



GOV. COMM. 20-50  
(HOUSE)

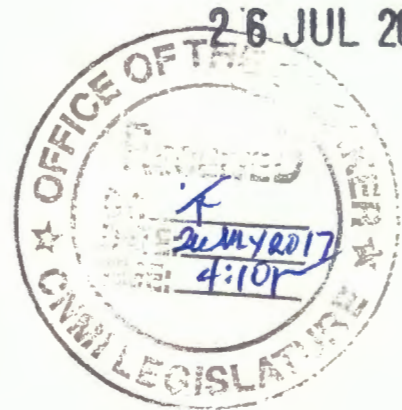
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor

Victor B. Hocog  
Lieutenant Governor

The Honorable Steve K. Mesngon  
Acting Senate President, The Senate  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950




Dear Mr. Acting President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill No. 20-14, HD1, entitled, "To amend 6 CMC § 2253, to limit the number of shooting gallery and shooting range; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-03**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
Acting Governor

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED BY   
DATE 7/27/17 TIME 9:47 a

cc: Governor; Lt. Governor; Department of Public Safety; Department of Finance; Mayor of Saipan; Mayor of Tinian; Mayor of Rota; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 20-14, HD1**

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**AN ACT**

To amend 6 CMC § 2253, to limit the number of shooting gallery and shooting range; and for other purposes.

***SENATE ACTION***

**Offered by Senator(s):** Francisco Q. Cruz

**Date:** February 08, 2017

**Referred to:** Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**First and Final Reading:** February 23, 2017 and July 11, 2017 (Accepted HD1)

***HOUSE ACTION***

**Referred to:** Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 20-26 (Adopted on 6/27/17)

**Passed:** July 06, 2017

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*for*

**DOLORES S. BERMUDES**  
**SENATE CLERK**



THE SENATE  
TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2017

S. B. NO. 20-14, HD1

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AN ACT

To amend 6 CMC § 2253, to limit the number of shooting gallery and shooting range; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1       **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.**

2       The Legislature recognizes that there are 18 gun free zones pursuant to 6 CMC §  
3       10401, and 12 gun free exceptions pursuant to 6 CMC § 10404. The Commonwealth  
4       Legislature further finds that there is currently no limitation on the number of shooting  
5       galleries and shooting ranges that can be licensed within the Commonwealth.

6       The Legislature finds that there are no shooting galleries or shooting ranges in the  
7       First Senatorial District. In the Second Senatorial District, there is only one shooting range  
8       but no shooting gallery. In the Third Senatorial District, there is one shooting gallery, one  
9       shooting range, and one pistol range under the control and management of the Department  
10      of Public Safety for law enforcement training purposes.

11      The Legislature acknowledges the tragic incident involving the mass shooting  
12      directly related to the shooting range located in Kannat Tabla Village. The Legislature  
13      finds that the safety and welfare of the public is paramount and believes that having an  
14      unlimited shooting ranges and galleries within the Commonwealth may pose a danger to  
15      the public.

16      The intent of this Act is not to ban shooting galleries and shooting ranges but to  
17      establish a limitation on the number of shooting galleries and shooting ranges within the  
18      Commonwealth.



1       **Section 2. Amendment.** 6 CMC § 2253 is amended to read:

2       “(a) The Department of Public Safety shall be the licensing authority with respect  
3 to shooting galleries and shooting ranges. The number of licenses in each senatorial  
4 district shall be as follows:

5               (1) One shooting gallery license and one shooting range license for the First  
6 Senatorial District;

7               (2) One shooting gallery license and one shooting range license for the  
8 Second Senatorial District; and

9               (3) One shooting gallery license and one shooting range license for the  
10 Third Senatorial District.

11       (b) No persons, corporation, business or entity may operate or engage in the  
12 business of a shooting gallery or shooting range, or both unless it has received a shooting  
13 gallery license or a shooting ranges license from the Department of Public Safety and a  
14 general business license from the Department of Finance. ~~A separate shooting gallery~~  
15 ~~license or shooting range license shall be required for every location on which a shooting~~  
16 ~~gallery or a shooting range is operated. For purpose of this subsection, “Location” means~~  
17 ~~the actual description of the lot or adjoin lots comprising the physical location of the~~  
18 ~~shooting gallery or shooting range. An applicant for a shooting gallery or a shooting range~~  
19 ~~may apply for more than one license on a single application, provided that all application~~  
20 ~~requirements for each license are met, including the payment of fees. The Department of~~  
21 ~~Public Safety shall prescribe by regulation the application form, procedures, and~~  
22 ~~information reasonably necessary consistent with this Act for the Department of Public~~  
23 ~~Safety to determine whether the applicant is in compliance with all licensure requirements.~~

24       (c) No Initial license or renewal license shall be issued:

25               (1) To an otherwise qualified applicant who is convicted felon or a  
26 corporation in which a convicted felon is serving on the board of directors or is an  
27 executive officer. The Department of Public Safety may require by regulation any  
28 information or conduct any investigation on the applicant to ensure compliance  
29 with this subsection.

1 (2) To an otherwise qualified applicant who is a foreign corporation, unless  
2 the foreign corporation is duly registered to transact business in the Commonwealth  
3 and provides as part of its application for a license a certificate of good standing  
4 written in English from the jurisdiction where it was incorporated or has its main  
5 headquarters.

6 (3) Unless the applicant demonstrates by verifiable evidence that it has the  
7 required minimum capital investment required in liquid assets for the license(s)  
8 sought; or if the application is for license renewal, the licensee must demonstrate its  
9 progress in meeting the minimum investment requirement. A licensee shall have  
10 (5) years from the date of issuance of the initial license to expend not less than the  
11 amount of the minimum investment required. Unjustified or inadequate  
12 justification to be determined by the respective senatorial legislative delegation for  
13 failure of the licensee to meet the minimum investment required shall be grounds  
14 for revocation or non-renewal of the licensee after noticed and hearing pursuant to  
15 1 CMC § 9101 et seq.

16 (4) Unless, in the case of an application for an initial license, all other  
17 government permits for the construction of the shooting gallery or shooting ranges  
18 have been obtained or, in the case of an application for license renewal,  
19 certification from such permitting agencies that the applicant is in compliance with  
20 laws and regulations pertaining to such permit.

21 (5) Or a license may be suspended if, after an administrative hearing, the  
22 applicant or licensee is found to have violated any of the provisions of this article  
23 or regulations hereunder, to which 6 CMC § 2258 applies or is found by permitting  
24 agency to have violated any environmental, building, safety or other permit  
25 required by law, or applicable federal statute or regulation.

26 (d) In addition to the provisions provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section,  
27 and sections 2256 and 2257, the DPS shall promulgate necessary regulations, including but  
28 not limited to application forms, applicant's background check, safety operations and  
29 management, financial background, and application selection criteria."

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**Section 3. Amendment.** 6 CMC § 2256(a)(10) is amended to read:

“(10) Shooting galleries and shooting ranges shall operate from 11:00 not earlier than 8:00 AM to and shall close no later than 11:00 PM per day.”

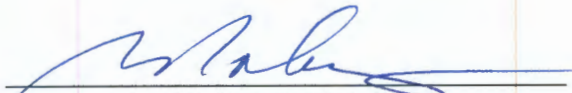
**Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to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

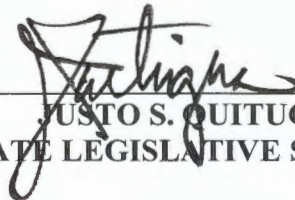
**Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

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


**CERTIFIED BY:**

**ATTESTED BY:**

  
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**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

  
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**JUSTO S. QUITUGUA**  
**SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**

*Approved* this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017

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