

Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Session, 2011

H. B. No. 17-157

A BILL FOR AN ACT

TO MANDATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
FILM, VIDEO AND MEDIA OFFICE THAT IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN
THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY (MVA).

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN
MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act may be cited as the "Commonwealth
2 Film & Media Amendment Act of 2011."

3 **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the
4 Commonwealth has been overlooked for film and media locations partly due to
5 the lack of an active Film and TV Media Office. This has been the case for two
6 major movies that depicted World War II action, "Wind Talkers" and "Oba: The
7 Last Samurai," which were filmed in Hawaii and Thailand.

8 The Legislature finds that the producers of these movies should have been
9 actively lobbied to shoot these movies on Saipan, where the historical action
10 actually took place. Besides, the actual locations being here on Saipan, the CNMI
11 and Saipan offer ideal weather conditions with clear sunny skies for filming. For
12 example, "Daijobu, My Friend," starring Peter Fonda, was filmed here on Saipan

1 in 1982, and it was responsible for excellent media exposure and a large budget
2 spent on the island for two months.

3 The Legislature finds that the MVA has not filled the position of Film
4 Office Manager, which needs immediate attention, in order to capitalize on the
5 tremendous tourism, media and financial benefits that the Commonwealth can
6 gain through the film and media industry.

7 **Section 3. Amendment.** Title 4, Division 2, Chapter 1 (Marianas Visitors
8 Authority), Article 5, Sections 2151(a) and 2156 of the Commonwealth Code is
9 amended as follows:

10 **§ 2151. Commonwealth Film, Video, and Media Office**
11 **Established.**

12 (a) There is established within the Marianas Visitors
13 Authority (MVA), a Commonwealth Film, Video and Media Office, to be
14 referred to as the Northern Mariana Islands Film Office (film office). A
15 Film Office Manager, selected through an interview process by the MVA
16 Managing Director shall administer the film office. The Film Office
17 Manager shall have substantial experience in film, video and media fields
18 and shall be exempt from the civil service system and shall be hired on a
19 ~~one~~ two-year government contract with an option to renew ~~one~~ two more
20 years.

21 **§ 2156. Funding and Staffing of Film Office.**

1 Supplemental funding for the operation of the film office
2 shall be appropriated by the Legislature. ~~MVA is authorized to hire up to~~
3 ~~two additional staff for the film office.~~ MVA shall restructure their budget
4 to hire a Film Office Manager. MVA will support the Film Office
5 Manager with its existing staff and resources until such a time that the
6 Legislature appropriates supplemental funding.

7 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of
8 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a
9 court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
10 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
11 shall not be affected thereby.

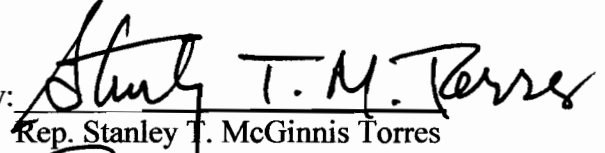
12 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
13 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
14 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
15 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act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

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

Prefiled: Feb. 09, 2011

Date: 2/9/11

Introduced By:


Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres



Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel