

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

H. B. 22-\_\_\_\_\_

4

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend the Department of Public Safety's time period to produce police traffic and criminal investigation reports from 10 days to 3 days.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Commonwealth Legislature finds  
2 that an officer who investigates a crime or vehicle accident as to which a report is  
3 required by law, or who otherwise prepares a written report shall forward a written  
4 report to the bureau within 10 days of the start of the investigation. This period of  
5 time is usually too lengthy and may permit unnecessary delays. Accordingly, the  
6 purpose of this legislation is to require that the Department of Public Safety produce  
7 required reports within 3 days unless there is a written request to extend this time  
8 period for good cause.

1           **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC § 6105 (a) of the Commonwealth Code is  
2 hereby amended to be read as follows:

3                           **“§ 6105. Police to Report.**

4                           (a) Every department officer who investigates a vehicle accident as  
5 to which a report is required by this division, or who otherwise prepares a  
6 written report as a result of an investigation either at the time of and at the  
7 scene of the accident or thereafter by interviewing the participants or  
8 witnesses, shall forward a written report of the accident to the ~~bureau~~ DPS  
9 Firearms & Records Section within ~~10~~ 3 days after the investigation of the  
10 accident unless an extension is requested in writing and supported by good  
11 cause”

12           **Section 3. Enactment.** Subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision  
13 Commission the following provision is hereby enacted into law:

14                           **“§ 101. Police to Report-Generally.**

15                           (a) Every department officer who investigates as required by law, or  
16 who otherwise prepares a written report as a result of an investigation either  
17 at the time of, or at the scene of the alleged crime or accident or thereafter  
18 by interviewing the participants or witnesses, shall forward a written report  
19 to the DPS Firearms & Records Section within 3 days after the investigation  
20 concludes unless an extension is requested in writing and supported by good  
21 cause.

1 (b) An officer who fails to provide a written report within 3 days or  
2 within the time allotted by an extension that was requested in writing,  
3 supported by good cause, and granted by the officer's supervising officer,  
4 shall be penalized by a suspension without pay for a period of not more than  
5 3 days for the responsible officer and his/her supervising officer."

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

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

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

Prefiled: Jan. 20, 2021

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

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

Rep. Rep. Joseph A. Flores

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

Joseph D. Day  
House Legal Counsel