TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2021

H. B. 22- 4-3

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To create an anti-littering incentive program by providing a reward for persons reporting violations of the Litter Control Act; and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. <u>Short Title</u>. This Act is hereby known as the "Anti-littering
 Incentive Act of 2021".

3 Section 2. <u>Findings</u>. The Commonwealth Legislature finds that there is a 4 need to create a community-based incentive program that would promote a 5 partnership with our government agencies who are tasked in enforcing litter 6 violations. The Commonwealth Legislature finds that providing for a reward for 7 persons reporting violations of the Litter Control Act will not only entice the 8 community to report litter violations but also assist our overwhelmed government 9 agencies.

10 The Commonwealth Legislature finds that although our government 11 agencies continue to work hard to enforce the Litter Control Act, trash continues to 12 be found on roadsides, beaches and other areas that are visible to the public. The 1 Commonwealth Legislature finds that there appears to be no effective way of 2 enforcing the Commonwealth's Litter Control Act. When litter control officers are 3 present, people do not litter. However, the majority of time, when litter control 4 officers are not present littering tends to occur.

- 5 The Commonwealth Legislature further finds that in order to truly keep our 6 islands clean and trash-free, there is a need to create an incentive program that 7 would promote community partnership in reporting littering violations. Therefore, 8 the purpose of this Act is to provide a reward to persons supplying information that 9 leads to an assessment of penalties against persons who violate the Litter Control 10 Act.
- Section 3. <u>Amendment</u>. Title 2, Division 3, Chapter 4 is amended by
 adding a new Section 3418 as follows:
- 13 "Section 3418. Reward.
- 14Any person supplying information that leads to the assessment of a15civil penalty under this act shall be entitled to a reward of \$150. The reward16shall be paid from the Litter Control Program Fund Account pursuant to 217CMC § 3416 (c)."

18 Section 4. <u>Severability</u>. If any provisions of this Act or the application of 19 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court 20 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
 shall not be affected thereby.

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

Section 6. <u>Effective Date</u>. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Introduced by:

Prefiled: 3/12/2021

Date: 3/12/202

Rep. Roy C.A. Ada

Rep. Celina R. Babauta

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco

Rep. Angel A. Demapan

Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao

Rep. Sheila J. Babauta

Rep. Joel C. Camacho

Rep. Vicente C. Camacho Rep. Joseph A. Flores

HOUSE BILL 22-43

Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero Rep. Donald M. Manglona

Rep. Christina M.E. Sablan

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas

Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

House Legal Counsel

Rep. Richard T. Lizama

Rep. Edwin K. Propst

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

Rep. Leila H.F. C. Staffler

Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai