

\NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
39TH CONSTITUTION REGULAR SESSION, 2018



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2018**

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**SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2018**

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

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

**§101. Short Title.**

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

**§102. Interpretation.**

- (1) In this Chapter, unless the context requires:
  - (a) "Act" shall mean this Senior Citizens Act, 2017;
  - (b) "Disabilities" includes a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers, may hinder full and effective participation of a person in society on an equal basis.
  - (bc) "Government" shall mean the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and shall include State-Owned Enterprises;
  - (ed) "Office of Senior Citizens Affairs" shall mean the Office established under Section 8 of this Act;
  - (de) "Senior Citizens" shall mean those persons who have reached the retirement age set forth in the Social Security Act of 1990;

- (ef) "Minister" shall mean the Minister to whom the responsibility of this Chapter has been assigned as part of that Minister's portfolio;
- (fg) "Person" shall mean any individual, retail store, restaurant, hotel, service-oriented shop, State-Owned Enterprise, or establishment or institutions in the Republic;
- (gh) "Republic" shall mean the Republic of the Marshall Islands

### §103. Application of this Act.

This Act applies inside the Republic.

### §104. Government Policy.

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

### §105. Objectives.

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

### §106. Benefits and Privileges of Senior Citizens--Government.

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

- (a) On medication and other essential supplies, accessories and equipment purchased from the Ministry of Health and Human Services;
  - (b) On medical and dental services provided by the Ministry of Health and Human Services;
  - (c) On the total cost of a ticket from Air Marshall Islands, provided the ticket is in the name of the senior citizen to be personally used by him/her.
  - (d) Subject to subsection 2 of this Section, on actual transportation fare for domestic sea shipping vessels.
- (2) A senior citizen is restricted to one (1) item weighing not more than fifty (50) pounds.
  - (3) Subject to Section 1140(21) of this Act, the foregoing requires a senior citizen to produce a Senior Citizen Identification Card issued under Section 1087 prior to receiving the discount.
  - (4) Nothing in this Section shall prevent any Government ministries/offices/agencies, including those referenced above, from providing a higher discount pursuant to Section 1076(1).

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

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

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

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

#### §108. Penalties.

- (1) Any person who refuses to honor the Senior Citizen Identification Card shall be in violation of this Act and, upon conviction, shall incur the following penalties:
  - (a) For the first violation, imprisonment of less than six (6) months and a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000);
  - (b) For any subsequent violation, imprisonment of less than one (1) year, a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and revocation of his/her business license;
  - (c) Any senior citizen who abuses his/her benefits and privileges shall have his/her Senior Citizen Identification Card revoked.

#### §109. Regulations.

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

#### §110. Relationship to Other Acts.

- (1) In addition to the general obligations of the Government identified under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2015, the Government shall also provide ~~free of charge~~ to any disabled persons those services under Section 1076(1) of this Act.

#### §1121. Severability.

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

#### §1132. Effective Date.

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

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**CERTIFICATE**

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**I hereby certify:**

1. That Nitijela Bill No: 115ND1 was passed by the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018; and
2. That I am satisfied that Nitijela Bill No: 115ND1 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018.

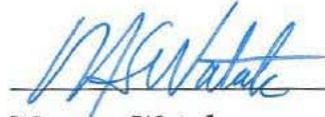


**Hon. Kenneth A. Kedi**

Speaker

Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

**Attest:**



**Morean Watak**

Clerk

Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

