



GOV. COMM. 20-102  
(HOUSE)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor

**Victor B. Hocog**  
Lieutenant Governor

29 SEP 2017

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

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios  
Senate President, The Senate  
Twentieth 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. 20-4, HD2, SD2 entitled, "To remove the limitation on the amount of funds from the MVA Trust Fund that may be distributed to the Municipalities of Saipan, Tinian and Rota; and for other purposes," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-17**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

**RALPH DLG. TORRES**

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Marianas Visitors Authority; Mayor of Saipan; Mayor of Rota; Mayor of Tinian; Department of Finance; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*  
DATE 10/2/17 NE10:35



*Twentieth Legislature  
of the  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**First Regular Session**

**January 31, 2017**

REPRESENTATIVE GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*), in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 20-4, HD2, SD2**

**AN ACT**

**TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION ON THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS FROM THE MVA TRUST FUND THAT MAY BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-7; adopted 4/3/17.

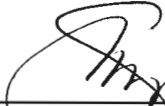
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, APRIL 4, 2017**  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. No. 20-4, HD2, and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-26; adopted 8/10/17.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 10, 2017;**  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. No. 20-4, HD2, SD2.

**H. B. No. 20-4, HD2, SD2, WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
AUGUST 11, 2017.**

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. No. 20-4, HD2, SD2, during its 2nd Day, Second Regular Session on August 18, 2017.

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON AUGUST 18, 2017.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**



*Twentieth Legislature*  
*of the*  
*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Second Day, Second Regular Session**

**August 18, 2017**

---

---

**H. B. No. 20-4, HD2, SD2**

**AN ACT**

**TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION ON THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS FROM THE MVA TRUST FUND THAT MAY BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**Be it enacted by the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:**

1           **Section 1. Findings.** The Legislature finds that the current law places a cap on the  
2 funds available from the MVA Trust Fund for tourism promotion in the Municipalities of  
3 Tinian and Rota. The Legislature finds that the current law should be amended to eliminate  
4 the cap so that the funds available for tourism promotion in the Municipalities of Tinian and  
5 Rota can increase as the MVA Trust Fund grows as the result of expanded tourism activity.

6           The Legislature further finds that the current law does not allocate any funds from the  
7 MVA Trust Fund directly to the Municipality of Saipan under the expenditure authority of  
8 the Mayor of Saipan similar to the Municipalities of Tinian and Rota. However, the Mayor of  
9 Saipan has been actively involved with island-wide clean ups and beautification projects on  
10 Saipan which promote a beautiful and clean environment that tourists desire and appreciate at  
11 a vacation destination. The Legislature finds that the Mayor of Saipan should be allotted  
12 funds to be used for island-wide clean ups and beautification projects including purchasing  
13 supplies and equipment for such projects.

HOUSE BILL 20-4, HD2, SD2

1           **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC Section 2159 is amended as follows:

2                   “§2159. Municipalities of Tinian, Rota and Saipan.

3                   (a) Provided that not less than two percent for each municipality, but not less  
4 than \$300,000 each, whichever is greater, of the funds per fiscal year from the MVA  
5 Trust Fund, shall be remitted to the Municipalities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to be  
6 used to implement charter flight tourism incentives, promotional programs, tourism  
7 enhancement activities, beautification projects, island-wide cleanup, and to include  
8 purchasing supplies and equipment for such projects. The expenditure authority of  
9 these funds shall be the respective mayors of each island.


10                   (b) Reporting. The Municipalities of Tinian, Rota, and Saipan shall submit a  
11 detailed annual report of the funds utilized under 4 CMC § 2159(a), to the Governor,  
12 the Legislature, and the Marianas Visitors Authority; provided, however, that the  
13 Marianas Visitors Authority shall report all funds utilized for tourism enhancement  
14 for the Municipalities of Tinian, Rota, and Saipan and other tourism related activities.  
15 Furthermore, any expenditures by the municipalities with the approval of Marianas  
16 Visitors Authority for tourism enhancement and beautification activities outside of the  
17 funds covered by 4 CMC § 2159(a) shall be reimbursable to the respective  
18 municipality that incurred costs associated with tourism enhancement, beautification  
19 or other related activities that should have been paid for by the Marianas Visitors  
20 Authority.”

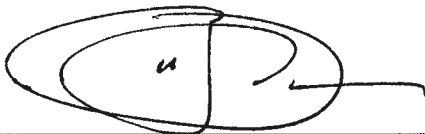
21           **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such  
22 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
23 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
24 circumstances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


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

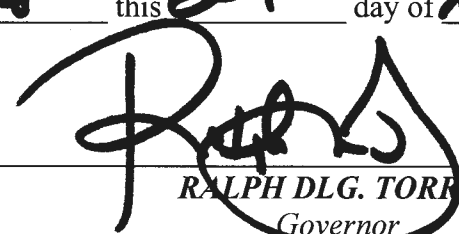
**HOUSE BILL 20-4, HD2, SD2**

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

Attested to by:   
**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**

Certified by:   
**SPEAKER RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN**  
House of Representatives  
20<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved  this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017

  
**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands