

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ Session, 2021

H. B. 22- 16

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To temporarily suspend the provisions of 4 CMC section 2159
for the 2021 fiscal year.

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

1 **Section 1. Legislative Findings.** The Legislature finds that the Marianas
2 Visitor's Authority is operating on an extremely tight budget due to the challenges
3 presented by COVID-19 and the other economic forces beyond its control. 4 CMC
4 section 2159 also provides that the Marianas Visitor's Authority must remit
5 900,000 total to the municipalities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This was an increase
6 from \$400,000 total from PL 18-1.

7 For purposes of providing MVA with critical funding, the instant legislation
8 temporarily suspends 4 CMC section 2159 for the 2021 fiscal year.

9 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code,
10 Section 2159 (a)

11 "§ 2159 (a). Municipalities of Tinian, Rota, and Saipan.

1 (a) Provided that not less than two percent for each municipality, ~~but~~
2 ~~not less than \$300,000 each, whichever is greater,~~ of the funds per fiscal
3 year from the MVA Trust Fund, shall be remitted to the Municipalities of
4 Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to be used to implement charter flight tourism
5 incentives, promotional programs, tourism enhancement activities,
6 beautification projects, island-wide cleanup, and to include purchasing
7 supplies and equipment for such projects. The expenditure authority of
8 these funds shall be the respective mayors of each island.”

9 **Section 3. Sunset Provision.** On September 30, 2021 the amendment set
10 forth in Section 2 of this Act shall expire, and 4 CMC section 2159 (a) shall revert
11 back to its original language prior to the enactment of this Act.”

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

17 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall
18 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired
19 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the
20 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted
21 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect

1 of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
2 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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

Prefiled: Feb. 4, 2021

Date: _____

Introduced by: _____

Rep. Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

J. Cool
House Legal Counsel