

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor



VICTOR B. HOCOG
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 09, 2018

Honorable Rafael S. Demapan
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twentieth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Honorable Arnold I. Palacios
Senate President, The Senate
Twentieth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that House Bill No. 20-128, entitled, "To amend 8 CMC § 1202(a) to establish separate marriage license fees for residents and non-residents; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and transmitted to the Governor on February 27, 2018, became law without the Governor's signature.

This bill became **Public Law No. 20-53**, on April 07, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amelia C. Shai".

Amelia C. Shai

Acting Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

cc: Governor; Lt. Governor; Attorney General's Office; CNMI Judiciary; Secretary of Finance; Mayor of Saipan; Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan; Mayor of Rota; Press Secretary; Office of Personnel Management; Special Assistant for Administration; Commonwealth Law Revision



House of Representatives

20th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 20-128**, entitled: "To amend 8 CMC §1202(a) to establish separate marriage license fees for residents and non-residents; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Muña".

Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



*Twentieth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Second Regular Session

October 11, 2017

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*.) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 20-128

AN ACT

TO AMEND 8 CMC §1202(A) TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE MARRIAGE LICENSE FEES FOR RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bill was referred not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, OCTOBER 11, 2017;**
without amendments and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government & Law.
THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, FEBRUARY 22, 2018;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON OCTOBER 11, 2017.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

EIGHTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

OCTOBER 11, 2017

H. B. NO. 20-128

AN ACT

**TO AMEND 8 CMC §1202(A) TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE
MARRIAGE LICENSE FEES FOR RESIDENTS AND NON-
RESIDENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the mayors of each
2 respective municipality is authorized to issue marriage licenses for marriages between two
3 non-citizens and between a non-citizen and a citizen of our beloved Commonwealth. The
4 Legislature further finds that the marriage license fee is identical for all parties involved
5 regardless of whether you are a resident of the Commonwealth or not. Due to the process of
6 issuing a marriage license, such as documentation, printing, etc., it would be pertinent to
7 assess additional necessary fees in order to defray any costs that may arise in relation to
8 marriage licenses.

9 The Legislature finds that the Saipan Mayor's Office has issued 280 marriage licenses
10 in 2014; 217 marriage licenses in 2015; and 353 marriage licenses in 2016. Cognizant of the
11 fact that there is a larger amount of non-resident recipients than resident recipients, the
12 Legislature finds that it would be appropriate to assess a higher fee for non-resident recipients
13 for it would generate additional funds that the CNMI can utilize for future purposes.

HOUSE BILL 20-128

1 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 8 CMC §1202(a) to establish separate
2 marriage license fees for residents and non-residents.

3 **Section 2. Amendment.** 8 CMC §1202(a) of the Commonwealth Code is hereby
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **“§1202. Requisites of Marriage Contract; License.**

6 (a) (i) The Governor or a mayor is authorized to grant a license for marriage
7 between two persons. Upon the filing of an application for the license, the Governor
8 or a mayor shall collect from the parties the following fees:

- 9 (1) Ceremony fees (Non-Residents), \$75;
10 (2) Ceremony fees (Residents), \$30;
11 (3) Marriage License Application (Non-Residents), \$125;
12 (4) Marriage License Application (Residents), \$50;
13 (5) Documentation Fee, \$25; and
14 (6) Marriage License Copy, \$25.

15 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, one hundred percent
16 (100%) of the fees collected by a respective mayor under this section shall be
17 deposited into that respective mayor’s office account which the Secretary of Finance
18 shall establish without further legislative appropriation. Such funds shall be used for
19 the operations conducted by each respective mayor. All fees collected by the
20 Governor shall be deposited into the general fund.

21 (ii) As used in this Act, a resident is a person who has been in the CNMI for at
22 least twelve months prior to applying for a marriage license. Such person must have
23 established residency in the CNMI by keeping a current mailing address for at least
24 twelve months before applying for a marriage license or having maintained and
25 continue to maintain accounts at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation or having
26 paid income taxes for more than six months for the year prior to submitting an
27 application for a marriage license or having maintained and continue to maintain a
28 local account/s with a banking institution doing business in the CNMI.

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1 (iii) For purposes of this Act, if one party to a marriage application is a
2 resident and the other is non-resident, the applicants must pay the applicable fees set
3 forth in paragraph (a)(i) of this section for non-residents.”

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

8 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
9 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
10 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
11 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
12 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
13 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act
14 becomes effective.

HOUSE BILL 20-128

1 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
2 Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by: 
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by: 
SPEAKER RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN
House of Representatives
20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

_____ this _____ day of _____, 2018

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands