



GOV. COMM. 20-138
(HOUSE)

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

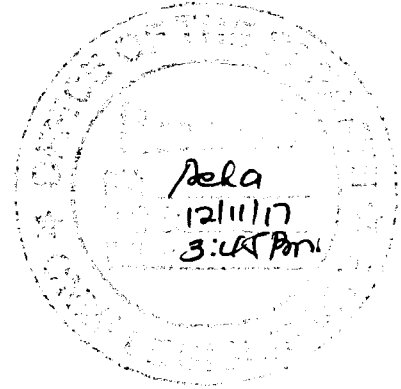
VICTOR B. HOCOG
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

11 DEC 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:

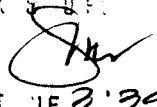
This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 20-22, entitled, "To amend 1 CMC Section 1502 clarifying the activities subject to the Occupancy Tax.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-30**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


VICTOR B. HOCOG
Acting Governor

cc: Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; CNMI Hotel Association; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY 
DATE 12/13/17 TIME 3:39 PM



*Twentieth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

First Regular Session

January 31, 2017

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO 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. 20-22

AN ACT

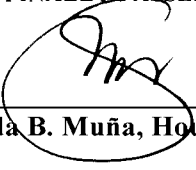
**TO AMEND 1 CMC SECTION 1502 CLARIFYING THE
ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO THE OCCUPANCY TAX.**

The Bill was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-8; adopted 4/3/17.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, APRIL 4, 2017;**
without amendments 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, OCTOBER 25, 2017;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON APRIL 4, 2017.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

FIRST DAY, FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

APRIL 4, 2017

H. B. NO. 20-22

AN ACT

**TO AMEND 1 CMC SECTION 1502 CLARIFYING THE ACTIVITIES
SUBJECT TO THE OCCUPANCY TAX.**

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

1 **Section 1. Findings.** 1 CMC Section 1502 which imposes the Occupancy Tax
2 contains two lists. One list covers the occupants subject to the tax. The Second list covers
3 the persons responsible for collecting the tax. The activities listed in the two lists are not the
4 same. The activities subject to the tax and the activities of the persons responsible for
5 collecting the tax should be identical.

6 In order to clarify that bed and breakfast activities are covered by the Occupancy Tax,
7 private residences and bed and breakfast activities have been added to the list of activities
8 covered by the Occupancy Tax. Definitions are added for “transient occupant” and “bed and
9 breakfast” to clarify the coverage of the Occupancy Tax.

10 **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC Section 1502 is amended as follows:

11 “§ 1502. Hotel Occupancy Tax.

12 (a) An occupancy tax is imposed upon transient occupants of a room or rooms
13 in a hotel, lodging house, motel, resort motel, apartment, apartment motel, rooming
14 house, private residence, bed and breakfast, condominium or similar facility located

HOUSE BILL 20-22

1 in the Commonwealth. The tax shall be 15 percent of the amount charged or paid for
2 the accommodations.

3 (b) The tax imposed by this section shall be collected by the person who
4 operates, owns or manages a hotel, lodging house, motel, resort motel, apartment,
5 apartment motel, rooming house, private residence, bed and breakfast, condominium,
6 or similar facility as and when paid or charged to the hotel, lodging house, motel,
7 resort motel, apartment, apartment motel, rooming house, private residence, bed and
8 breakfast, condominium, or similar facility.”

9 **Section 3. Amendment.** 4 CMC §1103 is amended by adding the following new
10 definitions:

11 “(gg) “Transient occupant” means those persons who for compensation
12 occupy the living facilities listed in 4 CMC §1502(a) for less than 90 days.

13 (hh) “Bed and breakfast” means a private residence or building appurtenant or
14 accessory to a private residence containing five or fewer rooms intended or designed
15 to be used, or which are used, rented, or hired out to be occupied for sleeping
16 purposes.”

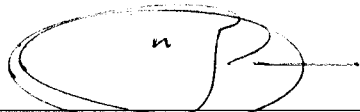
17 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such
18 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
19 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
20 circumstances other than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

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

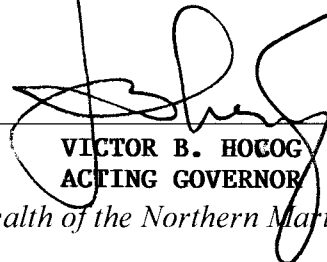
HOUSE BILL 20-22

1 **Section 6. 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
20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 11th day of December, 2017


VICTOR B. HOGOG
ACTING GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands