



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

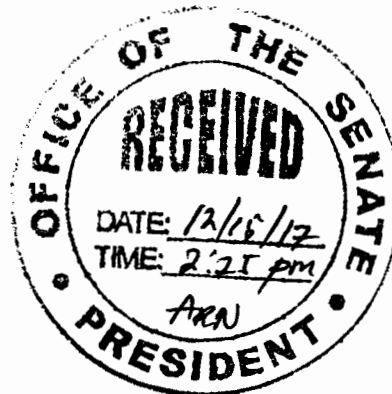
VICTOR B. HOCO
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

15 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

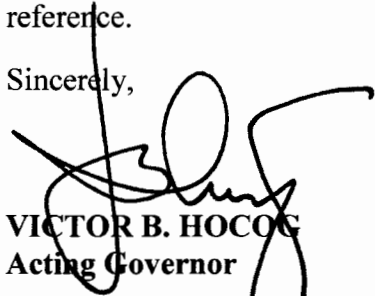


Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 20-131, HD1, entitled, "To appropriate three million, three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$3,375,000.00) from the Tobacco Control Fund, earmarked under 3 CMC §2177, to support and supplement awareness, detection and prevention programs relating to cancer and other tobacco related illness.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-32**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


VICTOR B. HOCO
Acting Governor

cc: Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Division of Public Health Services; Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; Public School System; CNMI Youth Affairs; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

Dates
12/15/17 3:05 pm



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

Second Regular Session

October 11, 2017

REPRESENTATIVE ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Alice S. Igitol, Janet U. Maratita, and John Paul P. Sablan,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 20-131, HD1

AN ACT

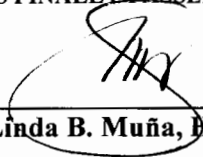
TO APPROPRIATE THREE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,375,000.00) FROM THE TOBACCO CONTROL FUND, EARMARKED UNDER 3 CMC §2177, TO SUPPORT AND SUPPLEMENT AWARENESS, DETECTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS RELATING TO CANCER AND OTHER TOBACCO RELATED ILLNESSES.

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, OCTOBER 11, 2017;
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 20-131, 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, NOVEMBER 21, 2017;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON OCTOBER 11, 2017.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

EIGHTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

OCTOBER 11, 2017

H. B. NO. 20-131, HD1

AN ACT

TO APPROPRIATE THREE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,375,000.00) FROM THE TOBACCO CONTROL FUND, EARMARKED UNDER 3 CMC §2177, TO SUPPORT AND SUPPLEMENT AWARENESS, DETECTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS RELATING TO CANCER AND OTHER TOBACCO RELATED ILLNESSES.

Be it enacted by the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

1 Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that Public Law 13-38,
2 which took effect December 13, 2002 reported that cigarette smoking was the single most
3 critical risk associated with the leading chronic diseases in the CNMI, namely, cancer, heart
4 disease, and emphysema. Heart disease and cancer make up more than 60% of the off-island
5 medical referral costs. More than \$2 million is spent each year treating diseases related to
6 tobacco and alcohol use in the CNMI. Studies indicate that the pervasive use of tobacco
7 among minors and young adults will likely decrease if the price of tobacco is increased. In
8 response to concerns for the health of the youth and public as a whole, a number of states
9 have increased the excise taxes on tobacco products. This increase in revenue would be
10 reserved for funding tobacco control programs. Thus, the Tobacco Control Fund was created

HOUSE BILL 20-131, HD1

1 to ensure funding will be provided to fund said programs.

2 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate three million, three hundred seventy-five
3 thousand dollars (\$3,375,000.00) from the Tobacco Control Fund, earmarked under 3 CMC
4 §2177, to support and supplement awareness, detection and prevention programs relating to
5 cancer and other tobacco related illnesses.

6 **Section 2. Appropriation.** Notwithstanding any laws, statutes, provisions or
7 regulations to the contrary, three million, three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars
8 (\$3,375,000.00) from the Tobacco Control Fund, earmarked under 3 CMC §2177, is hereby
9 appropriated as follows:

10 “(a) Eight hundred forty-three thousand, seven hundred fifty dollars
11 (\$843,750.00) to the Division of Public Health Services activities relating to the
12 monitoring of morbidity and mortality from cancer and other tobacco related illnesses
13 in the CNMI;

14 (b) Eight hundred forty-three thousand, seven hundred fifty dollars
15 (\$843,750.00) to the Division of Public Health Services for the support of prenatal
16 and maternal care, provided, however, that such prenatal and maternal care programs
17 incorporate smoking cessation assistance and guidance;

18 (c) Eight hundred forty-three thousand, seven hundred fifty dollars
19 (\$843,750.00) for workplace-based and community smoking prevention and smoking
20 cessation programs, for tobacco-related public service advertising and education
21 programs, to be administered the Division of Public Health Services; and

22 (d) Eight hundred forty-three thousand, seven hundred fifty dollars
23 (\$843,750.00) to the CNMI Public School System for a comprehensive school health
24 education program, to be administered jointly by the Division of Public Health
25 Services and the Public School System relating to the hazards of tobacco use by
26 CNMI youth.

27 **Section 3. Expenditure Authority.** For the funds appropriated under section 2(a),
28 (b) and (c) of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare
29 Corporation in consultation with the Director of the Division of Public Health Services shall

HOUSE BILL 20-131, HD1

1 be the expenditure authority. For the funds appropriated under section 2(d) of this Act, the
2 Commissioner of the Public School System shall be the expenditure authority.

3 **Section 4. Reprogramming.** Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to
4 the contrary, funds appropriated under this Act shall not be reprogrammed for any other
5 purpose.

6 **Section 5. Reporting Requirement.** Pursuant to 3 CMC § 2177, the Chief
7 Executive Officer in collaboration with the Director of the Division of Public Health Services
8 and the Commissioner of the Public School System shall prepare and issue an annual report
9 detailing the revenues and expenditures of said fund in accordance with generally accepted
10 accounting principles. The annual report shall also, at a minimum, report on the qualitative
11 and quantitative progress on the above purposes of the fund. The report shall be submitted to
12 the Presiding Officers of both Houses of the Legislature within 60 days after each fiscal year.

13 **Section 6. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such
14 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
15 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
16 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.


17 **Section 7. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
18 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
19 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
20 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
21 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
22 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act
23 becomes effective.

HOUSE BILL 20-131, HD1

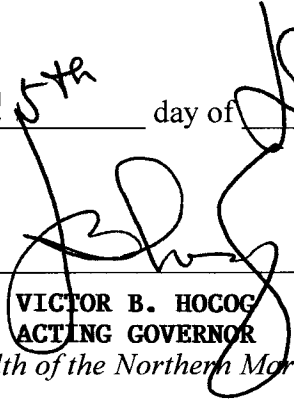
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Section 8. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by: 
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by: 
SPEAKER RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN
House of Representatives
20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 15th day of December, 2017


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