

**TITLE 4: ECONOMIC RESOURCES**  
**DIVISION 5: BUSINESS REGULATION**

**§ 53003. Legislative Intent.**

The Legislature intends that the provisions of this chapter, together with the other provisions of existing Commonwealth law, will:

(a) Provide the people of the Northern Mariana Islands with the opportunity to establish an industry based on the production and potential exportation of marijuana should the federal government choose to legalize marijuana;

(b) Prevent the distribution of marijuana to minors and persons under 21 years of age;

(c) Prevent revenue from the sale of marijuana from going to criminal enterprises, gangs, and cartels;

(d) Prevent the unlawful diversion of marijuana from this Commonwealth to other States and Territories of the United States;

(e) Prevent marijuana activity that is legal under Commonwealth law from being used as a cover or pretext for the trafficking of other illegal drugs or other illegal activity;

(f) Prevent violence and the use of firearms in the cultivation and distribution of marijuana;

(g) Prevent the unpermitted growing of marijuana on public lands and the attendant public safety and environmental dangers posed by marijuana production on public lands;

(i) Prevent the possession and use of marijuana on federal property; and

(j) Prevent drugged driving and the exacerbation of other adverse public health consequences associated with marijuana use.

**Source:** PL 20-66 § 2(103) (Sept. 21, 2018), modified.

**Commission Comment:** The Commission changed “Act” to “chapter” in the leading paragraph pursuant to 1 CMC § 3806(g).