

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2021

H. B. 22-23

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To enact provisions regarding confinement of dogs, enforcement authority to the office of the mayor for each senatorial district, and fines for registered pet owners who fail to secure their dogs; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that unattended
2 dogs are an exasperating issue in the CNMI. They can be found lingering along
3 roads, sidewalks, and private and public establishments. The Legislature further
4 finds that this issue has proven to portray a negative outlook to the CNMI. These
5 unattended dogs have proven to be a nuisance to both our tourists and our citizens.
6 The continuation of the lingering of unattended dogs continues to be a detrimental
7 issue for the CNMI, which will negatively affect businesses and residents of our
8 great Commonwealth.

9 The Legislature finds that some dogs have aggressive personalities. Upon
10 the feeling of being threatened, they react with aggression. Along with the
11 aggressive personalities is the increase in the likelihood of attacks, most especially

1 dog bites. The Legislature further finds that dog bites can cause serious infections,
2 which will require medical attention and care. Allowing for dogs to freely linger
3 around the island will make our pedestrians, both tourists and residents, prone to
4 these malicious attacks.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to enact provisions that will require the
6 secure confinement of unattended dogs, provide enforcement authority to the
7 appropriate agency, and establish penalties that will provide necessary funding for
8 operational and enforcement activities.

9 **Section 2. Enactment.** Subject to codification by the Commonwealth Law
10 Revision Commission, the following provisions shall hereby be enacted:

11 **“§101. Confinement of Pets.**

12 All legally registered and non-registered dog owners shall securely
13 confine their dog(s) within their premises and also confined said dog(s) to
14 a leash upon entering public property.

15 **§102. Enforcement Authority.**

16 The Office of the Mayor and the Department of Public Safety for
17 each respective senatorial district shall be responsible for enforcing the
18 provisions under this Act.

19 **§103. Promulgation of Rules and Regulations.**

20 The Office of the Mayor of each respective senatorial district shall
21 promulgate rules and regulations to enforce the provisions of this Act.

1 **§103. Penalty for Failure to Confine.**

2 Any legally registered and non-registered dog owner who:

3 (a) fails to comply with §101 of this Act shall be penalized
4 by a fine of no less than \$500; and/or

5 The expenditure authority for §103 of this Act shall be the Mayor(s)
6 of each senatorial districts.

7 **§104. Disposition of Fines.**

8 All fines collected pursuant to §103 of this Act shall be deposited
9 into a special account for each of the senatorial districts. The funds shall be
10 expended for the purpose of enhancing operation and enforcement activities
11 for confinement of unattended dogs. The expenditure authority shall be the
12 Mayor(s) of each senatorial districts.”

13 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions 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 4. 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

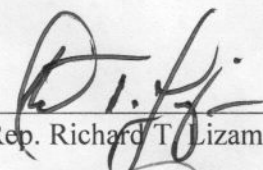
1 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
2 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
3 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

4 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
5 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

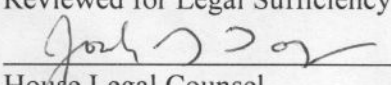
Prefiled: 2/14/2021

Date: 2/14/2021

Introduced by:


Rep. Richard T. Lizama

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel