

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



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

COUNCIL OF IROIJ (COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES)  
(AMENDMENT) ACT 2023

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Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**COUNCIL OF IROIJ (COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES)  
(AMENDMENT) ACT 2023**

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Council of Iroij (Compensation and Expenses) Act of 1979 by inserting a new Sections to provide for the gratuity benefits in the event of death of any person recognized as Irojilaplap/Leiroij or Owner as primary title holder pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1, the customary law or traditional practices and other related purposes.

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

**§101. Short title.**

This Act may be cited as the Council of Iroij (Compensation and Expenses) (Amendment) Act 2023.

**§102. Amendment.**

(1) Section 207 is hereby inserted as new section to which it shall read as follows:

\*\* \*

**§207. Gratuity.**

(1) In the event of death of any person recognized pursuant to Article III, Section 1 (2) of the Constitution, customary law or to any traditional practice as having rights and obligations of Irojilaplap/Leroij or Owner as primary title holder, a gratuity in a lump sum of up to \$25,000 shall be paid to his or her immediate family, or if he/she leaves no such family, to his/her heirs at law; and/or

1 (2) If, in any, district, a group of persons becomes recognized pursuant  
2 to Article III, Section 1 (2) and(3), the customary law or to any  
3 traditional practice, as having rights and obligations analogous to  
4 those of Irojlaplap/Leiroij or Owner, that person, or a member of that  
5 group nominated by the group, shall be deemed to be primary title  
6 holder and therefore a gratuity benefit in a lump sum of up to  
7 \$25,000 shall be paid to his/ her immediate family, or if he/she leaves  
8 no such family, to his/her heirs at law.

9 (3) For the avoidance of any doubt, gratuity shall not be paid to any  
10 probate law of the Republic.

11 For the purposes of this Section, “funeral expenses” shall means the costs of  
12 returning remains or ashes to the deceased person to a location of the  
13 family’s choice and all other costs of deceased person’s funeral, including  
14 venue hire, catering and public notice.

15  
16 *(2) Section 208 is hereby inserted as new section as follow:*

17 **§208. Finance: Council of Iroj Gratuity Fund.**

18 (1) There shall be established a Council of Iroj Fund.

19 (2) The Fund shall be a fund other than the General Fund within the  
20 meaning and for the purposes of Article VIII, Section 3 of the  
21 Constitution.

22  
23 *(3) Section 209 is hereby inserted as new section as follow:*

24 **§209. Payment into the Fund.**

25 (1) There shall be deposited into the Fund:

26 (a) all monies appropriated by the Nitijela for the purposes of the  
27 Council of Iroj gratuity benefits pursuant to Section 207.

1 (4) *Section 210 is hereby inserted as new section as follow:*

2 **§210. Payment out of the Fund.**

3 (1) Payment may be made out of the Fund only for:

4 (a) a lump sum payment for costs and expenses for funeral  
5 expenses pursuant to Section 207.

6 **§103. Effective date.**

7 This Act shall take effect in accordance with the Constitution and the Rules  
8 of Procedures of the Nitijela.

9



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**COUNCIL OF IROIJ (COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES)  
(AMENDMENT) ACT 2023**

**BILL SUMMARY**

This Bill proposes to amend the Council of Iroij (Compensation and Expenses) Act of 1979 by inserting a new Sections to provide for the gratuity benefit in the event of death of any person recognized as Irojlaplap/Leiroij or Owner as primary title holder pursuant to customary law or traditional practices in a lump sum of up to \$25,000 to his/her immediate family, or if he/she leaves no such family, to his/her heirs at law.

It is further proposed that up to \$25,000 be paid in a lump sum to primary beneficiaries of sitting Irojlaplap/Leiroij. Moreover, If any, a group of persons becomes recognized, a person so nominated by the group or groups be paid a lump sum of up to \$25,000 to his/her heirs, and if no such heirs, his/her heirs in law.

A funeral expense is defined and that all expenses incurred will be a direct charge on the General Fund.

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COUNCIL OF IROIJ (COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES)  
(AMENDMENT) ACT 2023

SIGNATURES

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ INTRODUCED BY KENNETH A. KOE [Signature]  
Print Name Signature

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ INTRODUCED BY Casten Nawa [Signature]  
Print Name Signature

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Signature

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Signature

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Signature