

David M. Apatang
Governor



Dennis James "DJ" C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 5, 2025

GOV2025-038

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

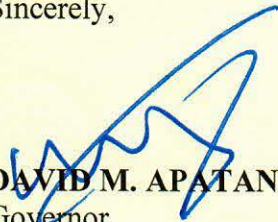
The Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors
President
The Senate; Twenty-Fourth Northern
Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 24-19**, entitled, "To rename the "CNMI Scholarship Office" to the CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 24-10**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



DAVID M. APATANG
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;
Public Auditor; Acting Special Assistant for Administration; CNMI Scholarship Office;
Programs and Legislative Review Office



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950
cnmileg.net

July 21, 2025

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Palacios:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 24-19**, entitled: "To rename the "CNMI Scholarship Office" to the "CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office."", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,


Linda B. Muña, MPA
House Clerk

Attachment



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

APRIL 24, 2025

REPRESENTATIVE MARISSA R. FLORES OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 3 AND REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 4 (*FOR THEMSELVES*), AND REPRESENTATIVES RALPH N. YUMUL AND JULIE M.A. OGO) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 24-19

AN ACT

TO RENAME THE "CNMI SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE" TO THE "CNMI SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE."

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 24-5; adopted 5/15/2025.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MAY 15, 2025;
without amendments and transmitted to **THE SENATE.**

IN THE SENATE

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, which submitted Standing Committee Report 24-20; adopted 7/14/2025.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 14, 2025;
without amendments and returned to **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

H. B. NO. 24-19 IS DULY PASSED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE.


Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST DAY, SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

MAY 15, 2025

H. B. No. 24-19

AN ACT

TO RENAME THE “CNMI SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE” TO THE
“CNMI SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
OFFICE.”

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN
MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

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

8 On July 11, 2024, the CNMI Scholarship Board of Directors approved changing the
9 name of the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance
10 Office” to better reflect the scope of the office’s services. These services include, but are not

HOUSE BILL 24-19

1 limited to, administering higher education financial assistance programs, which necessarily
2 includes the power to address matters related to delinquent or defaulted financial assistance
3 agreements, and other responsibilities necessary to carry out the office's mission.

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

8 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

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

11 **"§ 10102. CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office**

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

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

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SECTION 3. GLOBAL AMENDMENT.

1
2 Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, all references in the Commonwealth
3 Code, regulations, executive orders, or official documents to the “CNMI Scholarship Office”
4 shall be construed to mean the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office.”

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

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.

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

SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

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


HOUSE BILL 24-19

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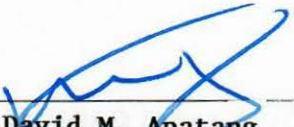
SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by: 
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by: 
SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
House of Representatives
24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this *5th* day of *August*, 2025


David M. Apatang
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands