NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
46TH CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2025

Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

RMI SOCIAL SUPPORT SCHEME (AMENDMENT) ACT 2025

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RMI SOCIAL SUPPORT SCHEME (AMENDMENT) ACT 2025

AN ACT to amend certain sections of the RMI Social Support Scheme Act in order to improve the implementation of the Social Support Scheme Program

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

§101. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the RMI Social Support Scheme (Amendment) Act 2025.

§102. Amendments.

(1) Section 102(c) of the Act is amended by deleting the definition:

(2) Section 103 of the Act is amended by inserting a new language as follows:

§203. Purpose

To establish a non-contributory pension and disability support scheme for Marshallese citizens, by providing basic income support for eligible retirement age residents and persons with disabilities who are not currently receiving any retirement or disability income benefits from the Marshall Islands Social Security Administration or any other retirement, pension, or disability program.

(3) Section 205(3) of the Act, is amended by inserting a new language to subsection 1 to read as follows:

§205. Phased Introduction and Administration of the Scheme.

(1) The scheme shall be administered by the Marshall Islands Social Security Administration (MISSA). Upon passage of this Act, and initial pilot phase of the scheme of three (3) financial years, shall commence from 2026 to 2028.

(2) Upon the passage of this Act, MISSA shall establish a dedicated operational unit to administer and monitor the scheme during the pilot phase and ultimately when it is mainstreamed. To guide its administration of the scheme, upon passage of this Act, the MISSA administration and board shall develop standard operating procedures for the scheme.

(4) Section 206 of the Act, is amended by inserting new languages to read as follows:

§206. Eligibility Requirements.

(1) To be eligible for the non-contributory pension scheme, beneficiaries must meet the following criteria:

(a) Age: Must be at least 60 years of age

(b) Residency: Must be a resident of the RMI at least one (1) year concurrently prior to registration and benefiting from the scheme.

(c) Non-duplication of benefits: must not be a recipient of any MISSA retirement benefit or any other retirement or pension program in the RMI other than the Universal Basic Income, or benefiting from other retirement or pension program in other jurisdiction.

(2) To be eligible for the disability scheme, beneficiaries must meet the following criteria:

(a) Age: People of all ages are eligible

(b) Residency: Must be a resident of the RMI at least one (1) year concurrently prior to the registration and benefiting from the scheme. Other than for children, eligibility will commence upon certification by a medical physician.

(c) Non-duplication of benefits: must not be a recipient of any MISSA retirement benefit or any other retirement or pension program in the RMI other than the Universal Basic Income, or benefiting_from other retirement or pension program in other jurisdiction.

(3) The benefits will be discontinued if the recipient is absent from the RMI for more than one month. The benefits will be reinstated upon the recipient's return to the RMI.

(4) Subsection (3) of this Sections does not apply to recipients who are temporarily traveling abroad the Republic as part of the government-managed medical referral program.

(5) Section 209 of the Act, is amended by inserting new languages to read as follows:

§209. Annual Appropriation.

A special appropriation of $750,000, made through the Appropriation Act for FY2026~~4~~, shall be provided to launch the pilot phase of the scheme. Subsequent appropriations by the Nitijela shall be made based on Cabinet proposals backed by analysis and advise of the MISSA administration and board.

(6) Section 212 of the Act, is amended by inserting new Section and languages to read as follows:

§212A. Fraud Prevention and Penalties

(a) Any person who knowingly makes a false statement, misrepresentation, or withholds material information for the purpose of obtaining benefits under this scheme shall be guilty of an offense.

(b) Any recipient found to have fraudulently received benefits shall be required to repay all improperly received funds and may be subject to suspension or permanent disqualification from the scheme.

(c) A person convicted of fraud under this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or both.

(d) MISSA shall establish procedures for investigating suspected fraud, including anonymous reporting mechanisms and periodic audits to ensure compliance..

§103. Effective Date.

The Act shall take effect on the date of its certification in accordance with the Constitution and the Rules of Procedures of the Nitijela

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify:

1. That Nitijela Bill No: 48ND1 was passed by the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 7th day of April 2025; and

2. That I am satisfied that Nitijela Bill No: 48ND1 was passed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Rules of Procedures of the Nitijela.

I hereby place my signature before the Clerk this 22nd day of April 2025.

POR

Brenson S. Wase
Speaker
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

Attest:

Morean S. Watak
Clerk
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands