



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

CELINA R. BABAUTA

CHAIRPERSON

JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Adopted - 12/17/2022 ✓
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 22-61
DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2022
RE: H.B. 22-104

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 Judiciary and Governmental Operations to which was referred:

H. B. No. 22-104:

“To amend Title 1, Division 8 of the Commonwealth Code by adding a new Chapter to enact provisions associated with public corruption, official misconduct, other unlawful influence and related offenses for public officials; and for other purposes.”

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that H. B. No. 22-104 be passed by the House in the form of House Draft 1.

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY *Smv*
DATE 12/22/2022
TIME 11:52am

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of House Bill No. 22-104 is to amend Title 1, Division 8 of the Commonwealth Code by adding a new Chapter to enact provisions associated with public corruption, official misconduct, other unlawful influence and related offenses for public officials and for other purposes.

B. Amendments:

In addition to non-substantive technical amendments, the Committee made the following amendments to strengthen the intent of House Bill No. 22-104.

- Page 1
 - Line 1 of the title, after the word “Title”:
 - **Delete** “1, Division 8”
 - **Insert** “6”
 - Line 3 of the title, after the word “corruption,”:
 - **Delete** “official misconduct”
- Page 2
 - Line 5, after the word “Title”:
 - **Delete** “1, Division 8”
 - **Insert** “6”
 - Line 7, after the word “corruption,”:
 - **Delete** “official misconduct”
 - Line 10, after the word “Title”:
 - **Delete** “1, Division 8”
 - **Insert** “6”
- Page 3
 - Line 7:
 - **Delete** “(e) “Public servant” or “Public Official” means any officer, member, or employee of the

legislative, executive, or judicial branches of the Commonwealth or of any governmental instrumentality of the Commonwealth, any juror, any persons exercising the functions of any such position, or any referee, arbitrator, hearing officer, or other person authorized by law to hear or determine any question or controversy. It includes a person who has been elected, appointed, or designated to become a public servant/official, and, in the case of a juror, a person who has been drawn, empaneled, or designated to attend as a prospective grand or petit juror.

§ 102. Giving of Bribes to a Public Servant; Defined and Penalty.

- (a) Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the contrary, a person is punishable by imprisonment for any term of not more than 5 years or less than 1 year if he/she offers, confers upon, or agrees to confer upon a public servant any benefit as consideration for his/her performance of an official function.
- (b) In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon conviction, any public servant convicted of a crime pursuant to § 102 shall also be punished by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).

§103. Receiving and Giving Bribes from a Public Servant; Defined and Penalty; Building Inspectors.

- (a) Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the contrary, a public servant/public official is punishable by imprisonment for any term of not more than 3 years or less than 1 year if he/she solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit from another person as consideration for his/her performance of an official function; provided, however, that if such public servant is a building inspector, performing in his/her capacity as a

building inspector, under the CNMI Building Safety Code pursuant to 2 CMC § 7101 et seq., he/she is punishable by imprisonment for any term of not more than 5 years or less than 1 year. A person is punishable by imprisonment for any term of not more than 5 years or less than 1 year if he/she offers or agrees to offer any benefit to a public servant as consideration for such public servant's performance of an official function.

(b) In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon conviction, any person convicted of a crime pursuant to § 103 shall also be punished by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).”

- Page 5
 - Line 5, after the character “§”:
 - **Delete** “104.”
 - **Insert** “102.”
- Page 6
 - Line 1, after the character “§”:
 - **Delete** “105.”
 - **Insert** “103.”
 - Line 13, after the character “§”:
 - **Delete** “106.”
 - **Insert** “104.”
- Page 7
 - Line 3, after the character “§”:
 - **Delete** “107.”
 - **Insert** “105.”
 - Line 14, after the character “§”:
 - **Delete** “108.”
 - **Insert** “106.”

- Page 8
 - §109 is deleted in its entirety.
- Page 9
 - Line 20, after the character “§”:
 - **Delete** “110.”
 - **Insert** “107.”
 - Line 13, after the character “§”:
 - **Delete** “106.”
 - **Insert** “104.”
- Page 11
 - Line 20, after the character “§”:
 - **Delete** “111.”
 - **Insert** “108.”
- Page 12
 - Line 20, after the character “§”:
 - **Delete** “112.”
 - **Insert** “109.”

C. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that public service is a tremendous honor granted to special individuals who are obligated to provide any service intended to address specific needs pertaining to the aggregate members of the community. Many of these public servants/officials, both elected and non-elected, are responsible for maintaining the integrity of our government and must hold themselves to a higher standard than your average citizen. Cognizant of such noble regards, a public servant/official must refrain from any and all acts associated with corruption, such as bribery, extortion, confidential criminal justice information disclosure, and so forth. Commitment of these acts by a public servant/official is a complete betrayal of the public’s trust and must be penalized accordingly. The well-being and trust of the members of our communities must not be betrayed for personal gain in any way, shape or form.

Your Committee further finds that that pursuant to federal statute, specifically 18 USC §201 (Bribery of public officials and witnesses), it illegal to engage in bribery with any public official both as a recipient of such bribe or as the issuer.¹ Furthermore, pursuant to the the

¹ <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/201>

Hobbs Act, codified as 18 USC §1951, it is illegal to obstruct, delay, or affect commerce or the movement of any article or commodity in commerce, by robbery or extortion.² Your Committee finds that it is of great importance to establish laws parallel with these federal regulations to prevent all public servants/officials to engage in such heinous acts. As a territory of the United States, we are obligated to follow federal guidelines as well as reserve the right to establish our own laws in regards to public corruption. Acts of Corruption must not be allowed to prevail and plague our communities.

It is the intent of your Committee to amend the proposed legislation to move the proposed provisions into Title 6 instead of Title 1 and to remove language that currently exists in our laws. Your Committee further intends to leave provisions that do not exist in our laws as of present. Therefore, your Committee agrees with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 22-104 and recommends its passage in the form of House Draft 1.

D. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

The Committee received comments from the following:

- Vina Seelam, Assistant Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender (Oral)

Ms. Seelam has stated that there are existing laws pertaining to corruption and has requested that the Committee solicit additional comments.

- Mr. Joseph Palacios, Private Citizen (Oral)

Mr. Palacios supports the proposed legislation.

E. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 22-104 was introduced by Representative Vicente C. Camacho on June 13, 2022 to the full body of the House and was referred to the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for disposition.

F. Cost Benefit:

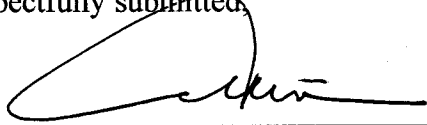
The enactment of House Bill No. 22-104, HD1 will result in additional cost to the CNMI government due to the need for additional resources (staff, trainings, etc.) that are necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Act. However, the benefits of preventing public officials to engage in corrupted activities heavily outweigh the costs.

² <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1951>

III. CONCLUSION:

The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H. B. NO. 22-104, and recommends its passage in the form of House Draft 1.

Respectfully submitted,



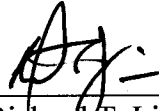
Rep. Celina R. Babauta, Chairperson



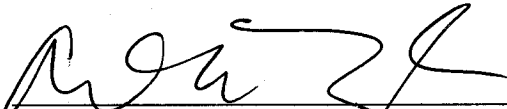
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Vice Chair



Rep. Vicente C. Camacho, Member



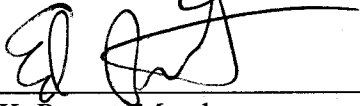
Rep. Richard T. Lizama, Member



Rep. Donald M. Manglona, Member



Rep. Christina M.E. Sablan, Member



Rep. Edwin K. Propst, Member

Reviewed by:



House Legal Counsel

**HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-SECOND CNMI LEGISLATURE**

VOICE/ROLL CALL VOTE

DATE: 12/15/22

MOTION: TO PASS HOUSE BILL 22-104 IN THE FORM OF HOUSE DRAFT 1 AND TO PRODUCE A COMMITTEE REPORT.

MOTION OFFERED BY: Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao


MOTION SECONDED BY: Rep. Christina M.E. Sablan

	NAME	YES	NO	OTHER
1	Chair Celina R. Babauta	X		
2	Vice Chair Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	X		
3	Representative Vicente C. Camacho	X		
4	Representative Richard T. Lizama	X		
5	Representative Donald M. Manglona	X		
6	Representative Christina M.E. Sablan	X		
7	Representative Edwin K. Propst	X		
TOTAL		7		

(ROLL CALL) ACTION TAKEN: Chair declares that all 7 Members present voted yes (will be reflected in the voting box above) and the motion is carried.


Cameron Nicholas, House Legislative Assistant

Date: 12/20/22

Concurred by:

Rep. Celina R. Babauta, Chair

Date: 12/21/22

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2022

Third Special Session, 2022

H. B. 22-104, HD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Title 1, ~~Division 8~~ 6 of the Commonwealth Code by adding a new Chapter to enact provisions associated with public corruption, ~~official misconduct~~, other unlawful influence and related offenses for public officials; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be cited as the “CNMI Public Servant
2 Anti-Corruption Act of 2022”.

3 **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that public service
4 is a privilege entrusted to certain individuals, commonly referred to as public
5 servants and/or public officials, to provide service to all members of the
6 community. Cognizant of such an honorable privilege, these individuals, whether
7 elected or appointed, are regarded in the highest esteem as they are intended to
8 serve for the common good of the general population. The Legislature further finds
9 that as public servants/public officials, they must be held to a standard
10 commensurate to the high esteem in which they are held. In essence, it is the intent
11 of this legislation to provide a more stringent penalty for public servants/public

1 officials and involved parties for committing acts of corruption, such as bribery,
2 unlawful influence, use of information for private gain, official misconduct, and so
3 forth. These deplorable acts are a complete and utter betrayal of the public's trust
4 and must be punished accordingly.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend Title ~~1, Division 8~~ 6 of the
6 Commonwealth Code by adding a new Chapter to enact provisions associated with
7 public corruption, ~~official misconduct~~, other unlawful influence and related
8 offenses for public officials and for other purposes.

9 **Section 3. Amendment.** Subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision
10 Commission, Title ~~1, Division 8~~ 6 is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter to
11 read as follows:

12 **“CHAPTER XX. CNMI Public Servant Anti-Corruption Act.**

13 **§ 101. Definitions.**

14 As used in this Chapter:

15 (a) “Benefit” means any gain or advantage, or anything regarded by
16 the beneficiary as gain or advantage, including a benefit to any other person
17 or entity in whose welfare the beneficiary is interested other than the
18 beneficiary's lawful compensation.

19 (b) “Official function” means any decision, opinion,
20 recommendation, vote or other exercise of discretion or performance of
21 duty of a public servant in a lawful or unlawful manner.

1 (c) "Pecuniary benefit" means benefit in the form of money,
2 property, commercial interests, or anything else the primary significance of
3 which is economic gain.

4 (d) "Public contractor" means any person who has entered a contract
5 with a government entity, or any officer or employee of a person who has
6 entered a contract with a government entity.

7 ~~(e) "Public servant" or "Public Official" means any officer, member,~~
8 ~~or employee of the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of the~~
9 ~~Commonwealth or of any governmental instrumentality of the~~
10 ~~Commonwealth, any juror, any persons exercising the functions of any such~~
11 ~~position, or any referee, arbitrator, hearing officer, or other person~~
12 ~~authorized by law to hear or determine any question or controversy. It~~
13 ~~includes a person who has been elected, appointed, or designated to become~~
14 ~~a public servant/official, and, in the case of a juror, a person who has been~~
15 ~~drawn, empaneled, or designated to attend as a prospective grand or petit~~
16 ~~juror.~~

17 **~~§ 102. Giving of Bribes to a Public Servant; Defined and Penalty.~~**

18 ~~(a) Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the~~
19 ~~contrary, a person is punishable by imprisonment for any term of not more~~
20 ~~than 5 years or less than 1 year if he/she offers, confers upon, or agrees to~~

1 ~~confer upon a public servant any benefit as consideration for his/her~~
2 ~~performance of an official function.~~

3 ~~(b) In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon~~
4 ~~conviction, any public servant convicted of a crime pursuant to § 102 shall~~
5 ~~also be punished by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)~~
6 ~~and not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).~~

7 ~~**§103. Receiving and Giving Bribes from a Public Servant;**~~
8 ~~**Defined and Penalty; Building Inspectors.**~~

9 ~~(a) Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the~~
10 ~~contrary, a public servant/public official is punishable by imprisonment for~~
11 ~~any term of not more than 3 years or less than 1 year if he/she solicits,~~
12 ~~accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit from another person as~~
13 ~~consideration for his/her performance of an official function; provided,~~
14 ~~however, that if such public servant is a building inspector, performing in~~
15 ~~his/her capacity as a building inspector, under the CNMI Building Safety~~
16 ~~Code pursuant to 2 CMC § 7101 et seq., he/she is punishable by~~
17 ~~imprisonment for any term of not more than 5 years or less than 1 year. A~~
18 ~~person is punishable by imprisonment for any term of not more than 5 years~~
19 ~~or less than 1 year if he/she offers or agrees to offer any benefit to a public~~
20 ~~servant as consideration for such public servant's performance of an official~~
21 ~~function.~~

1 ~~(b) In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon~~
2 ~~conviction, any person convicted of a crime pursuant to § 103 shall also be~~
3 ~~punished by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and not~~
4 ~~more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).~~

5 **§104. 102. Unlawful Influence; Defined and Penalty.**

6 Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the contrary,
7 a person is punishable by imprisonment for any term of not more than 2
8 years or less than 1 year if:

9 (a) he/she offers, confers upon, or agrees to confer upon, another
10 person any benefit as consideration for improperly influencing or
11 attempting to influence a public servant in the performance of an official
12 function.

13 (b) He/she solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit from
14 another person as consideration for improperly influencing or attempting to
15 influence a public servant/public official in the performance of an official
16 function.

17 In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon
18 conviction, any person convicted of a crime pursuant to §104 shall also be
19 punished by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and not
20 more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).

1 **§ ~~105.~~ 103. Unlawful Influence by Extortion of a Public Servant;**
2 **Defined and Penalty.**

3 (a) Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the
4 contrary, a person is punishable by imprisonment for any term of not more
5 than 2 years or less than 1 year if he/she influences or attempts to influence
6 the performance of an official function by a public servant by any threat
7 which would constitute a means of committing the offense of theft by
8 extortion under this Code if such threat were employed to obtain property.

9 (b) In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon
10 conviction, any person convicted of a crime pursuant to § 104 shall also be
11 punished by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and not
12 more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).

13 **§ ~~106.~~ 104. Giving Gratuities for Past Services to a Public**
14 **Servant; Defined and Penalty.**

15 (a) Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the
16 contrary, a person is guilty of a misdemeanor if he/she offers, confers upon,
17 or agrees to confer upon, a public servant/public official any pecuniary
18 benefit for having performed an official function in a manner favorable to
19 him/her, or having violated his/her duty.

20 (b) In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon
21 conviction, any person convicted of a crime pursuant to § 106 shall also be

1 punished by a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) and not
2 more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000).

3 **§ 107. 105. Accepting Gratuities for Past Services from a Public**
4 **Servant; Defined and Penalty.**

5 (a) Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the
6 contrary, a public servant/public official is guilty of a misdemeanor if he/she
7 solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any pecuniary benefit for having
8 performed an official function in a manner favorable to another person, or
9 having violated his/her duty.

10 (b) In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon
11 conviction, any person convicted of a crime pursuant to § 106 shall also be
12 punished by a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) and not
13 more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000).

14 **§ 108. 106. Use of Information for Private Gain by a Public**
15 **Servant; Defined and Penalty.**

16 Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the contrary,
17 a public servant/public official is punishable by imprisonment for any term
18 of not more than 2 years or less than 1 year if, in contemplation of official
19 action by himself/herself or by a governmental unit with which he/she is
20 associated, or in reliance of information to which he/she has or has had

1 access in his/her official capacity, and which has not been made public
2 he/she:

3 (a) Acquires or divests himself of a pecuniary interest in any
4 property, transaction or enterprise which may be affected by such
5 information or official action;

6 (b) Speculates or wagers on the basis of such information or official
7 action; or

8 (c) Aids another to do any of the foregoing, while in office or after
9 leaving office with the intent of using such information.

10 In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon conviction, any
11 person convicted of a crime pursuant to § 108 shall also be punished by a
12 fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and not more than
13 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).

14 ~~§ 109. Official Misconduct of a Public Servant; Defined and~~
15 ~~Penalty.~~

16 ~~Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the contrary,~~
17 ~~a public servant/public official is punishable by imprisonment for any term~~
18 ~~of not more than 2 years or less than 1 year if with the intent to benefit~~
19 ~~himself/herself or another person or to harm another person or to deprive~~
20 ~~another person of a benefit:~~

1 ~~(a) He/she commits an act of relating to his office but constituting~~
2 ~~an unauthorized exercise of his official functions, knowing that such act is~~
3 ~~unauthorized;~~

4 ~~(b) He/she knowingly refrains from performing a duty which is~~
5 ~~imposed upon him/her by law or is clearly inherent in the nature of his/her~~
6 ~~office;~~

7 ~~(c) He/she falsifies, or causes another person to falsify, any official~~
8 ~~record or official document;~~

9 ~~(d) He/she conceals, covers up, destroys, mutilates, or alters any~~
10 ~~official record or official document, except as authorized by law or contract,~~
11 ~~or causes another person to perform such an act; or~~

12 ~~(e) He/she obstructs, delays, or prevents the communication of~~
13 ~~information relating to the commission of a felony that directly involves or~~
14 ~~affects the government entity served by the public servant/public official or~~
15 ~~public contractor.~~

16 ~~In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon~~
17 ~~conviction, any person convicted of a crime pursuant to § 109 shall also be~~
18 ~~punished by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and not~~
19 ~~more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).~~

20 **§ 410. 107. Bid Tampering by a Public Servant and/or a Public**
21 **Contractor.**

1 (a) It is unlawful for a public servant/public official or a public
2 contractor who has contracted with a governmental entity to assist in a
3 competitive procurement to knowingly and intentionally influence or
4 attempt to influence the competitive solicitation undertaken by any
5 governmental entity for the procurement of commodities or services, by:

6 (1) Disclosing, except as authorized by law, material information
7 concerning a vendor's response, any evaluation results, or other aspects of
8 the competitive solicitation when such information is not publicly disclosed.

9 (2) Altering or amending a submitted response, documents or other
10 materials supporting a response, or any evaluation results relating to the
11 competitive solicitation for the purpose of intentionally providing a
12 competitive advantage to any person who submits a response.

13 (b) It is unlawful for a public servant/public official or public
14 contractor who has contracted with a governmental entity to assist in a
15 competitive procurement to obtain a benefit knowingly and intentionally for
16 any person or to cause unlawful harm to another person by circumventing a
17 competitive solicitation process required by law or rule using a sole-source
18 contract for commodities or services.

19 (c) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly agree, conspire,
20 combine, or confederate, directly or indirectly, with a public servant/public
21 official or public contractor who has contracted with a governmental entity

1 to assist in a competitive procurement to violate § 110(a) and § 110(b) of
2 this Chapter.

3 (d) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly enter a contract for
4 commodities or services which was secured by a public servant/public
5 official or a public contractor who has been contracted with a governmental
6 entity to assist in a competitive procurement acting in violation of § 110(a)
7 and § 110(b) of this Chapter.

8 (e) A person is punishable by imprisonment for any term of not more
9 than 2 years or less than 1 year if they breach any of the violations pursuant
10 to § 110. In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court upon
11 conviction, any person convicted of a crime pursuant to § 110 shall also be
12 punished by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and not
13 more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).

14 **§ ~~111~~ 108. Disclosure or Use of Confidential Criminal Justice**
15 **Information by a Public Servant.**

16 Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the contrary,
17 it is unlawful for a public servant/public official, with the intent to obstruct,
18 impede, or prevent a criminal investigation or a criminal prosecution, to
19 disclose active criminal investigative or intelligence information or to
20 disclose or use information regarding either the efforts to secure or the
21 issuance of a warrant, subpoena, or other court process or court order

1 relating to a criminal investigation or criminal prosecution when such
2 information is not available to the general public and is gained by reason of
3 the public servant's/public official's official position. Any person who
4 violates this section is punishable by imprisonment for any term of not more
5 than 2 years or less than 1 year. In addition to any other penalty imposed by
6 the court upon conviction, any person convicted of a crime pursuant to §
7 111 shall also be punished by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars
8 (\$10,000) and not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).

9 **§ ~~112.~~ 109. Restitution and Community Service.**

10 Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the contrary,
11 a person who is convicted of any offense in this Chapter shall be ordered by
12 the sentencing judge to make restitution to the victim of the offense if, after
13 conducting a hearing, the judge finds that the victim suffered an actual
14 financial loss caused directly or indirectly by the person's offense or an
15 actual financial loss related to the person's criminal episode. A person who
16 is convicted of any offense in this Chapter shall also be ordered to perform
17 no less than two hundred fifty (250) hours of community service work.
18 Restitution and community service work shall be in addition to any fine or
19 sentence that may be imposed and shall not be in lieu thereof."

20 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of
21 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court

1 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
2 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
3 shall not be affected thereby.

4 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall
5 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired
6 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the
7 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted
8 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect
9 of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability civil or criminal, which shall
10 already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

11 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
12 the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 6/9/2022

Date: 6/9/2022

Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Vicente C. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Joel C. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Richard T. Lizama
/s/ Rep. Corina L. Magofna
/s/ Rep. Donald M. Manglona
/s/ Rep. Christina M.E. Sablan
/s/ Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai
/s/ Rep. Ralph N. Yumul

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ John B. Layde
House Legal Counsel