

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in November until the date of the dissolution of the Nitijela on the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Chapter 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that Section 1803 shall be retroactive to the certification date of Public Law No. 1996-13, February 28, 1996, which repealed the Pension Act.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]