



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

## **SOCIAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) ACT 2023**

**Introduced by:**  
**SENATOR STEPHEN W. PHILIP**

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**Approved:**

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**SPEAKER KENNETH A. KEDI**

**SIGNATURE**



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**NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
44TH CONSTITUTION REGULAR SESSION, 2023**



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**SOCIAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) ACT 2023**

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**NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
44TH CONSTITUTION REGULAR SESSION, 2023**



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Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**SOCIAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) ACT 2023**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT** to amend 49 MIRC Ch.1, §142 of the Social Security Act to provide for lump sum benefit payment for non-citizens who ceases to work, left the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and residing overseas, and requirement to prove existence of life of non-citizens who are beneficiaries and continuously receiving benefits while overseas.

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

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**§101. Short title.**

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This Act may be cited as the Social Security (Amendment) Act 2023.

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**§102. Amendment.**

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(1) Section 142 of the Marshall Islands Social Security Act is amended as follows:

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**§142. Payment to non-citizens overseas.**

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Unless modified by a totalization or bilateral agreement, or benefitted from lump-sum payment under Section 141, no more than six (6) months of benefit payments under this Chapter shall be paid to any beneficiary who is not a citizen or national of the Republic and who has been residing outside of the Republic, or country of recipient for more than six consecutive months; provided, however, without having to travel to the Marshall Islands to receive such quarterly benefit:

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- (a) Payment of more than six months may be made to a beneficiary who is not a citizen or nation of the Republic who has been residing outside of the Republic, and who proves existence of life by:
  - (i) Report in person every month to the RMI Consulate/Embassy in the country where they are residing permanently, if there is an RMI Consulate/Embassy there; or
  - (ii) Report in person every month to the office of the RMI Referral Office, if there is one in the country where the beneficiary is residing permanently; or
  - (iii) Make a video call to a MISSA representative via social media, i.e. Messenger, Viber or Skype every month.
- (b) payments shall be made to citizens and nationals of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the United States as if they were citizens or nationals of the Republic, if the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the United States, respectively, extend reciprocal benefits to citizens of the Marshall Islands.

23 **§103. Effective Date.**

24 This Act shall take effect on the date of its certification in accordance with  
25 the Constitution and the Rules of Procedures for the Nitijela.

1 NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
2 44TH CONSTITUTION REGULAR SESSION, 2023

3 SOCIAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) ACT 2023

4 BILL SUMMARY

5 This Bill proposes to amend Section 142 of the Social Security Act in order to provide  
6 for continuous payment of beneficiary payment retirees who are not citizens or  
7 nationals of the Republic and who have been residing outside of the Republic.

8 Under Section 142, the current law states that a non-resident retiree who is residing  
9 outside the RMI will only receive 6 months of benefits from MISSA every time that  
10 he/she reports in person to the MISSA office. Otherwise, benefits will be suspended  
11 for the months and beyond the 6 months period until he/she returns again to be  
12 present at MISSA to verify his or her existence.

13 The Bill proposes to amend Section 142 to ensure continuous payment of  
14 beneficiaries are made to retiree citizens or nationals of the others who has been  
15 residing outside of the Republic, for more than six months, and who can prove  
16 existence of life through other means by:

17 (i) Report in person every month to the RMI Consulate/Embassy in the country  
18 where they are residing permanently, if there is an RMI Cor.sulate/Embassy there; or

19 (ii) Report in person every month to the office of the RMI Referral Office, if there  
20 is one in the country where the beneficiary is residing permanently; or

21 (iii) Make a video call to a MISSA representative via social media, i.e. Messenger,  
22 Viber or Skype every month.

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25 The rationale is that it is very costly to travel to the Marshall Islands just to receive  
26 the same amount of quarterly payments, that are paid to travel to the Marshall  
27 Islands in order to verify the existence of life so that the benefit can be continually  
28 received.

NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
44TH CONSTITUTION REGULAR SESSION, 2023

SOCIAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) ACT 2023

SIGNATURES

DATE: 8/11/23 INTRODUCED BY Wisele Zaobhras [Signature]  
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DATE: 8/11/23 INTRODUCED BY Tony Muller [Signature]  
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Print Name Signature

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