



GOV. COMM. 20-104  
(HOUSE)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

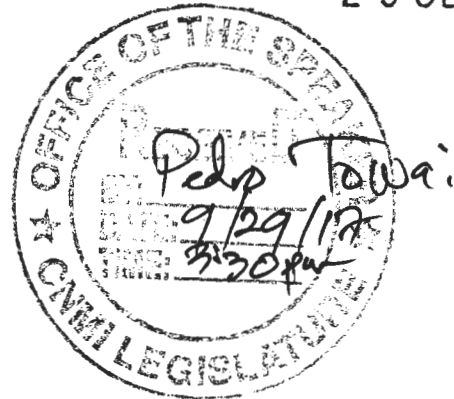
**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor

**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. 20-75, HD1, entitled, "To establish the Drug Court Revolving Fund and to authorize the Commonwealth Superior Court's Drug Court to impose fees on Drug Court participants," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-19**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Commonwealth Superior Court; Secretary of Finance; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

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

**Second Special Session**

**April 21, 2017**

REPRESENTATIVE ANGEL A. DEMAPAN 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. 20-75, HD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO ESTABLISH THE DRUG COURT REVOLVING FUND AND TO  
AUTHORIZE THE COMMONWEALTH SUPERIOR COURT'S  
DRUG COURT TO IMPOSE FEES ON DRUG COURT  
PARTICIPANTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-29; adopted 6/27/17.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JUNE 27, 2017;**  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. No. 20-75, HD1 and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017;**  
*without amendments and was returned to*  
**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON JUNE 27, 2017.**

  
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Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

FIRST DAY, FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

JUNE 27, 2017

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**H. B. NO. 20-75, HD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO ESTABLISH THE DRUG COURT REVOLVING FUND AND TO  
AUTHORIZE THE COMMONWEALTH SUPERIOR COURT'S DRUG  
COURT TO IMPOSE FEES ON DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS; AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature recognizes that the Drug Court  
2 was established to effect the rehabilitation and recovery of eligible participants through  
3 continuous judicial interaction, community supervision, drug testing, and holistic drug  
4 treatment. Moreover, the Legislature recognizes evidence-based practices that support the  
5 imposition of fees to promote a participant's accountability and investment in rehabilitation.  
6 Accordingly, the Legislature finds that the establishment of a Drug Court Revolving Fund  
7 and authority to impose fees would contribute to the efficacy and sustainability of the Drug  
8 Court program.

9           Therefore, the purpose of this bill is to establish a Drug Court Revolving Fund and to  
10 authorize the Drug Court to impose fees on Drug Court participants.

11           **Section 3. Enactment.** Subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision  
12 Commission, Title 1, Division 3 is amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

HOUSE BILL 20-75, HD1

1                   “101. Drug Court Revolving Fund.

2                   (a) There is hereby established a special fund within the Department of  
3 Finance, which shall be known and designated as the Drug Court Revolving Fund.  
4 The fund shall be accounted for separately from the General Fund and is non-lapsing.  
5 The Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court or his/her designee shall  
6 be the expenditure authority for the Drug Court Revolving Fund.

7                   (b) The Commonwealth Superior Court’s Drug Court is authorized to impose  
8 a participant assessment fee on each Drug Court participant.

9                   (1) This fee may be imposed at the Drug Court’s discretion at any time  
10 during the program.

11                   (2) The amount of the fee shall be set in accordance with Judiciary  
12 rule-making authority, and published in the Judiciary Fee Schedule.

13                   (3) The participant assessment fee shall, upon collection, be deposited  
14 into the Drug Court Revolving Fund. The Drug Court Revolving Fund shall be  
15 continually appropriated to the Commonwealth Superior Court for the sole  
16 purpose and use of the Drug Court and its holistic drug dependency treatment,  
17 including support services, testing, and motivational incentives.”

18                   **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
19 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
20 jurisdiction, the remainder of the Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
21 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

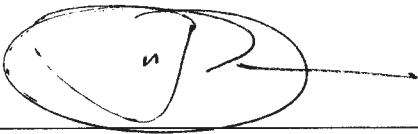
22                   **Section 5. Savings clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
23 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
24 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
25 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
26 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
27 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
28 becomes effective.


**HOUSE BILL 20-75, HD1**

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**Section 6. Effective date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon 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