Republic of Palau
Office of the President

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President

P.O. Box 6051, Palau, PW 96940
Tel. (680) 767-2403/2828
Fax. (680) 767-2424/1662
Email: rop.president@palaunet.com

July 19, 2017
Serial No.17-195

The Honorable Sabino Anastacio
Speaker of the House of Delegates
10th Obliil Era Kelulau
Ngerulmud, Palau National Capitol
Republic of Palau 96939

Re: Signing Statement: House Bill No. 10-19-1, HD3, SD2 – To establish minimum equipment and staffing standards for ambulances in the Republic of Palau.

Dear Speaker Anastacio:

I am pleased to sign into law House Bill No. 10-19-1, HD3, SD2. This important bill serves two purposes, the first being to provide much-needed standards for emergency services in the Republic of Palau. As the Governors' Association wrote to me last week, the ambulance standards promulgated here "should be the norm, rather than an exception." The Obliil Era Kelulau has shown great prudence by allowing the specific details of some standards to be determined, through regulation, by the experts in our Ministry of Health.

The second major function of this bill is, of course, to bring Health Management more directly into our local communities through the use of Non-Communicable Disease Fund block-grants to State Governments. Local responsibility of health management is always the best approach, and I am pleased that this bill mandates direct communication between all state governments, their respective communities and our National Coordinating Mechanism for Non-Communicable Diseases ("NCD Mechanism"). I appreciate that the OEK, in structuring this bill, has preserved the structure and the essential role of the NCD Mechanism, while allowing it an extended and more targeted reach.

As the leaders of this nation, we must always remember our duty to Palau's least fortunate. They are the reason we serve, and with this bill we take proactive measures for the sick and vulnerable in our community.

I look forward to continuing this service together.

Sincerely,

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau

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July 19, 2017
Serial No.17-195

The Honorable Hokkons Baules
President of the Senate
10th Obliil Era Kelulau
Ngerulmud, Palau National Capitol
Republic of Palau 96939

Re: Signing Statement: House Bill No. 10-19-1, HD3, SD2 – To establish minimum equipment and staffing standards for ambulances in the Republic of Palau.

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Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau

RPPL NO. 10-9

TENTH OLBIIL ERA KELULAU

HOUSE BILL NO. 10-19-1, HD3, SD2

AN ACT

SEE TITLE INSIDE

OFFERED BY DELEGATE(S) ALL DELEGATES

ET AL,

DATE INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 2017

HOUSE ACTION

FIRST READING:	February 15, 2017
REFERRED TO:	*Health, Social and Cultural Affairs / JGA
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO:	10-21
DATE ADOPTED:	April 27, 2017
SECOND READING:	April 27, 2017
LEGAL FORMAT:	Proper
REVIEW:	April 27, 2017
THIRD READING:	May 21, 2017 w/ HD3
FINAL ACTION:	July 05, 2017

SENATE ACTION

FIRST READING:	May 04, 2017
REFERRED TO:	Health and Education
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO:	10-39
DATE ADOPTED:	May 24, 2017
SECOND READING:	May 24, 2017
LEGAL FORMAT:	Proper
REVIEW:	May 25, 2017
THIRD READING:	May 29, 2017
FINAL ACTION:	N/A

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTION

DATE:	N/A
COMMITTEE REPORT:	N/A
DATE PASSED:	N/A

Marcello Ngirkelau
HOUSE CLERK

Ann L. Pedro
SENATE CLERK

TENTH OLBIIL ERA KELULAU

First Regular Session, January 2017

RPPL No. 10-9
(Passed as House Bill No. 10-19-1, HD3, SD2)

AN ACT

To establish minimum equipment and staffing standards for ambulances in the Republic of Palau, and for other related purposes.

THE PEOPLE OF PALAU REPRESENTED IN THE OLBIIL ERA KELULAU DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Legislative findings.

The Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that adequate emergency medical services are critical to the safety and wellbeing of the people of Palau and help minimize harm to human life that occurs during medical emergencies. Therefore, the Olbiil Era Kelulau finds it necessary to establish minimum equipment standards for ambulances that operate in the Republic so that personnel responding to emergencies have the right tools to provide necessary medical assistance. The Olbiil Era Kelulau finds it equally important that staff responding to emergencies have sufficient training to be able to properly use ambulance equipment and address patients' emergency medical needs. Therefore, this bill establishes minimum equipment and staffing standards for ambulances in the Republic that should serve to greatly enhance the delivery of emergency medical services in the Republic.

Section 2. Equipment required for ambulances.

(a) Effective one hundred and twenty (120) days following the effective date of this Act, every ambulance in the Republic must be equipped with emergency medical supplies and equipment as required by regulation to be promulgated by the Ministry of Health as in subsection (c).

(b) All ambulances and ambulance equipment and supplies must be maintained in good working order and be kept clean and disinfected.

(c) Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section, the Ministry of Health will promulgate regulations consistent with this Act that specify the types and quantities of emergency medical supplies and equipment that ambulances must maintain.

Section 3. Staffing required for ambulances.

(a) Effective July 1, 2018, an ambulance responding to a request for emergency

medical services or transporting a patient from the scene of an emergency must be staffed in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Ministry of Health in consultation with the Bureau of Public Safety within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Act.

(b) Additional individuals satisfying the requirements of the regulations promulgated in accordance with this section must be dispatched in response to a call for assistance when necessary to provide adequate emergency medical services.

(c) At least one individual who is duly licensed as an Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic and is trained to properly utilize all equipment and supplies in the ambulance must be present in the patient compartment of an ambulance whenever a patient is present in the patient compartment.

(d) The Bureau of Public Safety, in coordination with any other appropriate agencies or organizations, including Palau Community College, will make available Emergency Medical Technician training opportunities so as to ensure that any licensure requirement of this Act will be satisfied with respect to its ambulance staff.

Section 4. Certification of emergency ambulance service personnel.

(a) Certification under this section shall be a prerequisite to the practice of emergency medical services in the Republic of Palau. Without an appropriate certificate issued by the Board of Health Professionals, it is unlawful to work as an Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic. The Board of Health Professionals shall certify individuals as qualified in emergency medical services upon application therefore, provided that the applicant for certification:

(1) holds a certificate from a recognized Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic program, which is issued after satisfactorily passing a course of training in emergency medical services for emergency ambulance services personnel;

(2) agrees to meet and demonstrates compliance with continuing education requirements set by the Board of Health Professionals; and

(3) meets any other qualifications set by the Board of Health Professionals.

(b) The Board of Health Professionals shall provide for the periodic renewal of such certification as well as the circumstances resulting in revocation, suspension, or limitation of certification in the event an individual once certified under this section fails to maintain or meet requirements for continued certification, or for good cause shown.

Section 5. Renewal of certification.

(a) A person holding a certificate under this Act shall renew the certificate every two years and comply with the continuing education requirements set forth in the Board's rules. However, in order to stagger the certification of our available emergency medical personnel during the initial implementation of this Act, the first four certificates issued shall be valid for a period of three years and the following four certificates issued shall be valid for a period of two and a half years.

(b) To determine compliance, the Board may conduct a random audit. Any persons selected for audit shall be notified in writing by the Board. Within ninety days of notification, the person shall provide to the Board documentation to verify compliance with the continuing education requirements.

(c) Failure to renew, or in the case of audited persons, provide documentation of compliance, shall constitute a forfeiture of the certificate, which may be restored only upon the submission of written application, and in the case of audited persons, documentation of compliance.

Section 6. Supervision.

Within the Bureau of Public Safety, there shall be an Emergency Medical Services Medical Supervisor, who shall supervise and monitor the Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic employees' performance and program quality assurance. The Medical Supervisor will be an individual with at least Emergency Medical Technician basic training. The Supervisor shall coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Palau Community College to facilitate the continuing professional development necessary to retain certification through the Board of Health Professionals.

Section 7. Appropriations and reporting.

(a) The sum of $65,000 is hereby authorized to be appropriated and is hereby appropriated for expenditure or obligation to Palau Community College for the purpose of funding the first year's budget of the permanent Emergency Medical Technician program. The entire amount of funds authorized and appropriated in this sub-section shall come from local revenues and are non-lapsing.

(b) The Board of Health Professionals shall submit a report to the President of the Republic of Palau, the Senate President, and Speaker of the House of Delegates of the Olbiil Era Kelulau within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the effective date of this Act requesting any necessary funding and reporting on the status of certification of emergency medical personnel.

(c) The sum of $50,000 is hereby authorized to be appropriated and is hereby appropriated for expenditure or obligation to the Bureau of Public Safety for the purpose of implementing the personnel, training, and equipment measures mandated by this Act. The entire amount of funds authorized and appropriated in this sub-section shall come from local revenues and are non-lapsing.The Ministry of Justice shall, within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Act, submit a report to the President of the Republic of Palau, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates of the Olbiil Era Kelulau with an estimated budget for further implementation of this Act.

Section 8. Amendment. Section 1308 of Title 40, as modified by RPPL 9-57, is amended as follows:

§ 1308. Non-Communicable Diseases Fund.

(a) There is established within the National Treasury a permanent Non-Communicable Diseases Fund ("Fund"). The purpose of this fund is to support the efforts of the National Coordinating Mechanism for Non-Communicable Diseases ("Mechanism"), established by Executive Order 379, to prevent non-communicable diseases.

(b) The Fund shall be accessed and distributed through the annual budget process. The Olbiil Era Kelulau shall authorize and appropriate the Fund.

(c) The Fund may be distributed in the form of block grants to each individual State based on population and needs for purposes of implementing the goals outlined in Executive Order 379, with an emphasis on addressing the risks associated with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in children, or may be authorized and appropriated by the Olbiil Era Kelulau in the normal or supplemental budget processes, by continuing resolutions, or by any other legislative means.

(d) The States shall submit proposals, which have been certified in compliance with Executive Order 379 by the Ministry of Health, to the Olbiil Era Kelulau no later than February 15 of each year detailing their proposed programs or policies to be funded. Proposals may include, but not be limited to, funding for schools, churches, state government organizations, cultural groups, or other related organizations. There shall be a preference for proposals targeting individuals ages birth to twenty-one (21) years.

(e) The Ministry of Health shall:

(1) upon request, provide policy expertise to the States;

(2) upon request, provide technical assistance to the States;

(3) certify the proposals to be submitted by the States to the Olbiil Era Kelulau, as in subsection (d); and

(4) monitor the progress of the Mechanism and States in the implementation of NCD programs and policies.

(f) The Ministry of Education shall:

(1) upon request, provide policy expertise to the States; and

(2) upon request, provide technical assistance to the States.

(g) The Mechanism shall provide a strategic plan and establish a framework for cooperation and coordination between the National Government, the States, and the private sector for use of the Fund, in accordance with Executive Order 379.

(h) The States shall provide annual reports to the Mechanism, the President of the Republic, and the Presiding Officers of the Olbiil Era Kelulau no later than February 1 of each year. The reports shall include the following:

(1) The amount of funding received and spent the prior fiscal year;

(2) The programs or policies implemented using the block grant funding, including but not limited to, a description of how the funding was used and how the program fits into the strategic plan of the Mechanism;

(3) The number of individuals impacted by the programs or policies, including a breakdown by age group in five (5) year intervals up to age twenty (25) and ten (10) year intervals after age twenty-five (25);

(4) The amount of coordination and cooperation with other governmental and private sector partners; and

(5) Any other information required by regulations to be promulgated by the Ministry of Health.

Section 9. Effective date.

This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the President of the Republic of Palau, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

PASSED: July 05, 2017

Approved this 19th **day of** July **, 2017**

H. E. Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau