

**TITLE 26 - FAMILY**  
**CHAPTER 2 - SENIOR CITIZENS ACT 2018**



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2018**

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Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2018**

5 **AN ACT** to grant benefits and privileges to Senior Citizens and related purposes.

6 *Commencement:*

*May 1, 2016*

7 *Source:*

*P.L. 2018-62*

8 **§101. Short Title.**

9 This Chapter may be cited as the *Senior Citizens Act, 2017*.

10 **§102. Interpretation.**

11 (1) In this Chapter, unless the context requires:

12 (a) "Act" shall mean this Senior Citizens Act, 2017;

13 (b) "Disabilities" includes a long-term physical, mental,  
14 intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with  
15 various attitudinal and environmental barriers, may hinder  
16 full and effective participation of a person in society on an  
17 equal basis.

18 (c) "Government" shall mean the Government of the Republic of  
19 the Marshall Islands and shall include State-Owned  
20 Enterprises;

21 (d) "Office of Senior Citizens Affairs" shall mean the Office  
22 established under Section 8 of this Act;

23 (e) "Senior Citizens" shall mean those persons who have reached  
24 the retirement age set forth in the Social Security Act of 1990;

- 1 (f) "Minister" shall mean the Minister to whom the responsibility  
2 of this Chapter has been assigned as part of that Minister's  
3 portfolio;
- 4 (g) "Person" shall mean any individual, retail store, restaurant,  
5 hotel, service-oriented shop, State-Owned Enterprise, or  
6 establishment or institutions in the Republic;
- 7 (h) "Republic" shall mean the Republic of the Marshall Islands

8 **§103. Application of this Act.**

9 This Act applies inside the Republic.

10 **§104. Government Policy.**

11 It is the policy of the Government to support vulnerable groups, including  
12 senior citizens.

13 **§105. Objectives.**

- 14 (1) The objectives of this Act are to—
- 15 (a) Recognize the rights of senior citizens to take their proper  
16 place in society, the responsibility of which lies with the  
17 family, community and the Government;
- 18 (b) Support the total well-being of senior citizens and their full  
19 participation in society given that senior citizens have an  
20 integral role in Marshallese society;
- 21 (c) Encourage families and communities in which senior citizens  
22 live to re-invigorate the Marshallese custom of demonstrating  
23 respect, dignity and care towards senior citizens; and
- 24 (d) Recognize the important role of the private sector in the  
25 welfare of senior citizens and to actively seek their  
26 partnership.

27 **§106. Benefits and Privileges of Senior Citizens--Government.**

- 28 (1) The Government shall provide, at the minimum, twenty-five percent  
29 (25%) discount per month to any senior citizen for the following:

- 1 (a) On medication and other essential supplies, accessories and  
2 equipment purchased from the Ministry of Health and Human  
3 Services;
- 4 (b) On medical and dental services provided by the Ministry of  
5 Health and Human Services;
- 6 (c) On the total cost of a ticket from Air Marshall Islands,  
7 provided the ticket is in the name of the senior citizen to be  
8 personally used by him/her.
- 9 (d) Subject to subsection 2 of this Section, on actual transportation  
10 fare for domestic sea shipping vessels.
- 11 (2) A senior citizen is restricted to one (1) item weighing not more than  
12 fifty (50) pounds.
- 13 (3) Subject to Section 110(1) of this Act, the foregoing requires a senior  
14 citizen to produce a Senior Citizen Identification Card issued under  
15 Section 107 prior to receiving the discount.
- 16 (4) Nothing in this Section shall prevent any Government  
17 ministries/offices/agencies, including those referenced above, from  
18 providing a higher discount pursuant to Section 106(1).

19 **§107. The Office of Senior Citizens Affairs.**

- 20 (1) There shall be established the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs under  
21 the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs to be headed by a senior  
22 citizen employed pursuant to the Public Service Regulations 2008 or  
23 any subsequent version thereon.
- 24 (2) The Office of Senior Citizens Affairs shall have the following  
25 functions:
- 26 (a) To plan, implement and monitor yearly work programs  
27 pursuant to the objectives set forth in Section 105 of this Act;
- 28 (b) To maintain and regularly update every quarter the list of  
29 senior citizens so as to issue national individual Senior Citizen  
30 Identification Cards;
- 31 (c) To serve as a general information and liaison center for senior  
32 citizens;
- 33 (d) To monitor compliance of the provisions of this Act and to  
34 report to the Office of the Attorney-General, in consultation

1 with the Secretary of Culture and Internal Affairs, any person  
2 violating this Act; and

- 3 (e) Any other duties assigned by the Minister of Culture and  
4 Internal Affairs.

5 **§108. Penalties.**

6 (1) Any person who refuses to honor the Senior Citizen Identification  
7 Card shall be in violation of this Act and, upon conviction, shall incur  
8 the following penalties:

- 9 (a) For the first violation, imprisonment of less than six (6) months  
10 and a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000);  
11 (b) For any subsequent violation, imprisonment of less than one  
12 (1) year, a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)  
13 and revocation of his/her business license;  
14 (c) Any senior citizen who abuses his/her benefits and privileges  
15 shall have his/her Senior Citizen Identification Card revoked.

16 **§109. Regulations.**

17 The Minister of Culture and Internal Affairs shall promulgate Regulations of  
18 this Act pursuant to the *Marshall Islands Administrative Procedure Act 1979*.

19 **§110. Relationship to Other Acts.**

20 (1) In addition to the general obligations of the Government identified  
21 under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2015, the  
22 Government shall also provide to any disabled persons those services  
23 under Section 106(1) of this Act.

24 **§111. Severability.**

25 If any provision of this Act is deemed to be unconstitutional, the other  
26 provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

27 **§112. Effective Date.**

28 This Act shall come into force in accordance with Article V, Section 21, of the  
29 Constitution and the Rules of Procedures of the Nitijela.

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