



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

VICTOR B. HOCOG
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

19 APR 2018

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

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

Dear Speaker Demapan and Senate President Palacios:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 20-42**: to amend 4 CMC, § 1302 (a), Tax on Agriculture Producers and Fishing to include Artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.”, which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-56**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General’s Office; CNMI Department of Finance: Revenue and Taxation; Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture; CNMI Office of the Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



House of Representatives

20th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

March 15, 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. 20-42**, entitled: "To amend 4 CMC, § 1302 (a), Tax on Agriculture Producers and Fishing to include Artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fourth Special Session

February 28, 2017

REPRESENTATIVE ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, and John Paul P. Sablan,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 20-42

AN ACT

TO AMEND 4 CMC, § 1302 (A), TAX ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS AND FISHING TO INCLUDE ARTISTS REGISTERED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE.

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-28; adopted 6/27/17.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JUNE 27, 2017;
without amendments and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MARCH 8, 2018;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON JUNE 27, 2017.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

FIRST DAY, FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

JUNE 27, 2017

H. B. NO. 20-42

AN ACT

**TO AMEND 4 CMC, § 1302 (A), TAX ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS
AND FISHING TO INCLUDE ARTISTS REGISTERED WITH THE
COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE.**

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Public Law No. 9-22
2 was enacted in January 24, 1995 that repealed and reenacted 4 CMC Division 1 (Revenue
3 and Taxation) to improve tax administration.

4 The Legislature further finds that pursuant to 4 CMC § 1302 (a), in lieu of the tax
5 rates of 4 CMC § 1301(a), the tax imposed on persons engaged in the business of producing
6 agricultural products in the Commonwealth, or fishing in the Commonwealth, or its waters,
7 for dietary consumption, shall be determined in accordance with the following schedule: If
8 the yearly total gross revenue is between: (i) \$0 to \$20,000, the tax on the yearly total gross
9 revenue is: No tax; (ii) Over \$20,000: one percent of total gross revenues in excess of
10 \$20,000. The legislature finds that Artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for
11 Arts and Culture should also be included in this provision as its intent and purpose are
12 identical in nature. Assisting persons engaged in producing agriculture or fishing in the

HOUSE BILL 20-42

1 CNMI or CNMI Artists become self-sufficient while promoting our culture and traditions is
 2 mutually beneficial and rewarding to all.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 4 CMC, § 1302 (a), Tax on Agriculture
 4 Producers and Fishing, to include Artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts
 5 and Culture.

6 **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC, § 1302 (a) is amended to read as follows:

7 “(a) In lieu of the tax rates of 4 CMC § 1301(a), the tax imposed on persons:

8 (1) registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture as
 9 Artists; or

10 (2) engaged in the business of producing agricultural products in the
 11 Commonwealth, or fishing in the Commonwealth, or its waters, for dietary
 12 consumption, shall be determined in accordance with the following schedule:

13 If the yearly total	The tax on the yearly total
14 Gross revenue between:	gross revenue is:
15 (i) \$0 to \$20,000	No tax.
16 (ii) Over \$20,000	17 One percent of total gross revenues in excess of \$20,000.”

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

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

HOUSE BILL 20-42

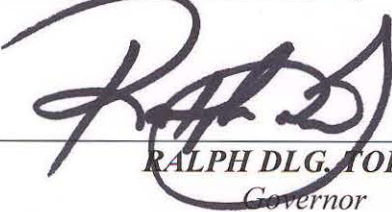
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Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by: 
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

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

Approved this 19th day of April, 2018


RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands