

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:

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

4           "Section 613. Seamen's wages.

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

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

17           (3) At-Sea Perdiem. Seamen of vessels owned and

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1           operated by the national government shall be entitled to a  
2           nontaxable ten dollars per 24-hour day at-sea benefit which  
3           shall be calculated from vessel cast-off time from the port  
4           of departure, to when vessel is secured at dock or  
5           designated anchorage which that particular vessel departed  
6           from. Upon completion of a voyage, a designated senior  
7           office of the vessel shall provide a list of crewmen on the  
8           voyage for the Master's signature, which list shall be  
9           submitted to the Secretary of the Department of  
10          Transportation, Communications and [±]Infrastructure for  
11          payment processing. The payment for at-sea per diem shall be  
12          made on a quarterly basis, or upon recommendation of the  
13          Secretary. The nontaxable ten dollar at-sea benefit shall  
14          not be cut nor reduced based upon a seaman's receipt of  
15          other stipends for the seaman's training and/or training  
16          related vessel work.

17                 (4) Before the seaman is discharged or the Shipping  
18          Articles expire, every master shall deliver to the seaman a  
19          full and true account in the prescribed form of the  
20          seaman's wages, including any and all deductions made  
21          therefrom."

1           Section 2. This act shall become law upon approval by the  
2 President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon it  
3 becoming law without such approval.

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5 Date: 5/24/23

Introduced by: /s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal

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