government employees who build their houses shall
20 receive a stipend for no more than two years according to the formula
21 above;

22 (3) All National Government employees or officials receiving
23 housing benefits under contracts at this act's effective date will
24 continue to receive housing benefits agreed to by contract and will not
25 be governed by this subsection for the duration of those contracts only.

1 All such contracts entered into after the effective date of this act
2 shall conform to the provisions of this act; and

3 (4) All eligible National Government employees or officials
4 receiving salaries in excess of the highest step in pay level 46 of the
5 Public Service System Act shall receive a housing allowance stipend of
6 \$100 per month.

7 Section 4. Furniture and appliances and shipping allowance. The
8 National Government shall provide basic furniture and appliances for
9 eligible National Government employees and officials and shall grant the
10 following shipping benefits:

11 (1) For employees with families, a shipping allowance of
12 2,000 pounds; and

13 (2) For employees without families, a shipping allowance of
14 500 pounds.

15 Section 5. Locating and assigning housing. The National Government
16 housing officer shall be responsible for locating suitable housing for
17 eligible employees. The National Government housing officer shall assign
18 the most appropriate available house to an eligible employee based on
19 the particular circumstances of that employee and the available choices.

20 Section 6. Committee on Need. A Committee on Need is established
21 consisting of one representative of each of the three branches of
22 Government, each member to be appointed by the head of his branch of
23 Government. The Committee on Need shall hear requests by ineligible
24 employees who seek an exception and apply for housing benefits. The
25 Committee on Need shall base its decisions on need in accordance with this

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1 act and shall forthwith transmit its decisions to the National
2 housing officer.

3 Section 7. Phasing out. The National Government shall at an
4 opportune time institute a plan to phase out housing benefits when it
5 determines that the need to provide housing to recruit qualified personnel
6 has been balanced by the easy availability of housing at reasonable cost
7 on the open market.

8 Section 8. Effective date. This act shall become law upon approval
9 by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its
10 becoming law without such approval.

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12 Date: OCTOBER 21, 1981

Introduced by:


Hiroshi Ismael

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