



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

19 JAN 2021

The Honorable Jude U. Hofschneider
Senate President, The Senate
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

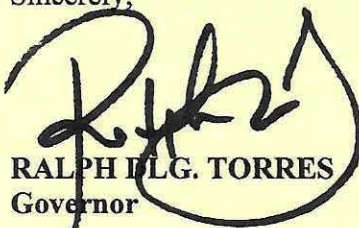
The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **Senate Local Bill No. 21-09** entitled, "To amend 10 CMC § 3922 to remove the automatic confirmation of a SHEFA board appointment in the event no action is taken within 30 days from date of appointment; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Saipan Local Law No. 21-18**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General; Mayor of Saipan; SHEFA Board; Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation

Third Senatorial District

Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

**P. O. Box 500586
Saipan, MP 96950**

Representative John Paul P. Sablan, Chairman

Representative Roman C. Benavente, Vice Chairman

Senator Vinnie F. Sablan, Floor Leader

December 29, 2020

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

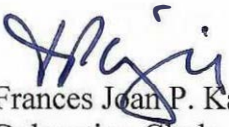
Dear Governor Torres:

I am honored to transmit for your action Senate Local Bill No. 21-09 entitled,

“To amend 10 CMC § 3922 to remove the automatic confirmation of a SHEFA board appointment in the event no action is taken within 30 days from date of appointment; and for other purposes.”

The local bill was passed unanimously by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-First Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature on First and Final Reading, a quorum duly present during its First Day, Fourth Regular Session held on December 29, 2020.

Sincerely,


Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Delegation Clerk

Enclosure



**SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2020**

SENATE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-09

**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To amend 10 CMC § 3922 to remove the automatic confirmation of a SHEFA board appointment in the event no action is taken within 30 days from date of appointment; and for other purposes.

Offered by Senator Sixto K. Igisomar

On June 11, 2020

HOUSE ACTION

Transmitted to Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for action on

July 16, 2020

DELEGATION ACTION

Referred To	: None
Comments Solicited	: 7/27/2020 -Mayor of Saipan; Mayor of Northern Islands & Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council
Comments Received	: None
Standing Committee Report	: None
Passed First & Final Reading	: December 29, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frances", written over a horizontal line.

Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Delegation Clerk



SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
Third Senatorial District
Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2020

SENATE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-09

A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT

To amend 10 CMC § 3922 to remove the automatic confirmation of a SHEFA board appointment in the event no action is taken within 30 days from date of appointment; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT DELEGATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the requirement to
2 confirm a Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Board (SHEFA) appointee within 30
3 days is inadequate time. The Legislature also finds that automatic confirmation of a SHEFA
4 board appointee within a limited time removes the confirming authority's opportunity to
5 review and question the appointee's qualification, opinions, and goals once the appointee is
6 confirmed.

7 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to remove the automatic confirmation after 30
8 days have elapsed. In addition, this Act provides that the appointment shall not be acted on
9 after 90 days from the date of appointment have elapsed.

10 **Section 2. Amendment.** 10 CMC § 3922 is amended to read:

11 “(a) There is hereby established, within the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, a Saipan
12 Higher Education Financial Assistance Board, to be composed of five members who shall
13 serve for a term of two years.

SENATE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-09

1 (b) A member must be registered to vote in the CNMI, be at least 21 years of age, and
2 be a resident of Saipan for at least three years immediately prior to appointment.

3 (c) The Mayor of Saipan shall appoint members of the board subject to confirmation by
4 the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

5 The Delegation shall have 90 consecutive calendar days to act on an appointment after
6 receiving all the following:

- 7 (1) notice of an appointment;
- 8 (2) resume;
- 9 (3) an original copy of nominee's police clearance;
- 10 (4) nominee's personal financial statement; and
- 11 (5) receipt or other proof that nominee has been tested for controlled substances.

12 If the appointment is not confirmed within 90 consecutive calendar days from the date
13 the person is appointed, the appointment is deemed rejected and shall automatically terminate,
14 the position shall become vacant, and the person nominated shall not be re-nominated.

15 (d) The board shall choose a chairperson among its members to preside over board
16 meetings. It also may establish committees necessary for the conduct of its business and
17 prescribe by regulation procedures to govern meetings.

18 (e) The terms of the initial members shall be staggered when the board is first
19 established. Three members terms shall expire in two years, the other two shall expire in three
20 years, except that in the case of a prior vacancy, an appointment shall be only for the length of
21 the unexpired term. The members shall draw lots to determine which term the members shall
22 serve.”

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

27 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
28 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
29 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers

SENATE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-09

1 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
2 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
3 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes
4 effective.

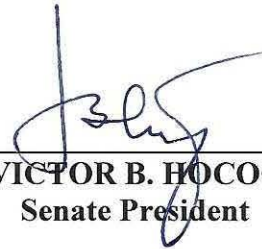
5 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor
6 or becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:



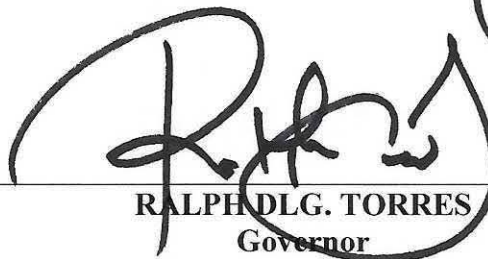
JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN
Chairman

Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation



VICTOR B. HOCO
Senate President

Approved on this 19th day of January, 2021.



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands