

Arnold I. Palacios
Governor



David M. Apatang
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

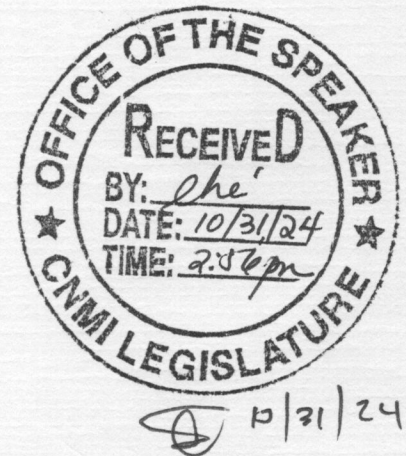
31 OCT 2024

GOV. COMM: 23-198
(HOUSE)

GOV2025-064

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

The Honorable Edith E. Deleon Guerrero
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950



Dear Mr. Speaker and Madame President:

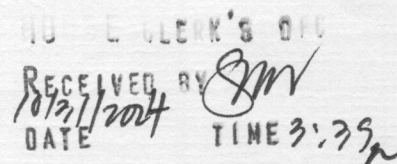
This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 23-99, SD1**, entitled, "To require all vessels and/or motor boats to possess and utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS).", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 23-28**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety; Public Auditor;
Office of Personnel Management; Special Assistant for Administration;
Programs and Legislative Review Office





**TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANA COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

THIRD REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 16, 2024

REPRESENTATIVE VINCENT R. S. ALDAN OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Manny G. T. Castro, Marissa R. Flores, Julie M. A. Ogo, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, and Ralph N. Yumul) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 23-99, SD1

AN ACT

**TO REQUIRE ALL VESSELS AND/OR MOTORBOATS TO
POSSESS AND UTILIZE A GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM
(GPS).**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, which submitted Standing Committee Report 23-74, adopted 3/28/2024.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, MARCH 28, 2024;
without amendments and transmitted to THE SENATE.**


IN THE SENATE

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, which submitted Standing Committee Report 23-105, adopted 9/18/2024.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024;
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 23-99, SD1 and returned to THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES.**

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. No. 23-99, SD1 during its 3rd Day, Fourth Regular Session on September 24, 2024.

**H. B. NO. 23-99, SD1 IS DULY PASSED BY THE TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE.**



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THIRD DAY, FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

H. B. No. 23-99, SD1

AN ACT

**TO REQUIRE ALL VESSELS AND/OR MOTORBOATS TO POSSESS
AND UTILIZE A GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS).**

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

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 The Legislature finds that nowadays in the CNMI, the use of commercial
3 and/or personal vessels/motorboats are constantly operating in and out of the
4 water on a regular basis, whether it be commercial shipping trade, commercialized
5 or personal subsistence fishing, tourism and marine sports activities. The
6 Legislature further finds that pursuant to 3 CMC §5451, there is a set of required
7 equipment that is necessary to operate such boats. Due to the occurrences of
8 vessels/motorboats being lost at sea within the CNMI, it is evident that there is a
9 need to include a Global Positioning System (GPS) within such requirements. The
10 Legislature finds that by providing GPS real-time visibility of each
11 vessel/motorboat's precise location, it would significantly enhance safe navigation,

HOUSE BILL 23-99, SD1

1 transparency, operational efficiency, and security throughout the entire maritime
2 industry of the CNMI.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to require all vessels and/or motorboats
4 to possess and utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS).

5 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

6 3 CMC §5451 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended by adding a
7 new subsection (i) to read as follows:

8 **“§5451. Classification and Required Equipment.**

9 (i) *Global Positioning System (GPS)*. Every vessel and/or motorboat
10 shall carry and utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS). For the purpose
11 of this section, “Global Positioning System (GPS)” shall mean a network of
12 satellites and receiving devices used to determine the location of something
13 and/or someone on Earth.”

14 **SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTATION.**

15 The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate regulations to
16 implement the provisions of this Act and require vessels and/or motor boats to
17 comply with the global position systems requirement within six months of the
18 effective date of this Act.

19 **SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

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

25 **SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

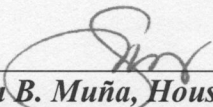
26 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as
27 affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
28 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.

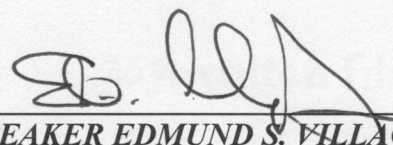
HOUSE BILL 23-99, SD1

1 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or
2 pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of
3 terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
4 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

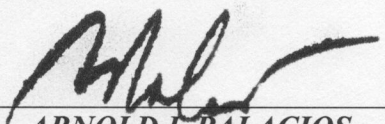
5 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

Attested to by: 
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by: 
SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
House of Representatives
23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 31st day of October, 2024


ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands