

Fifteenth Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Youth Congress

1st Day, 3rd Regular Session, 2016

Y.C.B. No. 15-01, S1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To provide for additional scholarship funds by increasing the alcoholic beverage container tax by \$0.0025 provided under 4 CMC §1405(b); and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIFTEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Youth Congress finds that many
2 bright and aspiring students, who want to pursue a higher education, may find it
3 difficult as a result of a lack of financial support. In addition, these students look
4 for financial assistance to alleviate these financial burdens. Nonetheless, the
5 Youth Congress finds that the CNMI Government must provide more financial
6 opportunities for young aspiring students to allow them to pursue higher education
7 which would result in more productive and contributing members of our
8 communities.

9 The Youth Congress finds that each year, many people in the CNMI spend
10 excessive amounts of money to purchase alcohol. Moreover, the taxes collected
11 from alcoholic beverages purchased ultimately go into the General Fund for the
12 Legislature to appropriate. However, these funds are seldom appropriated for
13 scholarship purposes.

1 Therefore, the Youth Congress further finds that increasing the alcoholic
2 beverage container tax by \$0.0025 would create additional funding source for
3 student financial aid. The purpose of this Act is to amend 4 CMC §1405(b) by
4 increasing the alcoholic beverage container tax by 5% and depositing the collected
5 funds in the CNMI Scholarship and the three respective local scholarship
6 programs.

7 **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC §1405(b) is hereby amended to read as
8 follows:

9 “(b) Alcoholic Beverage Containers. There is imposed a tax upon each
10 container of any alcoholic beverage in the amount of ~~five~~ \$0.0525 cents per
11 container; provided that \$0.0025 of the tax collected per container shall be divided
12 and deposited in the following account:

- 13 (1) 40% to the CNMI Scholarship Program;
14 (2) 20 percent to the Rota Municipal Scholarship;
15 (3) 20 percent to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship; and
16 (4) 20 percent to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid.

17 The funds collected for the scholarship programs pursuant to this section
18 shall be administered and disbursed in accordance with the regulations of each
19 respective scholarship program.”

20 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application
21 of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a
22 court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its

1 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
2 shall not be affected thereby.

3 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
4 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
5 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
6 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
7 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
8 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
9 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

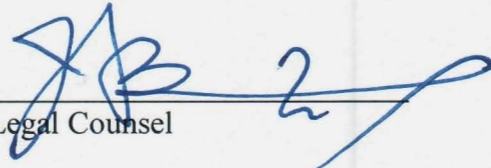
10 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect on August 1, 2017
11 upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 04/11/16

Date: _____

Introduced By: _____
Sen. Gerald King Crisostomo Jr.

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:



Legal Counsel