



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

DENITA K. YANGETMAI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMERCE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Adopted - 8/19/2021

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 22-22

DATE: JULY 23, 2021

RE: HOUSE BILL No. 22-56

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism to which House Bill No. 22-56 was referred, entitled:

“To assess a fee on plastic checkout bags distributed in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.”

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that H. B. No. 22-56 be passed by the House in the form of House Substitute 1.

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE

RECEIVED BY *Smr*

7/23/2021
DATE

TIME 2:29 PM

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of House Bill No. 22-56 is to assess a fee on plastic checkout bags distributed in the Commonwealth.

B. Committee Substitute:

Your Committee made the following revisions to House Bill No. 22-56 and adopted the revisions in the form of House Substitute 1 to incorporate recommendations made by the Office of the Public Defender and to address the concerns of the Committee Members:

- 1) "Plastic Bag" means a single-use plastic bag that is provided by a seller to a customer upon checkout, but does not include a plastic bag used solely to contain the following: (a) Vegetables, fresh meat, and meat products, including beef, pork, poultry, seafood, ice cubes, or anything that reasonably requires a bag for sanitation or safety reasons.
- 2) The Department of Finance – Division of Revenue and Taxation shall be responsible for the enforcement and inspection of this Act.
- 3) Plastic Bag Fee shall be used throughout the Act.
- 4) Plastic Bag Fee of \$0.10 shall be assessed instead of the original \$1.00 per bag.
- 5) False Reporting was deleted in its entirety and the Failure to Comply was inserted with specific language that will ensure that a fine is assessed per seller per day.
- 6) Inserted a new Section 9 entitled "Ban" that states, "One year from effective date of this Act, no seller shall import or sell or distribute to consumers any type of plastic bag as defined herein in Section 101...."
- 7) The CNMI Department of Customs and Quarantine shall be responsible for the enforcement of the Ban.

C. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that the indiscriminate use of plastic shopping bags is a major and visible environmental problem in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Your Committee further finds that discarded non-compostable plastic bags pollute the environment and pose a significant threat to terrestrial and marine animals. In addition to the harm that these plastic bags present, the manufacturing of these bags requires the needless consumption of the earth's ever-depleting non-renewable resources. And while the economic and social costs associated with plastic bags are high, attempts to mitigate the harms through recycling have proven ineffectual because the present price of recycling is prohibitively higher.

Your Committee finds that in terms of global consumption, each year, an estimated 1 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide. This amounts to over one million bags per minute. Billions of these bags end up as litter each year on our land and in our ocean. According to the EPA, over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are consumed in the United States each year. According to The Wall Street Journal, the United States consumes 100 billion single-used plastic shopping bags annually at an estimated cost to retailers of 4 billion dollars. According to the industry publication Modern Plastics, Taiwan consumes 20 billion bags a year at a rate of 900 bags per person. According to Australia's Department of Environment, Australians consumes 6.9 billion plastic bags each year - 326 per person. An estimated 49.6 million of these plastic bags end up as litter each year.

Relative to the environmental impact, your Committee further finds that hundreds of thousands of sea turtles, whales and other marine mammals die every year from eating discarded plastic bags mistaken for food. Plastic bags are also harmful because rather than biodegrade, they photodegrade – that is, they break down into smaller and smaller toxic bits. These toxic materials eventually contaminate the soil and waterways and enter the food chain when animals accidentally ingest them. 46,000 of plastic are found floating in every square mile of ocean. A single plastic bag can take up to 1,000 years to degrade. Plastic bags remain toxic even after they break down.

Your Committee recognizes and supports a CNMI wide effort to assist our global neighbors in the reversal of global warming and greenhouse effects that threaten to harm our environment and the welfare of all the earth's present and future inhabitants. Recognizing that the changes mandated herein may be considered inconvenient and expensive, the Committee finds that the alternative of doing nothing, of standing idly by, is unacceptable. Moreover, the measures taken today are not unprecedented and have been successful in other parts of the world.

Your Committee is cognizant that the main intent of this Act is to ban plastic bags as defined herein. Therefore, one year from the effective date of this Act, no seller shall import or sell or distribute to consumers any type of plastic bag as defined in this Act “means a single-use plastic bag that is provided by a seller to a customer upon checkout, but does not include a plastic bag used solely to contain the following: (A) Vegetables, fresh meat and meat products, including beef, pork, poultry, seafood, ice cubes, or anything that reasonably requires a bag for sanitation or safety reasons.” Any entity found in violation shall be subject to penalties as follows:

- (1) a fine in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the first violation per seller per day;
- (2) a fine in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the second violation per seller per day;
- (3) a fine in the amount of \$2,500 for any subsequent violation per seller per day thereafter.

All fees collected shall be deposited in the “Enforcement Efforts” special account, for enforcement purposes.

Therefore, your Committee strongly believes that the time has come to ban the use of plastic bags and encourage the use of reusable bags thus your Committee recommends that the House pass House Bill No. 22-56 in the form of House Substitute 1.

D. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

Comments were received from the following agencies/entities:

1) Office of the Public Auditor

Public Auditor Kina Peter stated: “At this time OPA has no comments on the H.B. 22-56.”

2) Commonwealth Economic Development Authority

Executive Director Manuel A. Sablan stated: “CEDA supports the intent of this legislation and recommends that it be voted favorably by your Committee. The legislative finding section of the Bill provides the rationale for supporting this legislation.”

3) Office of the Public Defender

Public Defender Douglas Hartig stated: “ I do have a few concerns on some of the wording.”

- 1) Either usage fee or plastic bag fee, but not both.
- 2) Definition of "reusable bag" is vague.
- 3) There could be a problem with privacy rights.
- 4) Unintended inconvenience such as exemptions for fresh meat only but what about items like grapes or tomatoes or lemons which are usually gathered together and put into a very thin plastic bag.

4) Velma A. Reyes

"I pray that the Committee will be able to see the future of having this bill become law. Our island will be saved, our ocean will be saved, so let's work together and get this through expeditiously."

Comments have been attached as part of this committee report.

Comments were also solicited from the following agencies/entities but no comments were received to date:

- 1) CNMI Scholarship
- 2) BECQ
- 3) CDA
- 3). CNMI State Library
- 4). CNMI Judiciary
- 5). OPM
- 6). Priority Care Service
- 7). Attorney's Robert J. O'Conner, Janet King, Mike White, Mark Scoggins

E. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 22-56 was formally introduced to the full body of the House on April 23, 2021 by Rep. Sheila J. Babauta and was subsequently referred to the House Standing Committee on Commerce and Tourism for disposition.

Similar legislations were introduced in the 16th, 19th, 20th and 21st CNMI Legislature. Legislations that were introduced in the 16th, 19th and 20th CNMI Legislature were passed by the House and were transmitted to the Senate and referred to Senate Standing Committees. No further actions were taken.

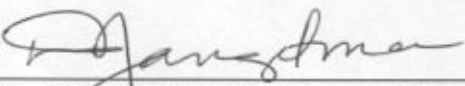
F. Cost Benefit:

The enactment of House Bill No. 22-56, House Substitute 1, will result in minimal costs to the CNMI Government with respect to the implementation of the Eco-Friendly Act of 2021. However, all fees, fines and penalties collected pursuant to this Act shall be paid to the CNMI Treasury at the Department of Finance and such fees, fines and penalties shall be allocated and deposited into a special account entitled, "Enforcement Efforts" under the Department of Finance and will defray such costs and will serve as an incentive for the enforcement of this Act. The overall health, environmental and economic benefits to be realized from the enactment of House Bill No. 22-56, HS1 will outweigh such additional costs that may arise.

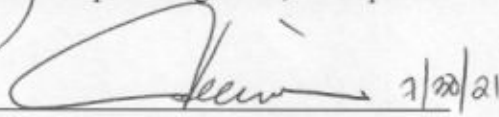
III. CONCLUSION:

The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H. B. NO. 22-56 and recommends its passage in the form of House Substitute 1.


Respectfully submitted,



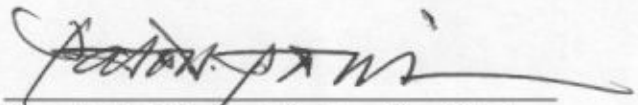
Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, Chairperson

 7/23/21


Rep. Celina R. Babauta, Member




Rep. Richard T. Lizama, Member



Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Vice Chair




Rep. Vicente C. Camacho, Member



Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Member

Reviewed by:


House Legal Counsel

Attachment: Kina Peter, Public Auditor, OPA dated June 16, 2021
Manuel Sablan, Executive Director, CEDA dated June 22, 2021
Douglas Hartig, Public Defender, OPD dated June 14, 2021
Velma A. Reyes, Private Citizen



Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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June 16, 2021

ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Denita Kaipat Yangetmai
22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
P.O. Box 500129
Saipan, MP 96950

RE: Comments on H.B. 22-56

Dear Chairwoman Yangetmai:

The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 22-56 (H.B. 22-56). At this time OPA has no comments on the H.B. 22-56. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kina Peter, CPA
Public Auditor

cc: Ashley Kost, OPA Legal Counsel



June 22, 2021

The Honorable Denita Yangetmai
Chairwoman, Standing Committee on Commerce
& Tourism
House of Representatives
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth
Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Chairwoman Yangetmai:

I am writing to reflect the views or comments from the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) regarding the proposed legislations that have been referred to your Committee on Commerce and Tourism for review and disposition.

- **House Bill 22-056, (Eco-Friendly Act of 2021)**

Comment: CEDA supports the intent of this legislation and recommends that it be voted favorably by your Committee. The legislative finding section of the Bill provides the rationale for supporting this legislation.

- **House Bill 22-058 (Lower Interest Rates on Money Judgments)**

Comment: CEDA supports the intent of this legislation to lower the judicial interest rate on Money Judgments from 9% to 3%. The public purpose for lowering the interest rate is articulated in the legislative findings section of the Bill.

- **House Bill 22-070 (Investment Incentive Act of 2021)**

Comment: CEDA played a collaborative role with the proponents of this legislation, mainly with key members of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, who helped crafted the legislation in its present form. CEDA supports this legislation and seeks the support of your Committee to vote favorably on this measure.

- **Senate Bill 22-024 (Pacific Islands Development Bank)**

Comment: CEDA is in support of this legislation, with a recommendation that the proposed Section 9803 be amended to reflect that the Executive Director of CEDA

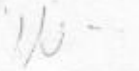
Comments on H.B. 22—56, 22-058, 22-070 & S.B. 22-024
June 22, 2021
Page 2

serves as a member of the Board of Directors of PIDB and the Loan Manager of CEDA serves as alternate member. CEDA believes that the CNMI members of the Board of Governors of PIDB will be better served by linking their governance responsibility over the affairs of PIDB and CEDA's professional expertise on matters dealing with development loan financing and technical expertise.

If you have any questions on the above comments, please let me know.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced legislations.

Respectfully,



Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

xc: Members, House Standing Committee on Commerce & Tourism
CEDA Board of Directors



**Office of the Public Defender
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

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hartig.pdo@gmail.com

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai
Twenty Second, Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
P.O. Box 500129
Saipan, MP 96950

RE: Comments on HB 22-56

June 14, 2021

Dear Representative Yangetmai;

Thank you for asking for my comments. The Office of the Public Defender is of the opinion that this bill addresses the concerns stated in the Findings and Purpose and is consistent with trends in the mainland United States.

I do have a few concerns on some of the wording.

The terminology could be confusing. Plastic Bag Usage Fee. Section 4 (a) refers to "plastic bag fee" of \$1.00 and further states the "plastic bag fee" shall be applied uniformly to all sellers in the Commonwealth. Then subsection (b) Special Account, states *The usage fees* collected pursuant to this section shall be forwarded to a special account for all enforcement efforts. Subsection (a) and (b) seem to be referring to the same thing but use different terms. It would be clearer if both subsections (a) and (b) use the same word for the same thing, either *usage fee* or *plastic bag fee*, but not both.

The definition of "reusable bag" is vague. The plastic bags currently in use at most grocery stores can be reused. It's not unusual to see people use bags intended for single use to collect household trash, carry a homemade lunch to work or a variety of other uses. Although these bags may have been intended for single use when they were given to a customer to carry grocery items out of a store, they can be and are reused, so arguably fit the definition of Section 3 (c) (1) Reusable bags. I suggest adding to the definition of plastic bag that the bag is intended for one-time use.

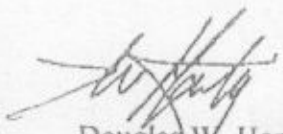
There could be a problem with privacy rights. Section 6 gives the CNMI Department of Commerce the right to visit every part of the seller's premises to ensure compliance with this chapter. I don't see why it is necessary to allow inspection of backrooms, storage areas and

maybe living quarters to ensure plastic bag fees are being collected and reported. This could run afoul of constitutionally protected rights to privacy and against unlawful searches and seizures.

Certain exceptions may have been overlooked. Section 3 (b)(1)(A) exempts fresh meat only. Does this mean items like grapes or tomatoes or lemons which are usually gathered together and put into a very thin plastic bag cannot be packaged in this way? It seems they cannot and so this may create an unintended inconvenience.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you or any of your fellow legislators about this or other pending legislation. If I can assist in this or any other matter in the future, please contact me at your convenience. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Douglas W. Hartig
Public Defender

CC: Committee on Commerce and Tourism: Rep. Patrick San Nicolas, Vice Chair, Rep. Celina Babauta, Rep. Vicente Camacho, Rep. Richard Lizama, Rep. Ralph Yumul

Danita K. Yangetmai
Chairperson
Commerce & Tourism/ Cannabis
Precinct 3 Election District
P.O. Box 500586
Saipan, MP 96950

Subject: Banning of Plastic bag usage in the CNMI

Dear Honorable Yangetmai,

I am writing this letter to bring to your kind notice the trash in Garapan in the area immediately surrounding Sabalu Market. The majority of this trash is plastic bag waste or other single-use plastics utilized by vendors selling goods at Sabalu Market. Many of the vendors here do not secure their bags down while doing business, thus, the bags and other trash are carried into surrounding area: roads, parks and the ocean.

In addition, the bags and other waste are thrown carelessly by Sabalu Market customers after one use, which poses a great threat to the health of those living in and around the area, passerby, birds, and other wildlife.

The ocean as well as the marine life have been affected the most. A walk along any beach in Saipan is enough to understand the consequences of the careless use of throwaway plastics. Scientists in their recent research have found plastic to be more toxic than previously expected. Fish eat them, and we eat the fish. Beaches become littered and become breeding grounds for disease.

I appeal to your good-self to look into this matter and take strict action to be sure this does not keep happening. There should be some level of responsibility on the part of the vendors as well as customers as it is a great convenience to use these bags, but most of them don't care. We must protect the environment for future generations to come. I would like to seek that plastic bag usage be banned for the entire CNMI. Guam passed a legislation in 2018 banning the sale and distribution of disposable plastic bags which took effect in January 1, why can't the CNMI do the same? These plastic bags are thrown carelessly by people who do not care about our environment, so we MUST do something about it.

I applaud Senator Vinnie Sablan for coming up with this legislation in the last administration, but never made it through. Now, Representative Sheila Babauta has created HB22-56. I pray that the Committee will be able to see the future of having this bill become law. Our island will be saved, our ocean will be saved, so let's work together and get this through expeditiously.

Yours truly,



Velma A. Reyes
785-6229

**TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2021

First Special Session, 2021

H. B. 22-56, HS1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To assess a fee on plastic checkout bags distributed in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 22ND NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act may be cited as the “Eco-Friendly Act of
2 2021.”

3 **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Commonwealth Legislature finds
4 that discarded non-compostable plastic bags pollute the environment and pose a
5 significant threat to terrestrial and marine animals. In addition to the harm that these
6 plastic bags present, the manufacturing of these bags requires the needless
7 consumption of the earth’s ever-depleting non-renewable resources.

8 As stewards of this Commonwealth, we have a duty to preserve our
9 resources, and to act as guardians for mother earth for the benefit of our children
10 and their children. As set forth in more detail herein, issues relating to consumption
11 and the impact, both economic and environmental, associated with plastic bags
12 must no longer be ignored.

1 In terms of global consumption, each year, an estimated 1 trillion plastic
2 bags are used worldwide. This amounts to over one million bags per minute.
3 Billions of these bags end up as litter each year on our land and in our ocean.
4 According to the EPA, over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are consumed
5 in the United States each year. According to The Wall Street Journal, the United
6 States consumes 100 billion single-used plastic shopping bags annually at an
7 estimated cost to retailers of 4 billion dollars.

8 Relative to environmental impact, the Legislature also finds that hundreds
9 of thousands of sea turtles, whales and other marine mammals die every year from
10 eating discarded plastic bags mistaken for food. Plastic bags are also harmful
11 because rather than biodegrade, they photodegrade – that is, they break down into
12 smaller and smaller toxic bits. These toxic materials eventually contaminate the soil
13 and waterways and enter the food chain when animals accidentally ingest them.
14 46,000 of plastic are found floating in every square mile of ocean. A single plastic
15 bag can take up to 1,000 years to degrade. Plastic bags remain toxic even after they
16 break down. The Legislature acknowledges that changes mandated herein may be
17 considered inconvenient and expensive, but the alternative of doing nothing, of
18 standing idly by, will cost even more.

19 By enacting this Legislation, the CNMI joins many other Pacific nations,
20 including its fellow members in the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures that
21 enacted APIL Resolution No. 49-BOD-01-CD1 in support of plastic bag

1 prohibitions in 2008. Outright bans on single use plastic bags have also been
2 enacted in Samoa, Vanuatu, Niue, and Papua New Guinea.

3 It is therefore the intent of this legislation to discourage the use of non-
4 compostable plastic bags by imposing a fee on the usage of the common checkout
5 plastic bags and to encourage the use of reusable bags.

6 **Section 3. Enactment.** Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or statutes to
7 the contrary and subject to proper codification by the Commonwealth Law Revision
8 Commission the following is hereby enacted:

9 “101. Definition.

10 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall, unless the context
11 clearly indicates otherwise, have the following meanings:

12 (a) *Seller.*

13 (1) “Seller” means a retail business where the sale of goods
14 represents at least fifty percent of all sales. This designation shall include
15 office supply sellers, restaurants, and all sellers that issue plastic bags.

16 (b) *Plastic Bag.*

17 (1) “Plastic Bag” means a single-use plastic bag that is provided by
18 a seller to a customer upon checkout, but does not include a plastic bag used
19 solely to contain the following:

1 (A) Vegetables, fresh meat and meat products, including
2 beef, pork, poultry, seafood, ice cubes, or anything that reasonably
3 requires a bag for sanitation or safety reasons.

4 (c) *Reusable bag.*

5 (1) "Reusable bag" shall include any type of bag or carrier reused
6 by the customer to carry items.

7 (d) *Revenue and Tax*

8 (1) "Revenue and Tax" means the Division of Revenue and
9 Taxation.

10 **Section 4. Plastic Bag Fee.**

11 (a) *Imposition of fee.* Beginning 30 calendar days after the
12 enactment of this Act, each seller shall assess a "plastic bag fee" of \$0.10
13 for every plastic bag, regardless of size, provided for the use of customers.
14 The "plastic bag fee" shall be applied uniformly to all sellers in the
15 Commonwealth.

16 (b) *Special Account.* The plastic bag fees collected pursuant to this
17 section shall be forwarded to a special account for all enforcement efforts
18 of the Department of Finance – Division of Revenue and Taxation, entitled,
19 "Enforcement Efforts." The expenditure authority shall be the Secretary of
20 the Department of Finance.

21 **Section 5. Duty of Seller**

1 (a) *Public Notice.* Sellers shall post the “plastic bag fee” in a
2 prominent manner at the checkout location and entrance (if separate from
3 the checkout location) to the establishment to allow for reasonable notice to
4 customers.

5 (b) *Reporting.* As set forth herein, each seller shall provide a
6 monthly report stating the amount collected and actual costs incurred,
7 pursuant to the “plastic bag fee,” to the Department of Finance.

8 (c) *Payment of Fees.* The plastic bag fees collected shall be paid on
9 a monthly basis to the CNMI Treasury at the Department of Finance.

10 **Section 6. Enforcement and Inspections.** The CNMI Department of
11 Finance – Division of Revenue and Taxation shall be responsible for the
12 enforcement of this chapter, and may create a task force to educate the general
13 public as well as the affected business community about the requirements and
14 provisions of this Act.

15 The Division of Revenue and Taxation shall have the right to conduct
16 inspections, without prior notice, during the seller’s regular business hours.

17 **Section 7. Penalties.**

18 (a) *Failure to Comply.* The failure to comply with this Act as set
19 forth herein, shall be punishable by:

20 (1) a fine in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the first violation per seller
21 per day;

1 (2) a fine in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the second violation per
2 seller per day;

3 (3) a fine in the amount of \$2,500 for any subsequent violation per
4 seller per day thereafter.

5 (b) *Non-applicability of sums paid as penalties.* Any and all fees
6 paid as a penalty for violating this Act shall not be applied towards payment
7 for any other claim or credit.

8 (c) *Appropriation of Fines and Penalties.* All fines and penalties
9 collected pursuant to this chapter shall be paid to the CNMI Treasury at the
10 Department of Finance. Such fines and penalties shall be deposited into the
11 special account entitled, "Enforcement Efforts." Said funds shall not be
12 reprogrammed or transferred back into the general fund, or any other
13 account. Expenditure authority shall lie with the Secretary of the
14 Department of Finance for enforcement purposes.

15 **Section 8. Reporting Requirement.** The Department of Finance, shall
16 report funds received from this Act, on an annual basis with their budget
17 submissions as well as in their respective Citizen-Centric Report. The penalty for
18 not reporting will be the suspension of funds for the next fiscal year.

19 **Section 9. Ban.** One year from effective date of this Act, no seller shall
20 import or sell or distribute to consumers any type of plastic bag as defined herein
21 in Section 101. Any entity found in violation of this Section shall be subject to

1 penalties pursuant to Section 7 of this Chapter. All fees collected pursuant to this
2 Chapter shall be deposited in the "Enforcement Efforts" special account, pursuant
3 to Section 7 (c) of this chapter. The CNMI Department of Customs and Quarantine
4 shall be responsible for enforcing this section.

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

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

17 **Section 12. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
18 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 4/20/2021

Date: 4/20/2021

Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Sheila J. Babauta

HOUSE BILL 22-56, HS1

/s/ Rep. Leila H.F.C. Staffler

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Joseph L.G. Taijeron, Jr.
House Legal Counsel