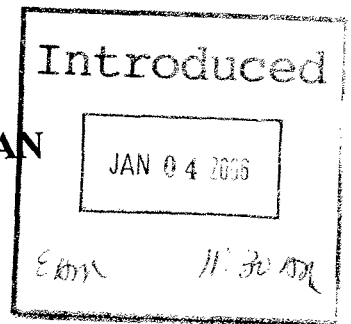


MINA' BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2005 (FIRST) Regular Session



Bill No. 245 (EC)

Introduced by:

L.F. Kasperbauer
Ray Tenorio

**AN ACT TO AMEND ITEM (a) OF §15A301 OF CHAPTER 15 OF
17G.C.A. RELATIVE TO EXPANDING THE PROVISIONS OF
THE MERIT AWARD PROGRAM.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Item (a) of §15A301 of Chapter 15 of 17G.C.A. is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

(a) There are established annual Merit Awards for high school students in the graduating classes of a public and private high school licensed to do business on Guam now or hereafter established. The students entitled to these awards shall be the students having the highest scholastic standing in the graduating classes of each such public and non-public high school on Guam, ~~except for Department of Defense Schools.~~ The awards shall be determined as follows:

(1) One (1) for every fifty (50) graduates or fraction thereof of a school's graduating class. If as a result of the equal scholastic standing of two (2) or more graduates, there is a tie for the awards granted pursuant to this Chapter, the University of Guam shall provide a mechanism to break the tie. Awardees are entitled to four (4) years of education at the University of Guam. However, if the awardee is the top-ranked student academically of that person's graduating class, and such awardee's major is unavailable at the University of Guam, the awardee may attend any accredited college or university in the United States, or one (1)

1 recognized by the ~~Council on Postsecondary Accreditation ('COPA')~~ Council for
2 Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or its successors, where such declared
3 major is available. The benefits are according to the amounts provided in §
4 15A302 of this Article, plus the cost of airfare for one-way, economy airline
5 ticket to the school of attendance and one-way ticket to return to Guam upon
6 completion of studies.

7 (2) Of the students receiving awards in Subsection (1), supra, who attend
8 and graduate from the University of Guam, the top two (2) awardees per
9 graduating class shall be entitled to an additional two (2) years of study for a
10 Master's Degree at the University of Guam after completion of the bachelor's
11 program awarded under the provisions of Subsection (1). In the event that, as a
12 result of graduating class size, only one (1) student is entitled to an award under
13 Subsection (1), supra, then only one (1) student shall be eligible for an award
14 under this Subsection. The benefits are according to the amounts provided in §
15 15A302 of this Article.

16 All awards shall be subject to the following limitations:

17 A recipient must be a:

18 (i) United States citizen, or a permanent resident alien, who has completed
19 four (4) academic years in a public or private high school on Guam; and

20 (ii) a resident of Guam for a continuous period of not less than five (5)
21 years immediately preceding June 15th of the year the award is to be awarded.