



RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor

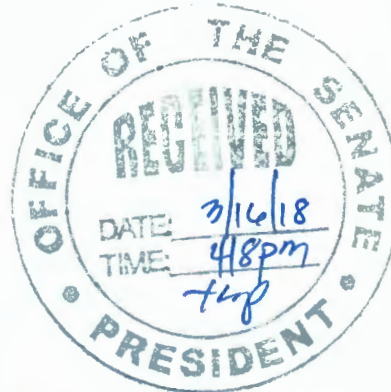
VICTOR B. HOCO  
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

16 MAR 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

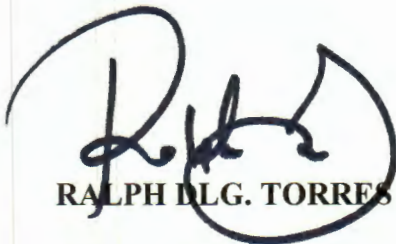


Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill No. 20-24, SD1 entitled, "To amend 4 CMC § 50143(a) to provide immunity for minors assisting in tobacco control undercover investigations; 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. 20-46**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



RALPH DLG. TORRES

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



**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 20-24, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To amend 4 CMC § 50143(a) to provide immunity for minors assisting in tobacco control undercover investigations; and for other purposes.

***SENATE ACTION***

**Offered by Senator(s):** Sixto K. Igisomar

**Date:** February 22, 2017

**Referred to:** Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 20-52 adopted on 10/25/17

**First and Final Reading:** October 25, 2017


***HOUSE ACTION***

**Referred to:** Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 20-101 adopted on 1/31/18

**First and Final Reading:** January 31, 2018

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**DOLORES S. BERMUDES**  
**SENATE CLERK**



THE SENATE  
TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2017

S. B. NO. 20-24, SD1

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AN ACT

To amend 4 CMC § 50143(a) to provide immunity for minors assisting in tobacco control undercover investigations; and for other purposes.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Commonwealth Legislature finds that the  
2 4 CMC § 50143 authorizes the Department of Commerce to conduct undercover  
3 operations for compliance checks at the tobacco retail establishments; however, there is no  
4 provision establishing immunity for persons under 18 years of age or minors who provide  
5 assistance in such investigations. The legislature further finds that 4 CMC § 5591 (c)  
6 provides immunity for a person under 21 years of age who assists law enforcement officers  
7 in alcohol undercover compliance checks at retail establishments.

8           The Legislature finds that conducting undercover investigations is crucial to  
9 enforcement of the tobacco control law and immunity should be given to persons who  
10 assist with such investigations including minors, in the same way that minors who assist in  
11 alcohol undercover investigations are provided immunity from prosecution.

12           Therefore, the purpose of this legislation is to amend 4 CMC § 50143(a) to provide  
13 immunity against prosecution to minors assisting in tobacco control investigations.

14           **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC § 50143(a) is amended to read as follows:

15           “(a) Undercover Operations. The Department of Commerce, Alcohol Beverage and  
16 Tobacco Control Division, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Public Health

SENATE BILL NO. 20-24, SD1

1 are authorized under this chapter to secure, ~~through adopted regulations,~~ the voluntary  
2 assistance of minors to conduct undercover investigations against persons or businesses  
3 engaged in selling, giving, or otherwise providing tobacco products to minors (persons  
4 under the age of 18), with the written consent of such minor's parent or legal guardian;  
5 provided that no minor may so assist or be requested to so assist law enforcement agencies  
6 as a condition of probation or in connection with a minor's disposition or sentencing in  
7 juvenile delinquency proceedings. A minor who assists in undercover operations are  
8 immune from prosecution under any part of this chapter. ~~Provided that a minor, with the~~  
9 ~~written consent of the minor's parent or legal guardian, who assists in undercover~~  
10 ~~operations shall be immune from prosecution under any part of this chapter.~~"

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

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

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

SENATE BILL NO. 20-24, SD1

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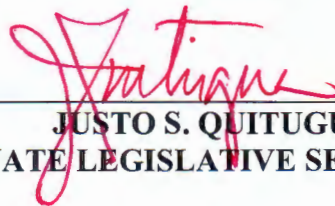
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CERTIFIED BY:



ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ATTESTED BY:



JUSTO S. QUITUGUA  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018



RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands