

**Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Regular Session, 2021**

**H. B. 22-21**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To strengthen the tools and powers of the CNMI Government to promote and expand economic development and to establish the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority.

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

1           **Section 1. Short Title.** This act may be cited as the “Commonwealth  
2 Economic Development Authority Act of 2021”.

3           **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the  
4 Commonwealth economy requires a renewed focus on economic development  
5 and diversification to provide jobs, and economic opportunity to a community  
6 that has beleaguered with natural disasters, global crisis, and the lingering impacts  
7 of the wide-spread collapse of the manufacturing sector that has resulted in  
8 volatilities inherent within an undiversified economy.

9           The Legislature finds that a targeted focus of a single governmental entity  
10 to plan for and implement efforts to cultivate a stronger, more diversified  
11 economy for the Commonwealth is necessary in establishing competitiveness  
12 against locations vying for global investments.

1           The Legislature further finds that the Commonwealth Development  
2 Authority, since its establishment through the Commonwealth Development  
3 Authority Act of 1984, has succeeded in its statutory mandate over the course of  
4 the last 36 years. However, as global and regional economic landscapes change  
5 and industries evolve, there is a need to amend the statutory language for the  
6 challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

7           The purpose of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority is  
8 to be the primary agency tasked with the economic development of the  
9 Commonwealth, and to be empowered to undertake this mandate with the  
10 flexibility to become proactive in the pursuit of industries and investments that  
11 will strengthen the CNMI economy.

12           **Section 3. Global Amendment.** The references in Division 10 of Title 4  
13 and Chapter 13 of Division 5 of Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code and all  
14 references in any contract, Executive Order, rule, regulation or document to the  
15 “Commonwealth Development Authority” or “CDA” shall be amended to or read  
16 as the “Commonwealth Economic Development Authority” or “CEDA”.

17           **Section 4. Amendment.** Title 4, Division 10, Chapter 2, § 10203(a) is  
18 amended to add new subsections (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) to read as follows and to  
19 appropriately re-number subsequent subsections accordingly:

20           “(1) To assist in the development of the economic development plan for  
21 the Commonwealth, and control and implement that part of the plan assigned to it  
22 by the Governor of the CNMI.

1           (2) To be responsible for actively promoting the CNMI as a location for  
2 private investment.

3           (3) To promote and encourage the CNMI and development of new  
4 businesses within the Commonwealth, as well as promote the retention and  
5 expansion of existing businesses.

6           (4) To promote and encourage the expansion and development of market  
7 for the products of the CNMI and to encourage the establishment of commercial  
8 linkages of CNMI products within the CNMI tourism industry.

9           (5) To coordinate, develop, and participate in off-island investor missions  
10 to generate interest and investment in the CNMI, with emphasis on business  
11 investments from the United States of America.”

12           **Section 5. Amendment.** Title 4, Division 10, Chapter 3, § 10305 (b) is  
13 amended to add a new subsection (5) to read as follows and to appropriately re-  
14 number subsequent subsections accordingly:

15           “(5) To allocate and expend funds for the purposes of promotion of the  
16 CNMI as a location for private investment, the expansion and retention of  
17 existing businesses, the promotion and marketing of products of the CNMI, and  
18 the undertaking of promotional activities for CNMI investments in line with the  
19 economic development plan for the CNMI, inclusive of investor missions,  
20 entering into professional service agreements, and the establishment of off-island  
21 investment offices in accordance with the responsibilities of the Authority  
22 contained in 4 CMC § 10203;”

1           **Section 6. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of  
2 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a  
3 court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Act or the application of its  
4 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
5 shall not be affected thereby.

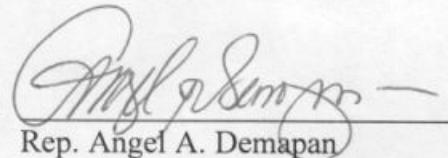
6           **Section 7. Savings clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
7 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
8 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted  
9 under the statutes. Repealers contained in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

13           **Section 8. Effective date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
14 the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

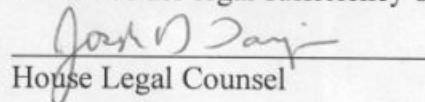
Prefiled: 2/12/2021

Date: 2/12/2021

Introduced By:

  
Rep. Angel A. Demapan

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel