

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2021

H. B. 22-58

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 7 CMC §4101 to lower the interest rate of civil money judgments from nine percent (9%) to three percent (3%).

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that pursuant to 7
2 CMC §4101, our respective judicial court is given the prerogative to grant money
3 judgements. Pursuant to the same statute, each money judgement consists of an
4 interest rate of nine percent (9%). However, the Legislature also finds that many of
5 our constituents, particularly those whom our judicial courts ruled against in
6 regards to money judgments, find it problematic and extremely burdensome to
7 compensate for the amount set forth by our court as well as its corresponding
8 excessive amount of interest. The Legislature finds that it is imperative to lower the
9 interest rate from nine percent (9%) to three percent (3%) to provide necessary
10 financial relief for those individuals who are struggling to pay the money

1 judgements without violating the integrity of such judgements and allow for them
2 to efficiently continue their court-ordered obligation.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 7 CMC §4101 to lower the
4 interest rate of civil money judgments from nine percent (9%) to three percent (3%).

5 **Section 2. Amendment.** 7 CMC §4101 is hereby amended to read as
6 follows:

7 “§ 4101. Money Judgments.

8 Every judgment for the payment of money shall bear interest at the
9 rate of ~~nine~~ three percent a year from the date it is entered. The process to
10 enforce a judgment for the payment of money may be a writ of execution or
11 an order in aid of judgment, as provided in chapter 2 of this division
12 (commencing with 7 CMC § 4201).”

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20 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted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: 5/3/2021

Date: 5/3/2021

Introduced by:

RTJ
Rep. Richard T. Lizama

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

Joseph D. Gray
House Legal Counsel

DR
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Sueifa Babantat