



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF PROGRAMS & LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

October 14, 2020

The Honorable Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-First Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Victor B. Hocog
Senate President, The Senate
Twenty-First Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that **House Bill No. 21-87, HS1**, entitled, "To allow the Department of Finance to establish fees by regulation and allow for temporary business licenses.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and transmitted to the Governor on September 04, 2020, became law without the Governor's signature.

This bill became **Public Law No. 21-36**, on October 13, 2020.

Sincerely,

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

Amelia C. Shai
Assistant Legislative Affairs Officer

cc: Governor; Lt. Governor; Department of Finance; Press Secretary;
Special Assistant for Administration; Commonwealth Law Revision



House of Representatives

TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. Box 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

September 4, 2020

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. 21-87, HS1**, entitled: "To allow the Department of Finance to establish fees by regulation and allow for temporary business licenses.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Muna
House Clerk

Attachment



*Twenty-First Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

OCTOBER 31, 2019

REPRESENTATIVE SHEILA J. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 21-87, HS1

AN ACT

TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TO ESTABLISH FEES BY REGULATION AND ALLOW FOR TEMPORARY BUSINESS LICENSES.

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, APRIL 16, 2020;
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 21-87, HS1 and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee.
THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 28, 2020;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON APRIL 16, 2020.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



Twenty-First Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST DAY, FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

APRIL 16, 2020

H. B. No. 21-87, HS1

AN ACT

**TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TO ESTABLISH FEES
BY REGULATION AND ALLOW FOR TEMPORARY
BUSINESS LICENSES.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN
MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

1 The Commonwealth Legislature finds that the business license fees are outdated, which
2 is negatively affecting the Department of Finance's ability to administer the business licensing
3 laws. The Legislature further finds that the current fees are too broad, based on only twelve
4 (12) categories, and should be replaced by the North American Industry Classification System
5 (NAICS), a standard used by Federal statistical agencies to classify businesses between the
6 United States, Canada, and Mexico. The use of NAICS codes will identify a business activity
7 more precisely and will strengthen enforcement of licensing requirements and tax compliance.
8

9 Additionally, the Legislature further finds that participation in public and community
10 events will be encouraged with the issuance of a Temporary Business License. This license

HOUSE BILL 21-87, HS1

1 will accommodate business owners willing to participate as vendors for a period of not more
2 than thirty (30) consecutive days.

3 It is therefore the purpose of this legislation to allow the Department of Finance to
4 establish fees by regulation and allow for temporary business licenses.

5 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

6 4 CMC § 5611 Business License Fees, (c) and (d) are hereby amended to be read as
7 follows:

8 **“§5611. Business License Fees.**

9 (c) *Terms.* Licenses issued under this section are valid for one year and are not
10 transferable.

11 (1) Temporary licenses may be issued for public and community events for
12 not more than thirty consecutive days. Temporary licenses shall not be transferred nor
13 renewed.

14 (d) *Fees.* Annual and Temporary license fees and late fees shall be established
15 by regulation promulgated by the Secretary of Finance.”

16 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

21 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

HOUSE BILL 21-87, HS1

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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 BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO
House of Representatives
21st Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

_____ this _____ day of _____, 2020

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands