

CHAPTER 18.**NITIJELA MEMBERS GRATUITY BENEFITS****Arrangement of Sections**

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An Act to provide for the payment of gratuity benefits to members of the Nitijela and for related purposes.

Commencement: 23 October 1997
 Source: P.L. 1997-56

§1801. Short Title.

This Chapter may be cited as the Nitijela Members Gratuity Benefits Act of 1997. [P.L. 1997-56, §501.]

§1802. Interpretation.

In this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) “a member of the Nitijela” means the President, a Minister, the Speaker, the Vice-Speaker, or a Senator; and

(b) “term” means the period from the date of the general election on the 3rd Monday in November until the date of the dissolution of the Nitijela on the 30th day of September in the fourth consecutive calendar year after the year in which the last preceding general election was held, except when a member’s seat becomes vacant before the completion of his elected term because of the early dissolution of the Nitijela pursuant to Article IV, Section 13 of the Constitution. [P.L. 1997-56, §502.]

§1803. Gratuity.

In the event of death, physical or mental disability of any member of the Nitijela while holding office as such member a gratuity in a lump sum of \$25,000 shall be paid to him or his immediate family, or if he leaves no such family, to his heirs at law. [P.L. 1997-56, §503.]

§1804. Charge on the General fund.

The payments referred to in Section 1803 above shall be a direct charge on and paid out of the Marshall Islands General Fund. [P.L. 1997-56, §504.]

§1805. Probate Laws Excluded.

For the avoidance of any doubt the gratuity paid under Section 1803 above shall not be paid to any probate law of the Republic. [P.L. 1997-56, §505.]

§1806. Transition.

This Act shall take effect on the date of certification [23 October 1997] in accordance with Article IV, Section 21 of the Constitution, except that Section 1803 shall be retroactive to the certification date of Public Law No. 1996-13, February 28, 1996, which repealed the Pension Act. [P.L. 1997-56, §3.][Cross Reference: 3 MIRC 5]