



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Benigno R. Fitial**  
Governor

**Eloy S. Inos**  
Lieutenant Governor

**MAY 23 2011**

Honorable Eli D. Cabrera  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Seventeenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Paul A. Manglona  
Senate President  
Seventeenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill 17-167, HD1, entitled, "To appropriate Nineteen Thousand One Hundred Twenty Four Dollars (\$19,124.00) from the Saipan Trust Fund to assist in the preservation of artifacts and operations of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 17-42**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benigno R. Fitial".

**BENIGNO R. FITIAL**

CC: Lt. Governor  
Office of the Attorney General  
Acting Sec. of Finance  
MPLF  
Press Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Special Assistant to the Administration  
Special Assistant for Programs & Legislative Review  
All Departments and Agencies

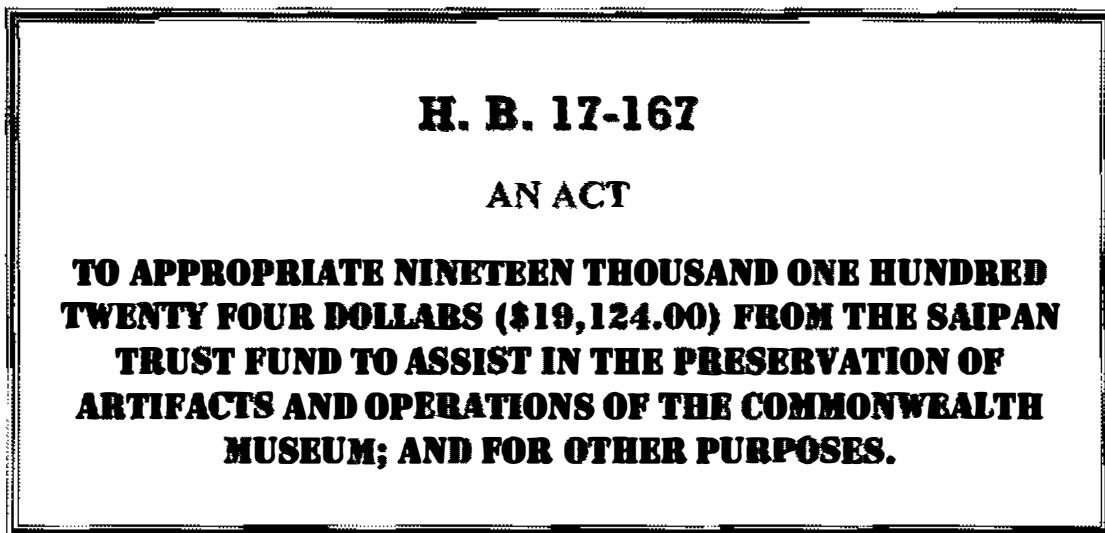


*Seventeenth Legislature  
of the  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Twelfth Day, Third Regular Session

March 28, 2011

Representative Ramon A. Tebutch, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Diego T. Benavente, and Stanley T. McGinnis-Torres) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:



The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL, MARCH 28, 2011;**  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. 17-167, HD1 and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, APRIL 29, 2011;**  
*without amendments.*

**H. B. 17-167, HD1 WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON MAY 3, 2011.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda B. Muña".

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



*Seventeenth Legislature  
of the  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

12th Day, Third Regular Session

March 28, 2011

---

**H. B. 17-167, HD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO APPROPRIATE NINETEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED  
TWENTY FOUR DOLLARS (19,124.00) FROM THE  
SAIPAN TRUST FUND TO ASSIST IN THE  
PRESERVATION OF ARTIFACTS AND OPERATIONS OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH MUSEUM.**

**Be it enacted by the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
Legislature:**

1           **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be cited as the “Commonwealth of the  
2 Northern Mariana Islands Museum Preservation and Operations Update Act of 2011.”

3           **Section 2. Findings.** The Commonwealth Legislature finds that the Commonwealth  
4 Museum is in possession of historical artifacts linked to the ancestors of the Chamorro and  
5 Carolinian people of the Commonwealth. The Legislature further finds that the preservation  
6 of many of the artifacts in the museum are at risk due to the damages caused by flooding  
7 from water run-offs during the monsoon season of the CNMI.

**HOUSE BILL 17-167, HD1**

---

1           The Legislature also finds that due to budgetary constraints, the Commonwealth  
2 Museum has vacated their rental storage facility, and is in need of materials to secure the  
3 multitude of historic artifacts, until such time as a permanent facility is constructed. The  
4 Legislature finds that there is a significant collection of artifacts originally from Tinian, that  
5 are subject to a consent decree governing their care and subject to an annual care and  
6 condition assessment, as well as other historic collections whose care is governed by  
7 contractual requirements, and memorandums of agreement.

8           Additionally, the Legislature finds that many of the Commonwealth's visitors  
9 (tourist) frequent the Commonwealth Museum as part of their package tour to learn a little  
10 about the history of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Legislature finds that  
11 the tourism industry is the sole surviving industry in this ailing economy and that more funds  
12 should be invested to attract our visitors to visit the beautiful islands we call home.  
13 Therefore it is the purpose of this Act to appropriate the sum of Nineteen Thousand One  
14 Hundred Twenty Four Dollars (\$19,124.00) from the Saipan Trust Fund for the Preservation  
15 of artifacts and operational costs of the Commonwealth Museum.

16           **Section 3. Appropriation.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
17 contrary, there is hereby appropriated from the Saipan Trust Fund, the amount of Nineteen  
18 Thousand One Hundred Twenty Four Dollars (\$19,124.00) for Commonwealth of the  
19 Northern Mariana Islands Museum.

20           **Section 4. Expenditure Authority.** The Executive Director of the CNMI Museum  
21 of History and Culture in concurrence of the Chairperson of the Museum Board shall be the  
22 expenditure authority of funds appropriated herein.

**HOUSE BILL 17-167, HD1**

---

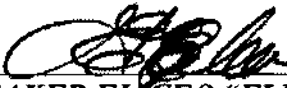
1           **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
2 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
3 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
4 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

5           **Section 6. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
6 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
7 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
8 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
9 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
10 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
11 becomes effective.

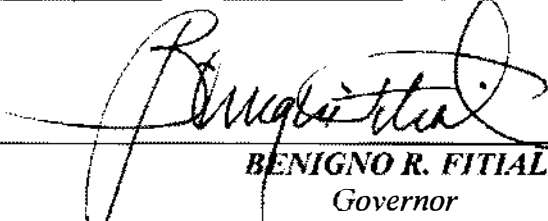
**HOUSE BILL 17-167, HD1**

1           **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
2 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by:   
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:   
**SPEAKER ELICEO "ELI" D. CABRERA**  
House of Representatives  
17<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

APPROVED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of MAY, 2011

  
**BENIGNO R. FITIAL**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands