

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor



ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

05 FEB 2021

The Honorable Francisco Q. Cruz
Chairman, Tinian and Aguiguan
Legislation Delegation
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

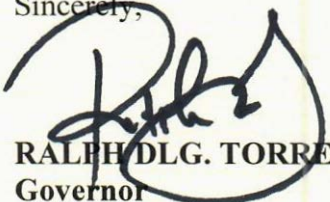
The Honorable Jude U. Hofschneider
President of the Senate
The Senate; Twenty-Second Northern
Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **Senate Local Bill No. 21-11, D1** entitled, "To amend 10 CMC § § 2521 (a) and (g), as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 to clarify a commissioner's term in office and to change the compensation of the members of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission; and for other purposes." The bill was passed by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Tinian Local Law No. 21-16**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan; Secretary of Finance;
Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, Chairman, Tinian Municipal Council;
Commonwealth Law Revision; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant
for Programs & Legislative Review



TINIAN & AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Second Senatorial District

Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

P. O. Box 500129

Saipan, MP 96950

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, Chairman
Senator Francisco M. Borja, Vice Chairman

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz, Floor Leader
Representative Antonio SN. Borja, Legislative Secretary

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. 21-11, D1**, entitled, "To amend 10 CMC §§ 2521(a) and (g), as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 to clarify a commissioner's term in office and to change the compensation of the members of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission; and for other purposes," which was passed unanimously by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature on First and Final Reading, a quorum duly present during its 1st Day, Fourth Regular Session held on December 23, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frances Joan P. Kaipat".

Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Delegation Clerk

Enclosure



**TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2020**

SENATE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-11, D1

**A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To amend 10 CMC §§ 2521(a) and (g), as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 to clarify a commissioner's term in office and to change the compensation of the members of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission; and for other purposes.

OFFERED BY

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider

on July 16, 2020

HOUSE ACTION

Transmitted to Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation for action on

September 1, 2020

DELEGATION ACTION

Referred to:	None
Comments Solicited:	9/1/2020 - Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan; 17 th Tinian & Aguiguan Municipal Council & Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission
Comments Received:	None
Standing Committee Report:	None
Passed First & Final Reading:	December 23, 2020 [as Draft 1]

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frances Joan P. Kaipat".

Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Delegation Clerk



**TINIAN & AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

FOURTH REGULARS SESSION, 2020

SENATE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-11, D1

**A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To amend 10 CMC §§ 2521(a) and (g), as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 to clarify a commissioner’s term in office and to change the compensation of the members of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings.** The Tinian & Aguiguan Legislative Delegation finds that there
2 has been considerable confusion and debate regarding the commencement of the term of office
3 of a commissioner under previous local law. The Delegation finds that the commencement of
4 the term of office of a commission must be clarified to avoid further confusion and to ensure
5 that a commissioner serves the full six years.

6 The Delegation further finds that the local casino revenues has greatly diminished since
7 the closure of the Tinian Dynasty. Although there are other casino licensees, they have not
8 been able to build an operational casino facility at this time. As a result, the Tinian Casino
9 Gaming Control Commission revenue collections have dwindled and major cost cutting
10 measures have been implemented to offset the loss of revenue. The Delegation finds that more
11 cost cutting measures such as the reduction of the salaries of the commissioners and
12 elimination of fringe benefits are necessary to keep the Tinian Casino Gaming Control
13 Commission open during these difficult economic times.

14 **Section 2. Amendment.** 10 CMC §§ 2521(a) and (g), as established by Tinian Local
15 Law 21-09, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SENATE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-11, D1

1 “(a) There is hereby established a Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission charged
2 with the administration of this chapter. The Commission shall be composed of members to be
3 appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Tinian Municipal Council. The
4 commissioners shall serve a term of six years except that upon the first five appointments, two
5 shall serve six-year terms, two shall serve five-year terms, and one shall serve a four-year term,
6 to be determined by drawing of lots by the members after their confirmation. A person shall
7 not serve more than one term as commissioner. A commissioner’s term shall commence on the
8 day of his or her confirmation by the Tinian Municipal Council. Upon the confirmation of a
9 commissioner, a contract shall be executed in favor of the confirmed commissioner that
10 reflects a six-year term in office.

11 (g) Commission members shall elect from among themselves a chairman and a vice-
12 chairman to serve a term of two years. The Chairman and the vice-chairman may be reelected.
13 Members shall, no later than 60 days after the Commission receives its first application and
14 application fee for a casino license, devote full time, without engaging in any other
15 employment, to the affairs of the Commission during their tenure. Each member shall receive
16 compensation of \$55,000 annually from a budget adopted by the Commission for its operations
17 and approved by the Tinian Legislative Delegation through appropriation; provided that the
18 \$55,000 compensation shall apply to new commissioners. No commissioner shall be given
19 fringe benefits. All members of the Commission shall have paid or be entitled to
20 reimbursement for their expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of their
21 duties, including expenses of travel outside the Municipality of Tinian. The members of the
22 Commission are not employees of the Commission or the Commonwealth government.”

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.

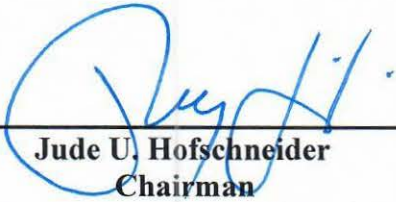
27 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
28 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
29 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
30 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.

SENATE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-11, D1

1 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
2 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes
3 effective.

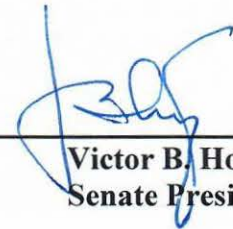
4 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
5 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:



Jude U. Hofschneider
Chairman

Tinian & Aguiguan Legislative Delegation



Victor B. Hocog
Senate President

Approved this *5th* day of *February*, 202*1*.



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands