

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ Session, 2021

H. B. 22- 94

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend certain sections of the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission Act; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Public Law
2 15-96 repealed and reenacted the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy
3 Commission Act with updated provisions necessary for the Commission to carry
4 out its duties and responsibilities. However, there are new language policy
5 advancements at higher education institutions such as the Northern Marianas
6 College (NMC) and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI) that require
7 the collaboration and recommendations of the Commission. The duties and
8 responsibilities of the executive director of the Commission must also be clarified
9 in order for the Commission to operate with efficiency and proficiency. Moreover,
10 in order to increase the budget of the Commission, it is necessary to authorize the
11 Commission to impose translation fees.

12 Therefore, the purpose of this legislation is to amend certain sections of the
13 Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission Act to authorize the

1 Commission to make recommendations to NMC and NMTI, to include the
2 executive director on the Committee on Certification of Chamorro and Carolinian
3 Translators, to clarify the duties and responsibilities of the executive director, to
4 authorize the Commission to establish translation fees by regulation.

5 **Section 2. Amendment.** 3 CMC § 1205 is hereby amended by adding new
6 subsections (j) and (k) to read as follows:

7 **“§ 1205. Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission: Duties and**
8 **Functions.**

9 (a) – (i) [Unchanged.].

10 (j) Make recommendations to the Northern Marianas College Board of
11 Regents on the standard orthography for utilization in the higher education
12 system.

13 (k) Make recommendations to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute
14 Board of Trustees or any other legally-established private educational
15 institute on the standard orthography if the Chamorro or Carolinian
16 language courses are part of an educational package implemented in such
17 institute.”

18 **Section 3. Amendment.** 3 CMC § 1206 is hereby amended to read as
19 follows:

20 **“§ 1206. Committee on Certification of Chamorro and Carolinian**
21 **Translators.**

1 There is established within the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy
2 Commission a Committee on Certification of Chamorro and Carolinian Translators
3 comprised of five (5) ~~four~~ members of the commission; provided that two (2)
4 members shall be Chamorro and two (2) members shall be Carolinian. The director
5 of the commission shall be a member of the Committee on Certification of
6 Chamorro and Carolinian Translators. The director of the commission shall adopt
7 rules and regulations regarding the criteria, qualifications, and certification process
8 of Chamorro and Carolinian translators.

9 **Section 4. Amendment.** 3 CMC § 1207 is hereby amended by adding a
10 new subsection (c) to read as follows:

11 “§ 1207. **Executive Director: Appointment and Duties.**

12 (a) – (b) [Unchanged.]

13 (c) It shall be part of the duties and function of the Director of the
14 Commission to enforce and implement all provisions of §1205.”

15 **Section 5. Amendment.** 3 CMC § 1208 is hereby amended by adding a
16 new subsection (d) to read as follows:

17 “§ 1208. **Budget.**

18 (a)- (c) [Unchanged.]

19 (d) The Commission may impose translation fees by regulation for any
20 government agency or private entity that requests for such services from the
21 Commission. The Secretary of Finance shall create a special account

1 outside of the General fund, which shall be known as the “Language
2 Commission Translation Fee Account.” The funds shall be without Fiscal
3 Year limitations and shall be for the operations of the Language
4 Commission. The expenditure authority for these funds shall be the
5 Director of the Commission in consultation with the members of the
6 Commission.”

7 **Section 6. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 7831 is amended by adding a new
8 subsection (f) to read as follows:

9 “(f) The Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission shall be
10 exempt from the withholding and payment requirements of subsections (a)
11 and (b) of this section.”

12 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of
13 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
14 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
15 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
16 shall not be affected thereby.


17 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
18 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
19 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted
20 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
21 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have

1 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
2 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

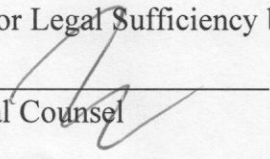
3 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
4 the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

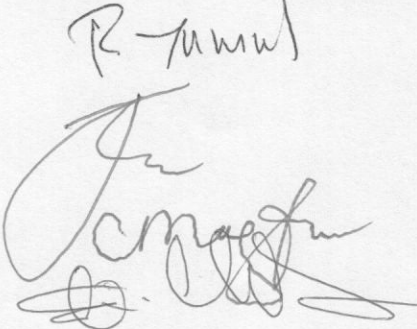
Prefiled: Feb. 17, 2022

Date: 2/16/22

Introduced by: 
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel


R-11111