

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**

**LEGISLATURE**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Regular Session, 2025**

**H. B. 24- 19**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To rename the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office.”

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24<sup>TH</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that increasing  
2 access to education and workforce training through financial aid opportunities  
3 significantly improves the likelihood that local residents will become well-  
4 educated, well-equipped contributors to the CNMI’s workforce. Currently, the  
5 CNMI Scholarship Office provides such financial aid opportunities through  
6 multiple scholarships, such as the Post Secondary Teacher Education Program  
7 Scholarship and the Behavioral Health Professional Scholarship.

8           On July 11, 2024, the CNMI Scholarship Board of Directors approved  
9 changing the name of the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship  
10 and Financial Assistance Office” to better reflect the scope of the office’s services.  
11 These services include, but are not limited to, administering higher education  
12 financial assistance programs, which necessarily includes the power to address

1 matters related to delinquent or defaulted financial assistance agreements, and other  
2 responsibilities necessary to carry out the office’s mission.

3           Based on the foregoing, the Legislature concurs with the CNMI Scholarship  
4 Board of Directors’ decision to rename the office as it more accurately represents  
5 the office’s purpose and function. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to rename  
6 the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial  
7 Assistance Office.”

8           **Section 2. Amendment.** Section 10102 of Chapter 10, Division 1, Title 3  
9 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

10           **“§ 10102. CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office**

11           (a) The CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office is hereby  
12 established within the Executive Branch headed by an administrator appointed by  
13 the Scholarship Board of Directors.

14           (b) The CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office is established  
15 as an autonomous agency under the general control and direction of the Scholarship  
16 Board of Directors. The board shall adopt bylaws that enumerate its purposes,  
17 duties, powers, and rules of organization and operation, which bylaws shall not be  
18 inconsistent with this article.”

19           **Section 3. Global Amendment.** Unless the context clearly indicates  
20 otherwise, all references in the Commonwealth Code, regulations, executive orders,

1 or official documents to the “CNMI Scholarship Office” shall be construed to mean  
2 the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office.”

3 Pursuant to 1 CMC § 3806, the Law Revision Commission shall make all  
4 necessary changes to the Commonwealth Code to reflect the renaming of the office,  
5 including, but not limited to, correcting cross-references and clerical or  
6 typographical errors to ensure conformity and consistency throughout the Code.

7 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
8 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
9 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
10 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
11 shall not be affected thereby.

12 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
13 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
14 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted  
15 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding  
16 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have  
17 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,  
18 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.


19 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
20 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 4/2/2025


Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Rep. Marissa R. Flores

  
Rep. Joel C. Camacho

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel

Date: 4/1/25