



**THE SENATE**

**FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-61**

**THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2007**

**SENATE BILL NO. 15-82**

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**AN ACT**

To prohibit the NMI Retirement Fund from paying less than the full pension to retirees; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature is cognizant that Article III, Section  
2 20, of the NMI Constitution provides that membership in the Commonwealth retirement system  
3 is a contractual relationship and accrued benefits shall neither be diminished or impaired. The  
4 purpose of this Act is to prohibit the Retirement Fund from paying less than the full pension  
5 entitled to the retirees.

6           **Section 2. Full Pension Retirement Benefits.** Notwithstanding any law, regulation, or  
7 policy to the contrary, the Retirement Fund shall pay the full pension of retirees and shall not be  
8 reduced or recalculated on the basis that the employer contributions, in whole or in part, have not  
9 been remitted to the Fund. All unpaid retirement government contributions for all affected  
10 employees shall be treated as unfunded liability.

11           **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
12 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
13 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
14 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

15           **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
16 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
17 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained

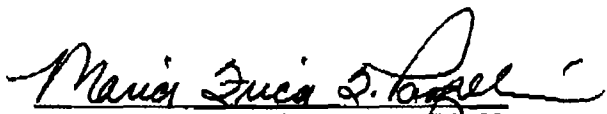
1 in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The  
2 enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any  
3 liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes  
4 effective.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor  
or becoming law without such approval.

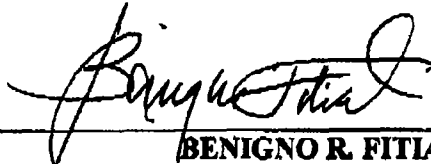
**CERTIFIED BY:**

**ATTESTED BY:**

  
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**JOSEPH M. MENDIOLA**  
President of the Senate

  
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**MARIA FRISCA T. PANGELINAN**  
Senate Legislative Secretary

APPROVED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2007

  
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**BENIGNO R. FITIAL**  
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands