

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

H. B. 22- 3

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC §2101(d) by requiring the motor vehicle liability insurance expiration to be consistent with the vehicle registration expiration; 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 in many  
2 cases, the expiration of the vehicle registration is dissimilar from the expiration of  
3 the motor vehicle liability insurance. Cognizant of the unfortunate and sometimes  
4 unforgiving events that may take place while operating a motor vehicle, the absence  
5 of a valid motor vehicle liability insurance, given that the registration of the vehicle  
6 is still valid, will prove to be problematic for the motorists in the near future. The  
7 Legislature further finds that by mirroring the two expirations of such necessary  
8 requirements in operating a vehicle, all motorists will be protected and covered  
9 from any unforeseeable circumstance that may cause serious financial and/or  
10 physical strains. Furthermore, it is imperative that the financial and physical well-  
11 being of our motorists are protected at all times especially while operating a vehicle.  
12           The Legislature also finds that many motorists in the Commonwealth

1 possess two or more vehicles. Given the intent of this proposed legislation, it is  
2 imperative to also amend 9 CMC §2107 to provide options to the motorists and  
3 allow for them to choose whether they are in favor of paying a one-time fee and  
4 changing the renewal registration dates on their other vehicles. By amending the  
5 previously stated provision and giving them such an option, it will allow for better  
6 harmony between the renewal registration dates of the vehicles and the finances of  
7 the registered motorists who are legally registered on more than one vehicle.

8 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 9 CMC §2101(d) by requiring  
9 the motor vehicle liability insurance expiration to be consistent with the vehicle  
10 registration expiration and for other purposes.

11 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC §2101(d) of the Commonwealth Code is  
12 hereby amended to read as follows:

13 “(d) No motor vehicle shall be registered or re-registered under this  
14 chapter unless the application for registration or renewal of registration  
15 contains satisfactory evidence of minimum motor vehicle liability insurance  
16 for the vehicle, as required under the provisions of 9 CMC §§ 8101 et seq.,  
17 and the bureau shall maintain a copy of such satisfactory evidence in  
18 connection with each motor vehicle so registered. Provided, however, that  
19 the expiration of the motor vehicle liability insurance shall be in the same  
20 month as the expiration of the vehicle registration set forth in 9 CMC §2107.  
21 Furthermore, if the applicant has two or more vehicles, the said applicant

1       shall be given the option to allow for the registration of his/her vehicles to  
2       expire on the same month as the vehicle intended for registration/re-  
3       registration at a fee of \$25 per vehicle.”

4       **Section 3. Amendment.** 9 CMC §2107 of the Commonwealth Code is  
5 hereby amended to read as follows:

6                   **“§2107. Registration: Expiration and Renewal.**

7               Every vehicle and bicycle registration under this division shall  
8               expire annually at midnight on the last day of the month designated by the  
9               bureau. The owner of the vehicle has ten business days, after the last day of  
10              the month designated by the bureau, to renew the vehicle registration  
11              otherwise a late fee of \$30 will be charged in addition to any fees designated  
12              by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. All late fees collected under this section  
13              shall be deposited into the Department of Public Safety Special Account for  
14              Bureau of Motor Vehicles supplies with the Commissioner of the  
15              Department of Public Safety as the expenditure authority. Provided,  
16              however, that if the applicant has two or more vehicles, the said applicant  
17              shall be given the option to allow for the registration of his/her vehicles to  
18              expire on the same month as the vehicle intended for registration/re-  
19              registration at a fee of \$25 per vehicle.”

20              **Section 4. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
21 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court

1 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
2 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
3 shall not be affected thereby.

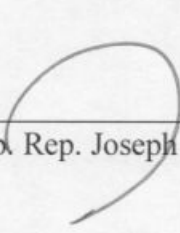
4       **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
5 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
6 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted  
7 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this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

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

Prefiled: Jan. 26, 2021

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

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

  
Rep. Rep. Joseph A. Flores

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

Josh A. Day  
House Legal Counsel