



GOV. COMM. 20-164  
(HOUSE)

RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor

VICTOR B. HOCOG  
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

07 MAR 2018

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

Acha  
3/11/18  
1:50pm

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 20-147, HS1, HD1, SD4 entitled, "To appropriate twenty-four million, twenty-six thousand, fifty-six dollars and thirty-five cents (\$24,026,056.35) from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account, earmarked under 4 CMC §2308.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-42**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Public School System; CNMI State Board of Education; Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; Department of Lands and Natural Resources; Northern Marianas College; Northern Marianas Trades Institute; Department of Community and Cultural Affairs; Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Program; Tinian and Rota Legislative Delegation; Office of Planning & Development; CNMI Drug Court; Office of Management & Budget; Department of Finance, Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

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 Ralph DLG. Torres |  CNMI Office of the Governor

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

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Second Regular Session**

**December 13, 2017**

REPRESENTATIVE ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinnie F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 20-147, HS1, HD1, SD4**

**AN ACT**

**TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FOUR MILLION, TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND, FIFTY-SIX DOLLARS AND THIRTY-FIVE CENTS (\$24,026,056.35) FROM THE SPECIAL CASINO GROSS REVENUE TAX ACCOUNT, EARMARKED UNDER 4 CMC §2308.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-105; adopted 1/26/18.

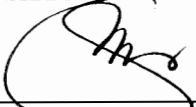
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, JANUARY 26, 2018;**  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. No. 20-147, HS1, HD1 and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, FEBRUARY 8, 2018;**  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. No. 20-147, HS1, HD1, SD4.

**H. B. NO. 20-147, HS1, HD1, SD4, WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FEBRUARY 9, 2018.**

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. No. 20-147, HS1, HD1, SD4, during its 3rd Day, Third Regular Session on February 16, 2018.

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON FEBRUARY 16, 2018.**

  
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**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**



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

THIRD DAY, THIRD REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 16, 2018

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**H. B. NO. 20-147, HS1, HD1, SD4**

AN ACT

**TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FOUR MILLION, TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND, FIFTY-SIX DOLLARS AND THIRTY-FIVE CENTS (\$24,026,056.35) FROM THE SPECIAL CASINO GROSS REVENUE TAX ACCOUNT, EARMARKED UNDER 4 CMC §2308.**

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Governor has advised both houses of the  
2           Legislature by letter dated November 29, 2017, identified as House Governors  
3           Communication 20-132, that sixteen million, five hundred fifty-three thousand, eight hundred  
4           ninety-two dollars and fifty-seven cents (\$16,553,892.57) is available for appropriation. Also  
5           provided was a Certification of Fund Availability from the CNMI Department of Finance  
6           from the collection of the Saipan Casino Operator's Business Gross Revenue Tax.

7           The Governor noted that twenty-two million dollars (\$22,000,000.00) has been  
8           deducted from the total balance and held in a separate account for the payment of 25% of the  
9           retiree pensions and for the payment of this year's bonus to our retirees and the survivors of

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**HOUSE BILL 20-147, HS1 HD1, SD4**

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1 the retirees in accordance to Public Law 20-10.

2 In addition, the balances from House Governors Communication 20-52 and  
3 House Governors Communication 20-71, in the amount of five million, nine hundred thirty-  
4 six thousand, seven hundred eighty-six dollars and ninety-seven cents (\$5,936,786.97) and  
5 one million, five hundred thirty-five thousand, three hundred seventy-six dollars and eighty-  
6 one cents (\$1,535,376.81), respectively, will be appropriated in this Act.

7 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate twenty-four million, twenty-six thousand,  
8 fifty-six dollars and thirty-five cents (\$24,026,056.35) from the Special Casino Gross  
9 Revenue Tax Account, earmarked under 4 CMC §2308.

10 **Section 2. Appropriation.** Notwithstanding 4 CMC §2308 and 1 CMC §7201(d), the  
11 amount of twenty-four million, twenty-six thousand, fifty-six dollars and thirty-five cents  
12 (\$24,026,056.35) from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account, earmarked under  
13 4 CMC §2308 is hereby appropriated as follows:

14 (a) Eleven million, eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$11,850,000.00) to  
15 the Public School System. The Commissioner of the Public School System shall be  
16 the expenditure authority for the funds appropriated under this section.

17 (1) Provided that, of the funds appropriated under this section, one  
18 million, two hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$1,295,000.00) shall be  
19 allocated for school facilities repairs and upgrades, provided further that  
20 \$878,000.00 out of the \$1,295,000.00 shall be allocated to the Tinian  
21 Elementary School Phase I and Phase II parking lot improvement and the  
22 Tinian Head Start ingress and egress driveway paving upgrade; and

**HOUSE BILL 20-147, HS1 HD1, SD4**

1 (2) Seven hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$765,000.00) shall be  
2 allocated for required federal matching funds.

3 (3) Two million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000.00) shall  
4 be allocated to purchase instructional materials.

5 (4) One million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00) shall  
6 be allocated for the increase in employer's share of GHLI for FY17.

7 (5) Two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the  
8 increase in employer's share of GHLI for FY18.

9 (6) Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) shall be allocated for  
10 the USDA annual loan payment.

11 (7) Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) shall be allocated for school  
12 building insurance required by FEMA.

13 (8) Two million, one hundred thousand dollars (\$2,100,000.00) shall  
14 be allocated for Utilities.

15 (9) One million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the  
16 purchase of new school buses and vans for the Third Senatorial District.

17 (10) Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be  
18 allocated for the purchase of parts and fuel for school buses.

19 (11) Provided that six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00) shall be made  
20 available for PSS use immediately and the remainder shall be made  
21 proportionately available on a monthly basis for the remaining portion of this  
22 fiscal year.

**HOUSE BILL 20-147, HS1 HD1, SD4**

1 (b) One hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) to the State Board of  
2 Education. The Chairperson of the State Board of Education shall be the expenditure  
3 authority for the funds appropriated under this section.

4 (1) Provided that of the funds appropriated under this section, sixty  
5 thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) shall be allocated to the Student Attendance  
6 Review Committee (SARC) (CNMI Inter-agency partnership); and

7 (2) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) shall be allocated for  
8 commutes for PSS events, Committee and Board meetings for Saipan, Tinian,  
9 and Rota; and

10 (3) Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) shall be allocated for  
11 Professional Development for Board and staff; and

12 (4) Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) shall be allocated for  
13 computer and networked-telecommunications equipment and systems; and

14 (5) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) shall be allocated to the  
15 Board Building CIP Improvements and Parking.

16 (c) Two million, seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,750,000.00) to the  
17 Commonwealth Healthcare Center (CHCC). The Chief Executive Officer of CHCC  
18 shall be the expenditure authority for the funds appropriated under this section.

19 (1) Provided that, of the funds appropriated under this section, two  
20 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be allocated for the  
21 Electronic Healthcare Records System; and

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1 (2) Two million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000.00) shall  
2 be allocated for Indigent Care.

3 (d) Sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) for the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle  
4 intervention and prevention program in Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands. The  
5 Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources shall be the expenditure  
6 authority of the funds appropriated under this section.

7 (e) One million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for the Northern Marianas College.  
8 The President of the Northern Marianas College shall be the expenditure authority for  
9 the funds appropriated under this section.

10 (f) Three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$375,000.00) shall be  
11 allocated for the Northern Marianas Trades Institute (NMTI). The funds appropriated  
12 shall be used to supplement the operations and activities of the trades and technical  
13 programs. The Chief Executive Officer of NMTI shall be the expenditure authority  
14 for the funds appropriated under this section.

15 (g) Four hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$420,000.00) for the Department of  
16 Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Development Fund. The Secretary of the  
17 Department of Community and Cultural Affairs shall be the expenditure authority for  
18 the funds appropriated under this section.

19 (h) Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) to the Substance Abuse  
20 Recovery & Prevention. The Special Assistant for Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation  
21 under the Governor's Office shall be the expenditure authority for the funds  
22 appropriated under this section.

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1 (i) Four million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$4,500,000.00) for Judgment  
2 against the CNMI. The funds appropriated shall be used for the payment of the  
3 following outstanding judgments, as certified by the Office of the Attorney General:

4 (1) Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) to Tano Group v.  
5 DPL, Civ. No. 05-0100; and

6 (2) Four million dollars (\$4,000,000.00) to Manglona v. CNMI, Civ.  
7 No. 97-0486; and

8 (3) The expenditure authority shall be the Secretary of Finance in  
9 consultation with the Attorney General.

10 (j) One million, seven hundred thousand dollars (\$1,700,000.00) for the First  
11 Senatorial District and the Second Senatorial District to be allocated as follows:

12 (1) Eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000.00) shall be  
13 allocated to the First Senatorial District for the following:

14 (i) \$150,000 to Rota DPS for academy training and FTEs under  
15 the expenditure authority of the Rota DPS Resident Director;

16 (ii) \$100,000 to Rota DFEMS for academy training and FTEs  
17 under the expenditure authority of the Rota DFEMS Resident Director;

18 and

19 (iii) \$600,000 for the payment of land compensation in Rota  
20 including roadways, easements, right of ways, ponding basin, storm  
21 drainage, and wetlands notwithstanding any law to the contrary. The



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1 Secretary Finance, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall be  
2 expenditure authority for the funds appropriated under this paragraph.

3 (2) Eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000.00) shall be  
4 allocated to the Second Senatorial District for the following:

5 (i) \$127,669 to Tinian DFEMS for academy training and FTEs  
6 from May 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018 under the expenditure  
7 authority of the Tinian DFEMS Resident Director; and

8 (ii) \$722,331 for the construction and paving of the roads at  
9 Marpo Heights II in Tinian under the under the expenditure authority  
10 of the Secretary of the Department of Public Works in consultation  
11 with the Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan.

12 (k) Four hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$420,000.00) shall be allocated for  
13 the Planning and Development Office. The funds appropriated shall be used to  
14 provide for the personnel, administrative and operating costs of the newly formed  
15 Office of Planning and Development pursuant to Public Law 20-20. The Director of  
16 the Office of Planning and Development shall be the expenditure authority for the  
17 funds appropriated under this section.

18 (l) One hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) shall be allocated to the  
19 CNMI Drug Court. The Presiding Judge of the CNMI Superior Court shall be the  
20 expenditure authority for the funds appropriated under this section.

21 (1) Provided that, of the funds appropriated under this section, one  
22 hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$145,000.00) shall be allocated for

**HOUSE BILL 20-147, HS1 HD1, SD4**

1 operations, CNMI Drug Court Team training and treatment services of the  
2 Drug Court; and

3 (2) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) shall be allocated for Drug Court  
4 participants' incentives.

5 (m) One hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000.00) shall be  
6 allocated to the Office of Management and Budget. The funds appropriated shall be  
7 used to acquire software to transform the way financial information is prepared and  
8 presented, using integrated data from the current JD Edwards financial management  
9 system. The Special Assistant of the Office of Management and Budget shall be the  
10 expenditure authority for the funds appropriated under this section.

11 (n) One hundred twenty-six thousand, fifty-six dollars and thirty-five cents  
12 (\$126,056.35) shall be allocated to the Governor's Office. The funds appropriated  
13 shall be used to provide the CNMI with the greatest level of advocacy in  
14 Washington, DC. The Governor shall be the expenditure authority for the funds  
15 appropriated under this section.

16 (o) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) shall be used to pay the outstanding  
17 retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees, whose wages were  
18 frozen at Step 12, pursuant to Public Law No. 19-75. The Secretary of Finance shall  
19 be the expenditure authority for the funds appropriated under this section.

20 The appropriated funds under this section shall not lapse and shall be available for  
21 expenditure without fiscal year limitation.

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**HOUSE BILL 20-147, HS1 HD1, SD4**

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1           **Section 3. Reprogramming.** Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to  
2 the contrary, funds appropriated under Section 2(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k),  
3 (l), (m), (n), and (o) of this Act shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose.

4           **Section 4. Reporting Requirement.** The expenditure authorities of the foregoing  
5 activities listed in Section 2 of this Act shall submit to the presiding officers of the  
6 legislature, within 30 days after the end of each quarter, a fund status report on the  
7 expenditure of funds.

8           **Section 5. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such  
9 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
10 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
11 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

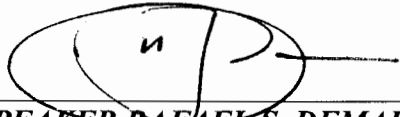
12           **Section 6. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
13 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
14 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
15 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
16 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
17 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
18 becomes effective.


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**HOUSE BILL 20-147, HS1 HD1, SD4**

1           **Section 7. 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 RAEAL S. DEMAPAN  
House of Representatives  
20<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2018  
  
RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands