



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

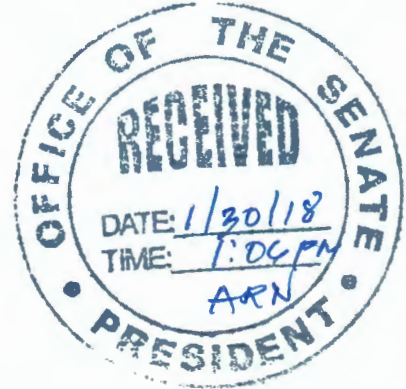
VICTOR B. HOCOG
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

26 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 House Bill No. 20-101, HD1 entitled, "To amend 1 CMC §8364, as amended by public law 15-70, to allow annuitants to enroll in the commonwealth government health insurance program; 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. 20-40**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Department of Finance, Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

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DATE BY: 1/26/18 @ 5:06 pm



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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Second Regular Session

July 28, 2017

REPRESENTATIVE FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representative Donald C. Barcinas) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 20-101, HD1

AN ACT

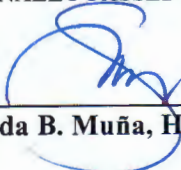
TO AMEND 1 CMC §8364, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-70, TO ALLOW ANNUITANTS TO ENROLL IN THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Health, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-80; adopted 11/21/17.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, NOVEMBER 29, 2017;
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 20-101, HD1, and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.
THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 14, 2017;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON NOVEMBER 29, 2017.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

TENTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

NOVEMBER 29, 2017

H. B. NO. 20-101, HD1

AN ACT

**TO AMEND 1 CMC §8364, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-70,
TO ALLOW ANNUITANTS TO ENROLL IN THE COMMONWEALTH
GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Northern Mariana
2 Islands Retirement Fund Act, as amended by Public Law 15-70, Section 4(j), requires retirees
3 to enroll in the Government Health Insurance Program within six months upon retirement. If
4 a retiree fails to enroll in the government health insurance within the six-month period, the
5 retiree is prohibited from enrolling at a later time. This requirement causes hardship on
6 retirees that do not meet the deadline to enroll because the retirees are left with no health
7 insurance coverage. In some instances, retirees chose not to continue their health insurance
8 coverage upon retirement because the retiree's spouse is employed and has family health
9 insurance coverage. In other circumstances, and for different reasons, retirees have no other
10 option but to enroll in the health insurance at a later time.

11 The purpose of this legislation is to amend the NMI Retirement Fund Act to allow
12 retirees to enroll or re-enroll in the Government Health Insurance Program any time after

HOUSE BILL 20-101, HD1

1 retirement.

2 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC §8364, of the Commonwealth Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 **“§ 8364. Retirement Fund's Contribution for Health Insurance.**

5 Annuitants shall be provided with an option, to be exercised within six months
6 of the date of retirement, to continue their Commonwealth government health
7 insurance coverage under the same group terms and conditions as that government
8 coverage, if any, is offered each fiscal year to Commonwealth government
9 employees. Those annuitants who failed to enroll or re-enroll within six months of
10 the date of retirement may enroll at a later date in the government health insurance
11 coverage; provided that such enrollment shall be subject to the open-enrollment
12 month. The fund assumes no liability to the annuitant for group health insurance
13 coverage beyond the payment of the Government’s share of the premiums as provided
14 in this section.”


15 **Section 3. Sunset Clause.** This measure shall expire on December 31, 2020 and the
16 amendment to 1 CMC §8364, as amended by Public Law 15-70 that is set forth herein shall
17 be of no further force and effect and Section 8364 of Title 1 shall revert to its form, force,
18 and effect, prior to the amendment.

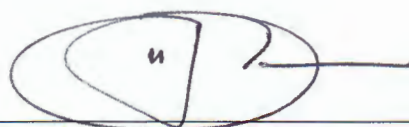
19 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
20 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
21 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
22 circumstances other than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

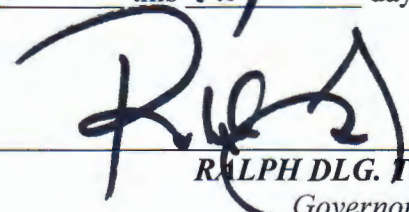
23 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
24 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
25 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
26 contained in this Act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

HOUSE BILL 20-101, HD1

1 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
2 Governor or 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 26th day of January, 2018

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands