



RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor

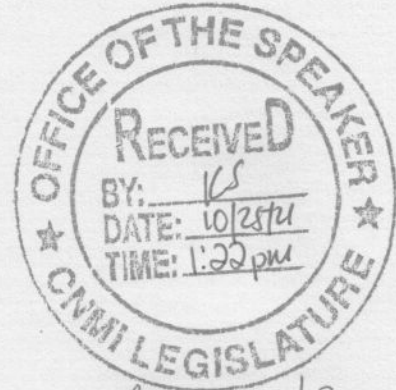
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
Lieutenant Governor

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

25 OCT 2021

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

The Honorable Jude U. Hofschneider  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950



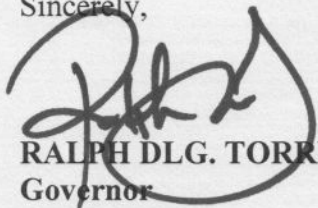
10/25/21

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 22-12** entitled, "To amend 4 CMC § 51420 (b) to authorized the Secretary of Commerce to establish and promulgate reasonable registration and permitting fees through adopted regulations; and for other purposes." which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

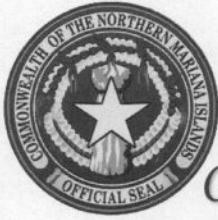
This bill becomes **Public Law No. 22-10**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor

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

HOUSE CLERK'S OFC  
RECEIVED BY [Signature]  
DATE 10/25/2021 TIME 2:49 PM



*Twenty-Second Legislature  
of the  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**FEBRAURY 19, 2021**

REPRESENTATIVE IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, and John Paul P. Sablan,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 22-12**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 4 CMC § 51420 (B) TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO ESTABLISH AND PROMULGATE REASONABLE REGISTRATION AND PERMITTING FEES THROUGH ADOPTED REGULATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, which submitted Standing Committee Report 22-13; adopted 6/16/2021.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JUNE 16, 2021;  
*without amendments* and transmitted to  
THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 22-43; adopted 9/14/2021.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021;  
*without amendments* was returned to  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON JUNE 16, 2021.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda B. Muña".

**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**



*Twenty-Second Legislature*  
*of the*  
*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

FIRST DAY, THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

JUNE 16, 2021

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**H. B. No. 22-12**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 4 CMC § 51420 (B) TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO ESTABLISH AND PROMULGATE REASONABLE REGISTRATION AND PERMITTING FEES THROUGH ADOPTED REGULATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2           The Commonwealth Legislature finds that Public Law 19-28, § 2 (101)–(102)  
3 (Dec. 18, 2015), codified under 4 CMC, § 51420, requires each vehicle belonging to tour  
4 companies be registered and issued a permit by the Department of Commerce so that they will  
5 be accounted for within the Commonwealth, most especially those that provide services for  
6 profit. However, Public Law 19-28 did not provide clarity with respect to how the Department  
7 of Commerce will establish reasonable registration and permitting fees.

HOUSE BILL 22-12

1 Therefore, the purpose of this legislation is to amend 4 CMC, § 51420 (b), to empower  
2 the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate and establish through adopted regulations reasonable  
3 registration and permitting fees, and for other purposes.

4 SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.

5 4 CMC § 51420 (b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 “(b) Consistent with this Section, the Secretary of Commerce shall have the  
7 authority to promulgate and establish reasonable registration and permitting fees  
8 through adopted regulations for the following vehicles belonging to tour operators:

9 (1) Any vehicle registered under the tour operator that provides services for  
10 profit.

11 (c) Disposition of Registration and Permitting Fees. The Secretary of Finance  
12 shall establish a Commerce Revolving Fund Account which shall be accounted for  
13 separately from the General Fund. The funds deposited into the revolving account shall  
14 be exclusively used for the purpose of the administration of tour operator registration  
15 and permitting program, enforcement, training and outreach programs, and shall also  
16 be administered for personnel compensation such as overtime and night differential  
17 during special inspection assignments issued by the Secretary of Commerce.

18 The expenditure authority over the revolving account pursuant to this Act is  
19 vested in the Secretary of Commerce. The funds deposited in the revolving account  
20 shall be available for expenditure without further appropriation and without fiscal year  
21 limitations.

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**HOUSE BILL 22-12**

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1           (d) The Secretary of Commerce shall submit a report describing the account  
2           status, deposits and detail expenditure of the revolving account established under  
3           subsection (c) of this section. The report shall be submitted not later than 30 days after  
4           June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year to the chairpersons of the House Standing Committee on  
5           Ways and Means and the Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs.”

6           **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

11          **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**


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

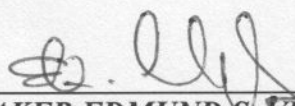
HOUSE BILL 22-12

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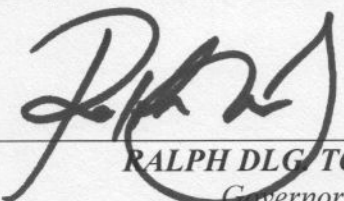
**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by:   
**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**

Certified by:   
**SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILAGOMEZ**  
House of Representatives  
22<sup>nd</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021

  
**RALPH DLG TORRES**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands