

**TITLE 3 – CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
CHAPTER 2 - COUNCIL OF IROIJ**



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

**COUNCIL OF IROIJ (COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES)
ACT 1979**

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ACT 1979**

AN ACT to provide for the compensation and expenses of members of the Council of Iroij.¹

Commencement: May 1, 1979
Source: M.I. Code (1975)
Amended By: P.L. 1979-2 P.L. 1985-1 P.L. 1990-95
 P.L. 1991-138 P.L. 2003-74 P.L.2018-56
 P.L. 2023-94

§201. Short title.

This Chapter may be cited as the Council of Iroij (Compensation and Expenses) Act 1979. [P.L. 1979-2, §1.]

§202. Council of Iroij; compensation.

- (1) Members and officers of the Council of Iroij shall receive as compensation an annual salary, payable in bi-weekly installments as follows;
- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| (a) Chairman | \$31,000 |
| (b) Vice Chairman | \$25,000 |
| (c) All other members | \$18,750 |
- (2) If a deputy is appointed pursuant to Article III, Section 9 of the Constitution of the Marshall Islands, compensation shall be paid to that person.

- (3) Members of the Council of Iroij who are entitled to other compensation from the Government of the Marshall Islands, shall not be entitled to receive compensation from more than one agency of the Government of the Marshall Islands for the same compensable period. [M.I. Code (1975) §11.200, re-codified by P.L. 1979-2, §2, amended & v P.L. 1985-1, §13, Increasing the pay of the Chairman of the Council of Iroij; amended by P.L. 1990-95, §2. increasing members' pay. Increasing the pay of the Chairman of the Council, and setting forth pay for the Vice Chairman; amended by P.L. 1991-138, §2 setting a fixed salary for members and officers.][P.L. 2003-74 raised salaries to \$25,000, \$20,000 and \$15,000 respectively][Council of Iroj's members increased by P.L.201856 respectively]

§203. Official expense allowance.

There shall be made available to each member of the Council of Iroij an official expense allowance of two thousand dollars (US \$2,000) per annum, to assist in defraying official expenses relating to or resulting from the discharge of his official duties as member of the Council of Iroij. [M.I. Code (1975), §11.201, re-codified by P.L. 1979-2, §3, amended by P.L. 1985-1, §13, increasing expense allowance from \$1,000 to \$2,000.]

§204. Council of Iroij; session allowance.

Council of Iroij members shall receive a session allowance of five thousand dollars (US \$5,000) per annum, in lieu of per diem to assist in defraying expenses incurred while the Council of Iroij is in session. [M.I. Code (1975), §11.202; re-codified by P.L. 1979-2, §54 completely amended by P.L. 1985-1, §13.]

§205. Same; rules of procedure.

Without limiting its powers under Article III, Section 7(4) of the Constitution of the Marshall Islands, the Council of Iroij may provide in its rules of procedure:

- (a) for suspension, reduction or termination of compensation of a member for tardiness, absence or other neglect of duty as a member of the Council of Iroij;
- (b) for conditions upon which travel and per diem will be approved; and
- (c) for procedures to be followed to authorize a member of the Council of Iroij to perform assigned governmental duties when the Council is not in session. [M.I. Code (1975), §11.203: re-codified by P.L. 1979-2.]

§206. Administrative office space for Council of Iroij.

Suitable office space shall be provided by the Government of the Marshall Islands for the staff of the Council of Iroij, from which they may exercise their official duties and conduct Council of Iroij meetings and conferences. [MI. Code (1975), §11.204; re-codified.]

§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 Irojlaplap/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
- (2) If, in any district, a group of persons becomes recognized pursuant to Article III, Section 1 (2) and (3), the customary law or to any traditional practice, as having rights and obligations analogous to those of Irojlaplap/Leroij or Owner, that person, or a member of that group nominated by the group, shall be deemed to be primary to be title holder, and therefore a gratuity benefit in a lump sum of up to \$25,000 shall be paid to his/her immediate family, or if he/she leaves no such family, to his/her heirs at law.
- (3) For the avoidance of any doubt, gratuity shall not be paid to any probate law of the Republic.

For the purpose of this Section, “**funeral expenses**” shall mean the costs of returning remains or ashes to the deceased person to a location of the family’s choice and all other costs of deceased person’s funeral, including venue hire, catering and public notice. [Section 207 is inserted by P.L. 2023-94].

§208. Finance: Council of Iroij Gratuity Fund.

- (1) There shall be established a Council of Iroij Fund.
- (2) The Fund shall be a fund other than the General Fund within the meaning and for the purposes of Article VIII, Section 3 of the Constitution. [Section 208 is inserted as new by P.L. 2023-94].

§209. Payment into the Fund:

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

- (a) all monies appropriated by the Nitijela for the purposes of the Council of Iroj gratuity benefits pursuant to Section 207. [Section 209 is inserted as new by P.L. 2023-94].

§210. Payment out of the Fund.

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

- (a) a lump sum payment for costs and expenses for expenses pursuant to Section 207. [Section 210 is inserted as new by P.L. 2023-94].

ENDNOTES

Endnote References

1[section numbering style modified to reflect new format]