



**Arnold I. Palacios**  
Governor

**David M. Apatang**  
Lieutenant Governor

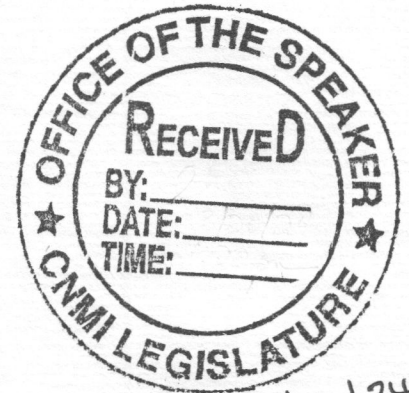
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

18 MAR 2024

GOV 2024-304

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



3/20/24

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madame President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 23-61**, entitled, "To establish a right of survivorship for certain causes of action.", 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. 23-17**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Governor

HOUSE CLERK'S OFC  
RECEIVED BY   
DATE 3/20/2024 TIME 3:49p

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;  
Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration  
Programs and Legislative Review Office



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

**THIRD SPECIAL SESSION**

**JUNE 28, 2023**

**REPRESENTATIVE JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 2** (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R.S. Aldan, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Manny G. T. Castro, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Patrick H. San Nicolas, 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. 23-61**

**AN ACT**

**TO ESTABLISH A RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP FOR CERTAIN  
CAUSES OF ACTION.**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

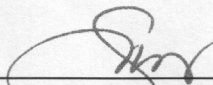
The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 7, 2023;**  
*without amendments* and transmitted to **THE SENATE.**

**IN THE SENATE**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, FEBRUARY 9, 2024;**  
*without amendments* and returned to **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**H. B. No. 23-61 IS DULY PASSED BY THE TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE.**

  
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Linda B. Muña, House Clerk





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

FIRST DAY, FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 7, 2023

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**H. B. No. 23-61**

**AN ACT**

TO ESTABLISH A RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP FOR CERTAIN  
CAUSES OF ACTION.

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

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

2           Many jurisdictions recognize a right of survivorship for causes of action in civil  
3           lawsuits brought by an injured person who subsequently dies before the cause of action has  
4           been resolved. Hawaii, for example, has adopted standardized language for recognizing a right  
5           of survivorship. HI Rev. Stat. § 663-7 (2015). This bill applies that same language to recognize  
6           such a right in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In addition, in  
7           order to provide a fair period of transition, the application of the right of survivorship is applied  
8           retroactively to cases pending within a year of the effective date of this act.

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**HOUSE BILL 23-61**

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**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

Title 7 (Civil Procedure), Division 2 (Actions and Special Proceedings), Chapter 6 (Survival of Actions) of the Commonwealth Code is amended to add a new § 2602 as follows:

**“§ 2602. Survival of Actions Following Death of Injured Person.**

A cause of action arising out of a wrongful act, neglect, or default, except a cause of action for defamation or malicious prosecution, shall not be extinguished by reason of the death of the injured person. The cause of action shall survive in favor of the legal representative of the person and any damages recovered shall form part of the estate of the deceased.”

**SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

**SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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




HOUSE BILL 23-61

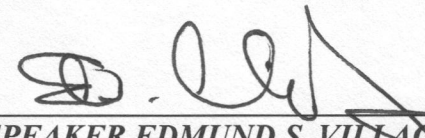
1           SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

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


Attested to by:

  
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**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**

Certified by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ**  
House of Representatives  
23<sup>rd</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 202~~3~~<sup>4</sup>

  
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**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands