

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2023

H. B. 23- 76

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC §8209 by removing the seven-day grace period for motorists who violate 9 CMC §§8203 and 8204; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 23RD NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that pursuant 9
2 CMC §§8203 and 8204, respectively, motorists are not allowed to operate a vehicle
3 unless such vehicle is covered by and possesses minimum liability motor vehicle
4 insurance. The Legislature further finds that pursuant to 9 CMC §8209, all
5 motorists who violate 9 CMC §8203 and 8204 are granted a seven-day grace period
6 to submit satisfactory evidence of minimum motor vehicle liability insurance to the
7 Department of Public Safety which provided coverage at the time of such citation
8 to avoid being cited for violating 9 CMC §8203. The Legislature finds that this type
9 of practice is extremely detrimental to the CNMI due to the fact that these uninsured
10 motorists will be allowed to operate their vehicle for an extra period of time. Within
11 such time frame, these uninsured motorists may be involved in a motor vehicle
12 accident which will result highly severe and unfortunate consequences regardless

1 of who bears the fault. To avoid such tragic outcomes, it is imperative to remove
2 the seven-day grace period provided under 9 CMC §8209 to deter uninsured
3 motorists from operating their vehicles without the required motor vehicle liability
4 insurance. Such removal will promote and enhance better safety and financial
5 management for all owners and operators of a motor vehicle.

6 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 9 CMC §8209 by removing
7 the seven-day grace period for motorists who violate 9 CMC §§8203 and 8204 and
8 for other purposes.

9 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC §8209 is hereby amended to read as
10 follows:

11 **“§8209. Civil Traffic Citations for Violations of 9 CMC §§ 8203**
12 **and 8204.**

13 Any person who operates a motor vehicle in violation of 9 CMC §
14 8204 shall be issued a civil traffic citation by the Department of Public
15 Safety for a violation of both 9 CMC §§ 8203 and 8204. ~~If within seven~~
16 ~~days of receiving such citation, such person submits satisfactory evidence~~
17 ~~of minimum motor vehicle liability insurance to the Department of Public~~
18 ~~Safety which provided coverage at the time of such citation, the original~~
19 ~~citation issued shall be immediately changed by the Department of Public~~
20 ~~Safety to a violation of 9 CMC § 8204 only. Failure to provide such~~
21 ~~satisfactory evidence of minimum motor vehicle liability insurance within~~

1 ~~this seven day period to show compliance with 9 CMC § 8203 at the time~~
2 ~~of the citation, shall in itself be deemed to be a violation of 9 CMC § 8203.”~~

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

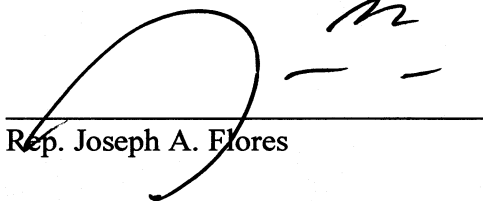
8 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
9 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
10 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
11 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall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

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

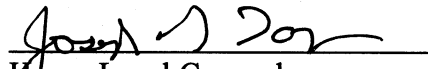
Prefiled: 3/28/2023

Date: _____

Introduced by: _____


Rep. Joseph A. Flores

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel

