

Fifteenth Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Youth Congress

1st Day, 3rd Regular Session, 2016

Y.C.B. No. 15-02

A BILL FOR AN ACT

TO AMEND 1 CMC § 3411 (C) AND (D) AND § 3416 (A) OF THE
COMMONWEALTH LITTERING CONTROL ACT OF 1989; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRTEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The CNMI Youth Congress finds that
2 despite of the existing Anti-Litter Control program that currently applies in the
3 Commonwealth, the image of our islands has been and continues to be tarnished
4 by the act of indecorous disposal of betel nut chew and spit. Because of this, many
5 commercial and government buildings have become unsanitary in the eyes of
6 many concerned citizens as well as our tourist visitors who see such unpleasant
7 sites throughout our islands. The CNMI Youth Congress also finds that the issue
8 of betel nut spitting inside or around many public property or building has raised
9 major environmental and health concerns amongst our citizens and visitors.

10 The purpose of this bill is to include betel nut chew meaning that no one
11 will be allowed by this act to dispose betel nut chew anywhere other than a trash
12 container or container that will be properly disposed. Also to include betel nut
13 spitting where no one will be allowed to discard betel nut spit on any public or
14 commercial property or building.

1 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC Chapter 4 § 3411(a) and (b) is hereby
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (c) “Litter” shall mean garbage, trash, rubbish, refuse, paper
4 containers, betelnut chew, packing or construction materials, carcasses of dead
5 animals, bottles, cans, debris or any other disposal item of whatsoever nature;

6 (d) “Littering” shall mean throwing, dropping, placing, depositing,
7 sweeping, discarding, betel nut spitting or otherwise disposing of any litter on
8 land or water, in other than appropriate storage containers or areas designated for
9 such purpose;

10 **Section 3. Penalties.** 1 CMC Chapter 4 § 3416 is hereby amended to
11 read as follows:

12 “(a) A person found to have committed the offense or littering, an
13 infraction, shall be punished by fine of not less than two hundred dollars
14 (\$200.00) or not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) which may not be
15 suspended by the Court. Additionally, any person found to have committed the
16 infraction of littering created by this Act may be ordered to pick up and remove or
17 clean up litter from a public place under the supervision of the Department of
18 Public Safety, or under the supervision of such agency as the court shall otherwise
19 provide, for a period not exceeding eight (8) hours for each offense. Furthermore,
20 persons found to have committed the infraction of littering shall be required to pay
21 the costs of removing or cleaning any litter they caused.”

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

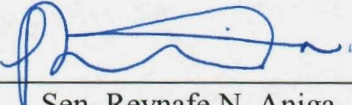
6 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
7 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
8 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted
9 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall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

13 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
14 the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 04/07/16

Date: 04/07/16

Introduced By:



Sen. Reynafe N. Aniga