



GOV. COMM. 20-98  
(HOUSE)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor

**Victor B. Hocog**  
Lieutenant Governor

26 SEP 2017

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios  
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. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill No. 20-09, SD1, entitled, "To amend 1 CMC Section 8117(i); 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. 20-13**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

**RALPH DLG. TORRES**

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Civil Service Commission; Office of Personnel Management; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE  
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**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 20-09, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To amend 1 CMC Section 8117(i); and for other purposes.

***SENATE ACTION***

**Offered by Senator(s):** Justo S. Quitugua

**Date:** January 30, 2017

**Referred to:** Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 20-06 adopted on May 10, 2017

**First and Final Reading:** May 10, 2017

***HOUSE ACTION***

**Referred to:** None

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**First and Final Reading:** August 18, 2017

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



THE SENATE  
TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2017

S. B. NO. 20-09, SD1

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AN ACT

To amend 1 CMC Section 8117(i); and for other purposes.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Commonwealth Legislature finds that  
2 current job market conditions in the CNMI have become much more competitive in terms  
3 of needed skills and knowledge necessary to fill job positions. In addition, current statutes  
4 within the Civil Service Act seriously discourage incoming graduates who have either  
5 attained a degree or certification in the CNMI or abroad to contribute their skills and  
6 knowledge to the Commonwealth. In attempting to fulfill the mandate of the Civil Service  
7 Act, the Civil Service Commission implemented rules and regulations that excessively  
8 restrict the ability of returning citizens to qualify for civil service positions by requiring  
9 that only those individuals with years of prior work experience in a related field can be  
10 certified as eligible for a civil service position.

11           Therefore, the Commonwealth Legislature finds that an individual with an  
12 Associate's degree or a Bachelor's degree should be credited with 2 years and 4 years of  
13 work experience, respectively. The purpose of this Act is to encourage the professional  
14 and technical training and college graduates in filling positions in government service by  
15 crediting the degree holders with the necessary work experience to allow them to meet the  
16 civil service requirement.

17           **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC Section 8117(i) is hereby amended to read as  
18 follows:

19           “(i) Establish the method of certification of eligibility for appointment and

1 promotion; provided that such method of certification shall credit applicants with two  
2 years of work experience if they have received an associate's degree in a field that is  
3 related to the position for which they have applied, and shall credit applicants with four  
4 years of work experience if they have received a bachelor's degree in a field that is related  
5 to the position for which they have applied. ~~persons seeking to be certified as eligible for a~~  
6 ~~civil service position with 2 years of work experience for an Associate's degree and 4~~  
7 ~~years of work experience for a Bachelor's degree in a related field to the civil service~~  
8 ~~position for which the person has applied.~~ The appointing authorities shall be entitled to  
9 the certification of not less than five eligible applicants for each vacancy. If more than one  
10 vacancy is to be filled, an additional eligible applicant shall be certified for each additional  
11 vacancy.”

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

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

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

SENATE BILL NO. 20-09, SD1

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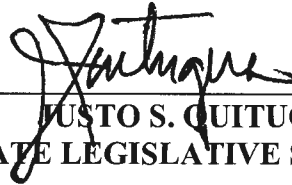
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CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:



ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



JUSTO S. QUITUGUA  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved 26<sup>th</sup> the September day of September, 2017



RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands