



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

Eloy S. Inos
Lt. Governor

14 MAY 2012

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

Honorable Paul A. Manglona
Senate President, The Senate
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 No. 17-132 entitled, "To amend 9 CMC § 1103(h) and 9 CMC § 4101(d); and for other purposes," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 17-73**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benigno R. Fitial".

BENIGNO R. FITIAL

cc: Lt. Governor; Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel; Attorney General's Office; Press Secretary; Department of Public Safety; Bureau of Motor Vehicle; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



The House of Representatives
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. Box 500586
Saipan, MP 96950

April 5, 2012

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Fitial:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. 17-132**, entitled: "An Act to amend 9 CMC § 1103(h) and 9 CMC § 4101(d); and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Muña", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



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

Third Regular Session

January 10, 2011

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. 17-132
AN ACT
**TO AMEND 9 CMC § 1103(H) AND 9 CMC § 4101(D); AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 17-110, and was adopted on December 19, 2011.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 19, 2011;**
without amendments and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law, and was placed on the Bill Calendar.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MARCH 21, 2012;
without amendments.

H. B. 17-132 WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON MARCH 26, 2012.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

Twelfth Day, Fourth Regular Session

December 19, 2011

H. B. 17-132

AN ACT

TO AMEND 9 CMC § 1103(H) AND 9 CMC § 4101(D); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

1 Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that the safety of vehicle operators,
2 bikers, and pedestrians are at risk when vehicles are hauling trailers or similar cargo while
3 traveling the streets of the Commonwealth. The Legislature finds that with the pristine
4 waters that surround our Commonwealth, many of the residents and business persons make a
5 living as fishermen/women to provide for their families. The Legislature further finds that
6 these individuals usually utilize boats for the livelihood of their businesses and families.
7 Additionally, the Legislature finds that trailers that fishermen/women and business persons
8 use to transport their boats to and from the docks are a hazard to other vehicle operators,

HOUSE BILL 17-132

1 bikers, and pedestrians due to the lack of adequate equipment for the trailers in preventing
2 rear end collisions.

3 Therefore, it is the intent of this legislation to require vehicles hauling trailers or
4 similar cargo to have red rear lights connected to the trailers in sequence to the tail lights of
5 the operating vehicle to help prevent accidents, most especially in the early morning and
6 evening hours.

7 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC § 1103(h) is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 “(h) “Tail lights” means a light located upon the rear of a motor vehicle,
9 trailer, and semitrailer, so arranged as to show red to the rear. A red reflector shall not
10 be considered a tail light.”

11 **Section 3. Amendment.** 9 CMC § 4101(d) is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 “(d) Every motor vehicle upon the public highway and every trailer or semi-
13 trailer attached to a motor vehicle and every vehicle being drawn at the end of a
14 combination of vehicles shall carry tail lights of a type which at the time of its use is
15 approved by the chief, and which emits a red light plainly visible under normal
16 atmospheric conditions for a distance of 500 feet from the rear of the vehicle. The rear
17 number plate light, or a separate light, shall be so constructed and placed that the
18 number plate carried on the rear of the vehicle shall under normal atmospheric
19 conditions, be so illuminated by a white light as to be clearly visible for distance of 50
20 feet from the rear of the vehicle. When the rear number plate is illuminated by an

HOUSE BILL 17-132

1 electric light other than the required rear number plate light, that light shall be turned
2 on or off by the same control switch whenever head lights are lighted.”

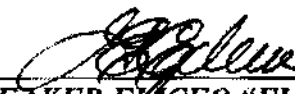
3 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
4 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
5 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
6 circumstances other than those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

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

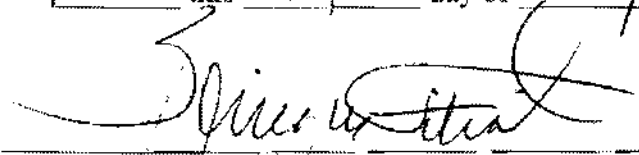
HOUSE BILL 17-132

1 Section 6. 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 ELI D. CABRERA
House of Representatives
17th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

APPROVED this 14th day of MAY, 2012


BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands