



**Arnold I. Palacios**  
Governor

**David M. Apatang**  
Lieutenant Governor

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**31 JAN 2023**

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

The Honorable Edith E. Deleon Guerrero  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 22-3, SD1** entitled, "To amend 9 CMC §2101(d) by providing the option for the motor vehicle liability insurance expiration to be consistent with the vehicle registration expiration; 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. 22-34**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Attorney General's Office; Commonwealth Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor; Department of Finance, Department of Public Safety; Bureau of Motor Vehicle; Programs and Legislative Review Office



# *House of Representatives*

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. BOX 500586  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

January 6, 2023

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. 22-3, SD1**, entitled: "To amend 9 CMC §2101(d) by providing the option for the motor vehicle liability insurance expiration to be consistent with the vehicle registration expiration; 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 JOSEPH A. FLORES OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 1 (*for himself*), in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 22-3, SD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 9 CMC §2101(D) BY PROVIDING THE OPTION FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE EXPIRATION TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION EXPIRATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, OCTOBER 1, 2021;  
*without amendments* and transmitted to THE SENATE.**

**IN THE SENATE**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 28, 2022;  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. NO. 22-3, SD1 and returned to  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. NO. 22-3, SD1 during its 9th Day, Fourth Regular Session on January 5, 2023.

**H. B. NO. 22-3, SD1 IS DULY PASSED BY THE TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE.**

  
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

NINTH DAY, FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 5, 2023

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**H. B. No. 22-3, SD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 9 CMC §2101(D) BY PROVIDING THE OPTION FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE EXPIRATION TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION EXPIRATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

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

2           The Legislature finds that in many cases, the expiration of the vehicle registration is  
3           dissimilar from the expiration of the motor vehicle liability insurance. Cognizant of the  
4           unfortunate and sometimes unforgiving events that may take place while operating a motor  
5           vehicle, the absence of a valid motor vehicle liability insurance, given that the registration of  
6           the vehicle is still valid, will prove to be problematic for the motorists in the near future. The  
7           Legislature further finds that by mirroring the two expirations of such necessary requirements

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**HOUSE BILL 22-3, SD1**

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1 in operating a vehicle, all motorists will be protected and covered from any unforeseeable  
2 circumstance that may cause serious financial and/or physical strains. Furthermore, it is  
3 imperative that the financial and physical well-being of our motorists is protected at all times  
4 especially while operating a vehicle.

5 The Legislature also finds that many motorists in the Commonwealth possess two or  
6 more vehicles. Given the intent of this proposed legislation, it is imperative to also amend 9  
7 CMC §2107 to provide options to the motorists and allow for them to choose whether they are  
8 in favor of paying a one-time fee and changing the renewal registration dates on their other  
9 vehicles. By amending the previously stated provision and giving them such an option, it will  
10 allow for better harmony between the renewal registration dates of the vehicles and the finances  
11 of the registered motorists who are legally registered on more than one vehicle.

12 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 9 CMC §2101(d) by providing the option  
13 for the motor vehicle liability insurance expiration to be consistent with the vehicle registration  
14 expiration and for other purposes.

15 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

16 9 CMC §2101(d) of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 “(d) No motor vehicle shall be registered or re-registered under this chapter unless the  
18 application for registration or renewal of registration contains satisfactory evidence of  
19 minimum motor vehicle liability insurance for the vehicle, as required under the provisions of  
20 9 CMC §§ 8101 et seq., and the bureau shall maintain a copy of such satisfactory evidence in  
21 connection with each motor vehicle so registered. Provided, however, that the expiration of the  
22 motor vehicle liability insurance shall be in the same month as the expiration of the vehicle  
23 registration set forth in 9 CMC §2107. Furthermore, if the applicant has two or more vehicles,  
24 the said applicant shall be given the option to allow for the registration of his/her vehicles to

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**HOUSE BILL 22-3, SD1**

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1 expire in the same month as the vehicle intended for registration/re-registration at a fee of  
2 \$25 per vehicle.”

3 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.**

4 9 CMC §2107 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 **“§2107. Registration: Expiration and Renewal.**

6 Every vehicle and bicycle registration under this division shall expire annually  
7 at midnight on the last day of the month designated by the bureau. The owner of the  
8 vehicle has ten business days, after the last day of the month designated by the bureau,  
9 to renew the vehicle registration otherwise a late fee of \$30 will be charged in addition  
10 to any fees designated by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. All late fees collected under  
11 this section shall be deposited into the Department of Public Safety Special Account  
12 for Bureau of Motor Vehicles supplies with the Commissioner of the Department of  
13 Public Safety as the expenditure authority. Provided, however, that if the applicant has  
14 two or more vehicles, the said applicant shall be given the option to allow for the  
15 registration of his/her vehicles to expire in the same month as the vehicle intended for  
16 registration/re-registration at a fee of \$25 per vehicle.”

17 **SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

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

22 **SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

23 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any  
24 existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule,  
25 regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect

**HOUSE BILL 22-3, SD1**

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

4 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law  
6 without such approval.

Attested to by:

  
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**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**

Certified by:

  
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**SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ**  
House of Representatives  
22<sup>nd</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2023

  
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**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands