



TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UTILITIES,
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

VINCENT R. S. ALDAN

CHAIRMAN

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-74

DATE: February 28, 2024

RE: House Bill No. 23-99

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications to which was referred:

House Bill No. 23-99:

“To require all vessels and/or motorboats to possess and utilize a Global Positioning System.”

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your committee recommends that the House passes House Bill No. 23-99 in its current form.

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

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RECEIVED BY *Sny*
DATE *3/15/2024* TIME *12:13p*

The purpose of House Bill No. 23-99 is to require all vessels and/or motorboats to possess and utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS).

B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds it necessary that every vessel and/or motorboat shall carry and utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS). For the purpose of this section, “Global Positioning System (GPS)” refers to a network of satellites and receiving devices used to determine the location of something and/or someone on Earth.” Your Committee finds that nowadays in the CNMI, the use of commercial and/or personal vessels/motorboats are constantly operating in and out of the water on a regular basis, whether it be commercial shipping trade, commercialized or personal subsistence fishing, tourism and marine sports activities. Your Committee further finds that pursuant to 3 CMC §5451, there is a set of required equipment that is necessary to operate such boats. Due to the occurrences of vessels/motorboats being lost at sea within the CNMI, it is evident that there is a need to include a Global Positioning System (GPS) within such requirements.

The Legislature finds that by providing GPS real-time visibility of each vessel/motorboat’s precise location, it would significantly enhance safe navigation, transparency, operational efficiency, and security throughout the entire maritime industry of the CNMI. Therefore, your Committee agrees with the intent and purpose of House Bill 23-99 and recommends the House pass the legislation in its current form.

C. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

In a public meeting held on February 28, 2024, the Committee received written comments from the following:

- Adrian T. Mendiola, Police Sergeant, CNMI Department of Public Safety (Saipan). Comments dated February 16, 2024.

“I am in full support of the bill you are looking to introduce. I think it is a great idea.”

- Perry K. Mesngon, Concerned Citizen of Rota. Comments dated February 16, 2024.

“Personally, this type of bill will be a “Life Saving” cause, to all boaters or occupants that are actively on water especially further out in the open ocean.”

D. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 23-99 was introduced by Representative Vincent S. Aldan on February 16, 2024 and was subsequently referred to the House Standing Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications for disposition.

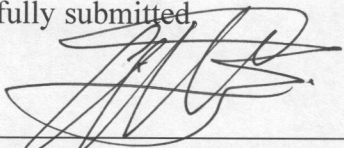
E. Cost Benefit:

The enactment of House Bill No. 23-99, will not result in additional costs to the CNMI for the intent of the proposed legislation.

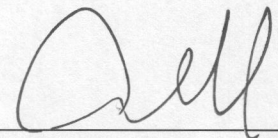
III. CONCLUSION:

The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 23-99 and recommends its passage in its current form.

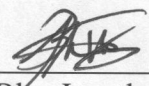
Respectfully submitted,



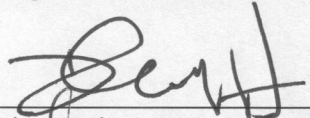
Rep. Vincent S. Aldan, Chairman




Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Vice Chair



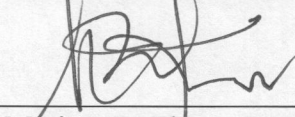
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Member



Rep. Diego Vincent F. Camacho, Member

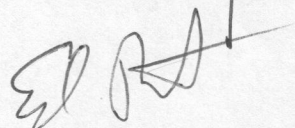


Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro, Member



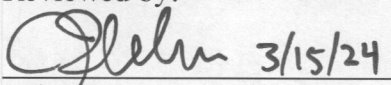
Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Member

Rep. Julie Marie A. Ogo, Member



Rep. Edwin K. Propst, Member

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Member

Reviewed by:
 3/15/24

House Legal Counsel

Good morning sir!

My name is Perry K. Mesngon residing on Rota and an avid boat fisherman and a Boating Safety officer. Little experiences background, I had responded to numerous calls of distressed vessels requesting for assistance around Rota. I've worked alongside U.S. Coast Guard when communicating of possible location when responding to emergency situations. Now adays we have sophisticated technologies that are life savings. I was brief of your interest and intent of proposing a bill for a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) requirement on board a vessel that operates on the water during any type of activities. Personally, this type of bill will be a "Life Saving" cause, to all boaters or occupants that are actively on water especially further out in the open ocean. I give my utmost support for the following reasons:

- Give an exact location of emergency response
- Lessen time response of responders by obtaining exact information (Latitude & Longitude from GPS)
- Lessen operational expense for search (fuel, manpower, agency, etc.)
- and most importantly, it's a "Life Saving Equipment"



Perry K. Mesngon- Concerned Citizen of Rota



Nick Rabauliman <nrabauliman1412@gmail.com>

Fwd: GPS device

1 message

Vincent Aldan <vincent.s.aldan@gmail.com>
To: Nick Rabauliman <nrabauliman1412@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 1, 2024 at 11:53 PM

Respectfully, and Sincerely,

Mr. Aldan Vincent S
23rd CNMI Legislative Representative
USN (Ret.)
OSHA Authorized Trainer Construction Industry (University of Washington)
OSHA Authorized Trainer General Industry (University of Washington)
Construction Safety & Health Specialist (University of Washington)
Certified Professional Inspector (InterNACHI)

"If you think it's expensive to hire a professional to do the job, wait until you hire an amateur."

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **adrian mendiola** <mendiolaatmdre@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 16, 2024 at 10:05 AM
Subject: GPS device
To: <vincent.s.aldan@gmail.com>

Good morning Rep Aldan,

My name is Sgt Adrian T. Mendiola I have been with the Department of Public Safety for about 14 years . Serving 8 years in the boating safety division. I have participated and conducted hundreds plus search and rescue mission working along side with the coast guard sector Guam . I was a rescue diver and boat captain .

I am in full support of this bill you are looking to introduce . I think this is a great idea . In my experience with search and rescue , having a gps device on board greatly increases your chance of being rescued out there in the waters . It makes a different of turning a three days search into a 30 to an hour rescue . We have had a 100 percent success in rescuing vessels equipped with a gps device. In addition to the advantages of this device is that it will also bring down the cost of search and rescue on regards to the amount of assets deployed to conduct a search and rescue . A three day search costs the government thousands of dollars each day assets are deployed . Bring the time down will save the government a lot of money not to mention the lives that will be saved aswell . I understand that we cannot put a price on safety and money should never be an issue when it comes to a rescue mission but there are a lot of benefits to this bill you are looking to pass . In regards to stats I know boating safety has enough stats to support this bill and I'm sure coastguard will be in full support aswell . If you have any questions pls feel free to contact me at +16704842628 I am willing to discuss and bring up other benefits to help you with this bill
Thank you

REFERRED TO: PUTC 2/20/202
(HOUSE)

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 16, 2024

Third Reg. Session, 2024

H. B. 23- 29-99

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To require all vessels and/or motorboats to possess and utilize a
Global Positioning System (GPS).

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 23RD NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that nowadays in
2 the CNMI, the use of commercial and/or personal vessels/motorboats are constantly
3 operating in and out of the water on a regular basis, whether it be commercial
4 shipping trade, commercialized or personal subsistence fishing, tourism and marine
5 sports activities. The Legislature further finds that pursuant to 3 CMC §5451, there
6 is a set of required equipment that is necessary to operate such boats. Due to the
7 occurrences of vessels/motorboats being lost at sea within the CNMI, it is evident
8 that there is a need to include a Global Positioning System (GPS) within such
9 requirements. The Legislature finds that by providing GPS real-time visibility of
10 each vessel/motorboat's precise location, it would significantly enhance safe

1 navigation, transparency, operational efficiency, and security throughout the entire
2 maritime 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.** 3 CMC §5451 is hereby amended by adding a new
6 subsection (i) to read as follows:

7 **“§5451. Classification and Required Equipment.**

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

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


18 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
19 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
20 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
21 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding

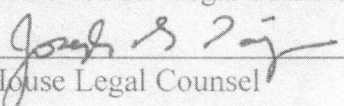
1 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
2 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
3 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

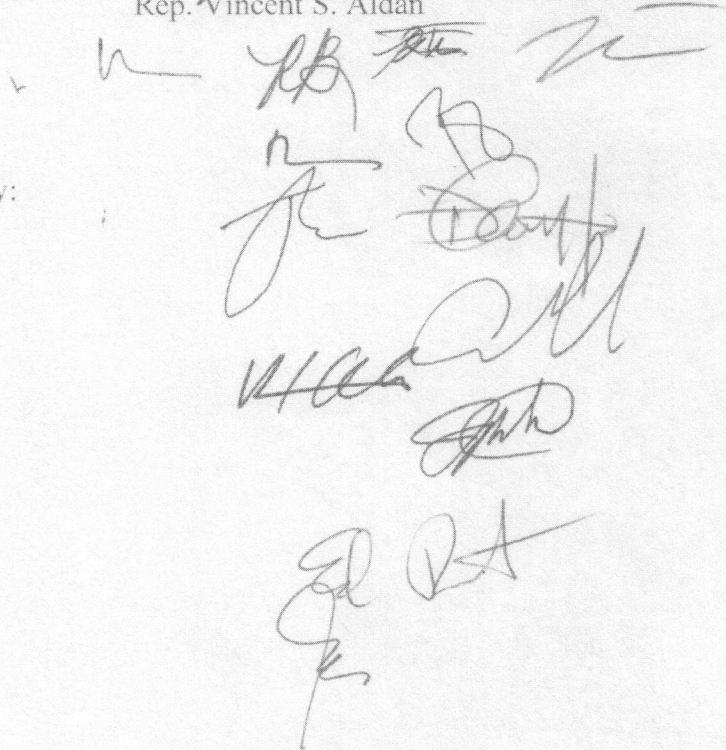
4 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
5 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Intro
Filed: 2/16/2024

Date: _____

Introduced by: 
Rep. Vincent S. Aldan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

House Legal Counsel






HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
 HONORABLE JESUS P. MAFNAS MEMORIAL BUILDING
 P. O. BOX 500586
 SAIPAN, MP 96950

EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
SPEAKER

HOUSE
 FILE

MEMORANDUM

DATE : February 20, 2024
TO : CHAIRMAN VINCENT R.S. ALDAN, PUTC COMMITTEE
FROM : SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ 
SUBJECT : Referral of Legislation

In accordance with Rule IX, Section 8, I hereby refer the following measure for the Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee's review:

H. B. No. 23-99: To require all vessels and/or motorboats to possess and utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS). Introduced by Rep. 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)

The Committee has 60 days to submit a written report on the legislation; therefore, I urge the Committee to review promptly the aforementioned legislation.

cc: Senate President
 House Members
 LB Director
 House Clerk

Done 2/20/24
pm