



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

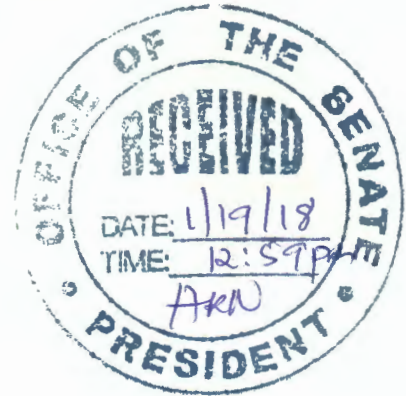
VICTOR B. HOCOG
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

18 JAN 2018

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. 20-40, SD1, entitled, "To amend 9 CMC § 2116 to provide for the identification of Disabled Veterans on the vehicle license plate; 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. 20-37**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Department of Public Safety; Bureau of Motor Vehicle; Veterans Affairs Office; Department of Finance; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

Davis
1/19/18 3:10 pm



THE SENATE
TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE BILL NO. 20-40, SD1

AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC § 2116 to provide for the identification of Disabled Veterans on the vehicle license plate; and for other purposes.

SENATE ACTION

Offered by Senator(s): Francisco Q. Cruz

Date: May 10, 2017

Referred to: Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law

Standing Committee Report No.: 20-43 adopted on September 20, 2017

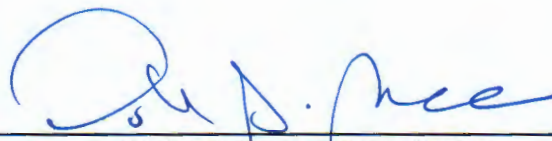
First and Final Reading: September 20, 2017

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

Standing Committee Report No.: 20-87 Adopted on 11/21/17

First and Final Reading: November 29, 2017


DOLORES S. BERMUDES
SENATE CLERK



THE SENATE
 TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2017

S. B. NO. 20-40, SD1

AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC § 2116 to provide for the identification of Disabled Veterans on the vehicle license plate; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature recognizes that 9 CMC § 2116
 2 provides for the identification of the armed forces veterans on the vehicle license plates in
 3 honor of those who served our country. The Legislature finds that those veterans who have
 4 certain disabilities due to service-related injuries deserve further recognition for their
 5 service.

6 The purpose of this bill is to amend the Veteran License Plates statute to provide
 7 for the identification of a Disabled Veteran with at least 10 percent disability due to
 8 service-related injury on license plates. However, disabled veteran's license plates cannot
 9 be used to park at disabled parking spaces. For disabled parking privileges, the veteran
 10 must obtain a person with disabilities placard issued under 9 CMC 5653.

11 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC § 2116 is amended to read:

12 **"§ 2116. Veteran or Disabled Veteran License Plates.**

13 (a) Definition.

14 (1) For purposes of this Act, the term "veteran" means a person who
 15 served in active duty in the United States military service in the Army, Navy,
 16 Marine Corp, Coast Guard, Army, Air National Guard or active reserve component
 17 of the Army, Air Force or Navy, and who was discharged or released under
 18 conditions other than dishonorable.

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1 (2) “Disabled Veteran” means a person who served in active duty in the
2 United States military service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Coast Guard,
3 Army, Air National Guard or active reserve component of the Army, Air Force or
4 Navy, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than
5 dishonorable and certified as having at least 10 percent disability due to service-
6 related injury.

7 (b) Application. In lieu of the license plates contracted on behalf of the Bureau of
8 Motor Vehicles, in order to qualify for a veteran’s license or disabled veteran’s license
9 plate the applicant must submit the following along with the application for vehicle
10 registration:

11 1. Copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty from
12 the Department of Defense (DD214); ~~or~~

13 2. Individuals otherwise qualified under subsection (a)(1) of this section
14 shall obtain certification from the Military and Veterans Affairs Office, provided
15 that he/she produces documents, if DD214 is not available, which signifies proof
16 that he/she served in the U.S. military services: ; or

17 3. Individuals otherwise qualified under subsection (a)(2) of this section
18 shall obtain certification from the Military and Veterans Affairs Office, provided
19 that he/she produces documents, if DD214 is not available, which signifies proof
20 that he/she has at least 10 percent disability due to service related injury.

21 4. Disabled veteran’s license plates cannot be used to park at disabled
22 parking spaces. For disabled parking privileges, a veteran must obtain a person
23 with disabilities placard issued under 9 CMC 5653.

24 (c) Color and Design. A veteran or disabled veteran license plate shall be the same
25 standard size and shape as regular passenger vehicle license plates with the additional
26 features as follows:

27 1. Below the line “HAFA ADAI” will be the word “VETERAN” or
28 “DISABLED VETERAN” (in black lettering) bordered on the left by the United
29 States Flag and on the right by the CNMI Flag;

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1 2. On the next line, centered on the license plate, will be the license plate
2 number (in blue lettering) in alpha numeric format designating branch of service
3 and numerical sequence. For example, A001 (Army), NG045 (National Guard), or
4 R610 (Reserves). For a qualified person with a disability, the veteran license plate
5 shall display the International Symbol of Accessibility in the same size as the
6 letters and numbers on the license plate.

7 3. Any additional regulations or design specifications needed to implement
8 the provisions of this section shall be prescribed by the Commissioner of the
9 Department of Public Safety or his designee.

10 (d) Fee. The fee for the issuance of a veteran or disabled veteran license plate for
11 first time registration and renewal(s) shall be 25% less than the fee charged for a similar
12 license plate for the same class of vehicle. Additionally, no fee shall be charged for the
13 issuance of a veteran or disabled veteran license plate to a veteran rate by the U.S.
14 Department of Veterans Affairs at a one hundred percent permanent and total disability.
15 The veteran or disabled veteran license plate must be for a non-commercial vehicle
16 registered to the veteran, or legal guardian applying for benefits under this section. A copy
17 of the decision letter issued by the Regional Veterans Affairs Office which indicates
18 approved disability rating must be furnished to the Department of Public Safety and the
19 Department of Finance in order to waive the veteran or disabled veteran license plate fees.

20 (e) Issuance. A veteran or disabled veteran license plate shall be issued only to the
21 registered owner or lessee of the vehicle on which they are to be displayed.

22 1. Registration for a veteran or disabled veteran license plate shall not be
23 limited to one vehicle per veteran.

24 2. Veteran or disabled veteran license plates issued under this section shall
25 not be transferable to any other person, provided that the Commissioner of the
26 Department of Public Safety or his designee shall allow the survivor of the
27 qualified person, upon request, to retain the front license plate as a memorial.

28 3. Veteran or disabled veteran license plates shall be assigned to
29 noncommercial passenger motor vehicles and noncommercial motorcycles.

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1 (f) The Department of Public Safety shall commence planning for the design and
2 issuance of the veteran and disabled veteran license plates and shall implement the
3 distribution of veteran and disabled veteran license plates within 90 days after the effective
4 date of this Act.

5 (g) [Unchanged].

6 (h) [Unchanged].”

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

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

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

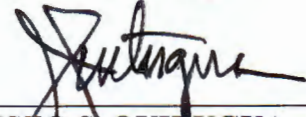
SENATE BILL NO. 20-40, SD1

CERTIFIED BY:



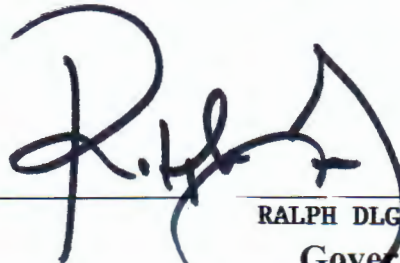
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ATTESTED BY:



JUSTO S. QUITUGUA
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 18th day of January, 2018



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands