

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor



ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

25 OCT 2021

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

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

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 22-12** entitled, "To amend 4 CMC § 51420 (b) to authorized the Secretary of Commerce to establish and promulgate reasonable registration and permitting fees through adopted regulations; and for other purposes." which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 22-10**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph DLG. Torres", written over a circular stamp or seal.

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Secretary of Commerce; Secretary of Finance; Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



House of Representatives

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

September 16, 2021

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. 22-12**, entitled: "To amend 4 CMC § 51420 (b) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish and promulgate reasonable registration and permitting fees through adopted regulations; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,


Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

FEBRAURY 19, 2021

REPRESENTATIVE IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, 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. 22-12

AN ACT

TO AMEND 4 CMC § 51420 (B) TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO ESTABLISH AND PROMULGATE REASONABLE REGISTRATION AND PERMITTING FEES THROUGH ADOPTED REGULATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, which submitted Standing Committee Report 22-13; adopted 6/16/2021.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JUNE 16, 2021;
without amendments and transmitted to
THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 22-43; adopted 9/14/2021.
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021;
without amendments was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON JUNE 16, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda B. Muña".

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST DAY, THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

JUNE 16, 2021

H. B. No. 22-12

AN ACT

TO AMEND 4 CMC § 51420 (B) TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO ESTABLISH AND PROMULGATE REASONABLE REGISTRATION AND PERMITTING FEES THROUGH ADOPTED REGULATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 The Commonwealth Legislature finds that Public Law 19-28, § 2 (101)–(102)
3 (Dec. 18, 2015), codified under 4 CMC, § 51420, requires each vehicle belonging to tour
4 companies be registered and issued a permit by the Department of Commerce so that they will
5 be accounted for within the Commonwealth, most especially those that provide services for
6 profit. However, Public Law 19-28 did not provide clarity with respect to how the Department
7 of Commerce will establish reasonable registration and permitting fees.

HOUSE BILL 22-12

1 Therefore, the purpose of this legislation is to amend 4 CMC, § 51420 (b), to empower
2 the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate and establish through adopted regulations reasonable
3 registration and permitting fees, and for other purposes.

4 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

5 4 CMC § 51420 (b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 “(b) Consistent with this Section, the Secretary of Commerce shall have the
7 authority to promulgate and establish reasonable registration and permitting fees
8 through adopted regulations for the following vehicles belonging to tour operators:

9 (1) Any vehicle registered under the tour operator that provides services for
10 profit.

11 (c) Disposition of Registration and Permitting Fees. The Secretary of Finance
12 shall establish a Commerce Revolving Fund Account which shall be accounted for
13 separately from the General Fund. The funds deposited into the revolving account shall
14 be exclusively used for the purpose of the administration of tour operator registration
15 and permitting program, enforcement, training and outreach programs, and shall also
16 be administered for personnel compensation such as overtime and night differential
17 during special inspection assignments issued by the Secretary of Commerce.

18 The expenditure authority over the revolving account pursuant to this Act is
19 vested in the Secretary of Commerce. The funds deposited in the revolving account
20 shall be available for expenditure without further appropriation and without fiscal year
21 limitations.

HOUSE BILL 22-12

1 (d) The Secretary of Commerce shall submit a report describing the account
2 status, deposits and detail expenditure of the revolving account established under
3 subsection (c) of this section. The report shall be submitted not later than 30 days after
4 June 30th of each year to the chairpersons of the House Standing Committee on
5 Ways and Means and the Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs.”

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.

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

SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

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

HOUSE BILL 22-12

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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:



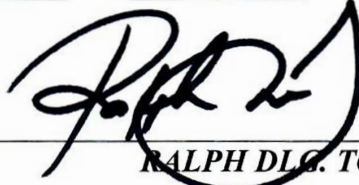
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
House of Representatives
22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this **25th** day of **October**, 2021



RALPH D.L. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands