

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Session, 2021

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H. B. 22-17

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC § 2401 to authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to regulate chauffeur licenses in the CNMI; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 22<sup>ND</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that 9 CMC §  
2   2401 provides that no person may operate a vehicle as a chauffeur without a  
3   chauffeur license. However, Section 2401 does not clearly specify which  
4   government agency will regulate chauffer licenses unlike other licenses in the  
5   Vehicle Code. For example, 9 CMC § 2202 provides that vehicle operator's licenses  
6   shall be issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and 9 CMC § 2301 states that the  
7   Bureau of Taxicabs shall regulate the taxicab driver's licenses.

8           The Legislature further finds that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is  
9   the most appropriate government agency to regulate chauffer licenses in the  
10   Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). BMV currently regulates  
11   vehicle operator's licenses and vehicles, and chauffer licenses require the same  
12   basic requirements of operator's licenses in addition to other requirements.

1 Accordingly, the purpose of this legislation is to amend 9 CMC § 2401 to authorize  
2 the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to regulate chauffeur licenses in the CNMI.

3 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC § 2401 is hereby amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 **“§ 2401. Chauffeur’s License.**

6 (a) No person shall operate a vehicle as a chauffeur, as defined in 9  
7 CMC § 1102(c), without having on his or her person or in his or her  
8 immediate possession a valid chauffeur’s license issued by the Bureau of  
9 Motor Vehicles under this article. A chauffeur’s license authorizes the  
10 licensee to drive as an operator and as a chauffeur.

11 (b) In addition to those requirements for an operator’s license, every  
12 applicant for a chauffeur’s license must be at least 18 years old and shall be  
13 required to submit to an examination appropriate to the type of vehicle or  
14 combination of vehicles he desires a license to drive. The examination shall  
15 include a written examination and an actual demonstration of the ability to  
16 safely operate the vehicle(s).

17 ~~(c) The requirements set forth in 1 CMC § 2596(a)(6) are hereby~~  
18 ~~made applicable to~~ All applicants for chauffeur’s licenses shall be required  
19 to be insured under a general or public liability policy of insurance issued  
20 by a qualified insurance company licensed to do business in the  
21 Commonwealth, as follows:

1                   (i) A minimum coverage of \$50,000 for bodily injury or  
2                   death of any one person in any one accident;

3                   (ii) A minimum coverage of \$100,000 for bodily injury or  
4                   death of more than one person in any one accident; and

5                   (iii) A minimum coverage of \$30,000 for injury to or  
6                   destruction of property in any one accident, as well as uninsured  
7                   motorists coverage in the same amounts, unless otherwise provided  
8                   by law. The person with a chauffer license shall be held responsible  
9                   for compliance with this section.”

10           **Section 3. Regulations.** The Bureau of Motor Vehicles through the  
11 Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to  
12 implement the provisions of this Act.

13           **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision 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 5. 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 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
5 the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: Feb. 4, 2021

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by: \_\_\_\_\_

Rep. Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

J. Keel  
House Legal Counsel