## A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Title 40 of the Code of the Federated states of Micronesia by adding a new subchapter VI within chapter 3 to establish a National Merit Scholarship Program allowing selected high school valedictorians the opportunity to attend the college of their choice, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA:

- 1 Section 1. Purpose. The Federated States of Micronesia
- 2 hereby establishes a National Merit Scholarship Program. The
- 3 intent of the Program is to provide selected high school
- 4 valedictorians the opportunity to attend the college or university
- 5 of their choice by paying their tuition and fees for their
- 6 undergraduate education for four years.
- 7 Section 2. Title 40 of the Code of the Federated States of
- 8 Micronesia is hereby amended by adding a new subchapter VI within
- 9 chapter 3 entitled "National Merit Scholarship Program."
- 10 Section 3. Title 40 of the Code of the Federated States of
- 11 Micronesia is hereby further amended by adding within the new
- 12 subchapter VI of chapter 3 a new section 381 as follows:
- "Section 381. Definitions
- 14 <u>(1) 'Valedictorian' means an individual graduating at</u>
- 15 the top of the class;
- 16 (2) 'National Merit Scholar' means an individual who:
- 17 <u>(a) Is a citizen of the Federated States of</u>
- 18 Micronesia;
- 19 (b) Attended a high school within the Federated

1	States of Micronesia;
2	(c) Graduated or will graduate as valedictorian
3	of his or her high school class;
4	(d) Plans to enroll in or attend any college or
5	university within twelve months after high school
6	<pre>graduation; and</pre>
7	(e) Was selected in accordance to the procedures
8	<pre>set forth in Section 383."</pre>
9	Section 3. Title 40 of the Code of the Federated States of
10	Micronesia is hereby further amended by adding within the new
11	subchapter VI of chapter 3 a new section 382 as follows:
12	"Section 382. <u>Benefits</u>
13	Individuals selected as National Merit Scholars shall
14	receive the following benefits:
15	(1) Recognition as a National Merit Scholar under the
16	Federated States of Micronesia National Merit
17	Scholarship Program;
18	(2) Payment of undergraduate tuition and fees (but not
19	living expenses, books or other incidental expenses) for
20	four years to attend the college or university of
21	<pre>his/her choice; and</pre>
22	(3) Round trip transportation to and from the college
23	or university that the National Merit Scholar will
24	attend at the beginning of the academic program and upon
25	the scholar's graduation."

1	Section 3. Title 40 of the Code of the Federated States of
2	Micronesia is hereby further amended by adding within the new
3	subchapter VI of chapter 3 a new section 383 as follows:
4	"Section 383 - Selection
5	(1) The Secretary of Education shall administer the
6	National Merit Scholarship Program.
7	(2) Each year, depending upon funds available for that
8	year, the Secretary shall publicize the amount of funds
9	available and the estimated number of National Merit
10	Scholar slots for the upcoming academic year, and invite
11	applications from individuals meeting the requirements
12	of Section 381(2)(a) through (d).
13	(3) No application shall be accepted from individuals
14	who graduated more than 12 months before the date of the
15	application.
16	(4) No later than 30 days from the closing date of
17	receipt of applications, the Secretary shall announce
18	the appointment of the National Merit Scholars.
19	(5) In case there are more applications than there are
20	funds available, the applications shall be ranked
21	according to Scholastic Aptitude Test ("SAT") scores,
22	and the appointments shall be made accordingly, starting
23	from the application with the highest SAT score.
24	(6) The Secretary is authorized to promulgate rules
25	and regulations to implement, administer and otherwise

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further the intent of this Program."
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         Section 4. This act shall become law upon approval by the
 3 President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its
 4 becoming law without such approval.
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 6 Date: <u>5/20/09</u>
                                 Introduced by: <u>/s/ Dohsis Halbert</u>
                                                       Dohsis Halbert
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