

REFERRED To: PUTC 2/20/2024
(HOUSE)

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 16, 2024

Third Reg. Session, 2024

H. B. 23- 29-99

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To require all vessels and/or motorboats to possess and utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS).

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that nowadays in
2 the CNMI, the use of commercial and/or personal vessels/motorboats are constantly
3 operating in and out of the water on a regular basis, whether it be commercial
4 shipping trade, commercialized or personal subsistence fishing, tourism and marine
5 sports activities. The Legislature further finds that pursuant to 3 CMC §5451, there
6 is a set of required equipment that is necessary to operate such boats. Due to the
7 occurrences of vessels/motorboats being lost at sea within the CNMI, it is evident
8 that there is a need to include a Global Positioning System (GPS) within such
9 requirements. The Legislature finds that by providing GPS real-time visibility of
10 each vessel/motorboat's precise location, it would significantly enhance safe

1 navigation, transparency, operational efficiency, and security throughout the entire
2 maritime industry of the CNMI.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to require all vessels and/or motorboats
4 to possess and utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS).

5 **Section 2. Amendment.** 3 CMC §5451 is hereby amended by adding a new
6 subsection (i) to read as follows:

7 **“§5451. Classification and Required Equipment.**

8 (i) *Global Positioning System (GPS)*. Every vessel and/or motorboat shall
9 carry and utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS). For the purpose of this
10 section, “Global Positioning System (GPS)” shall mean a network of
11 satellites and receiving devices used to determine the location of something
12 and/or someone on Earth.”

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

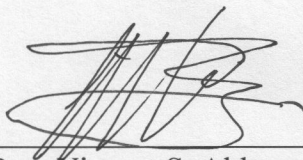
1 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
2 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
3 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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


Intro
Filed: 2/16/2024

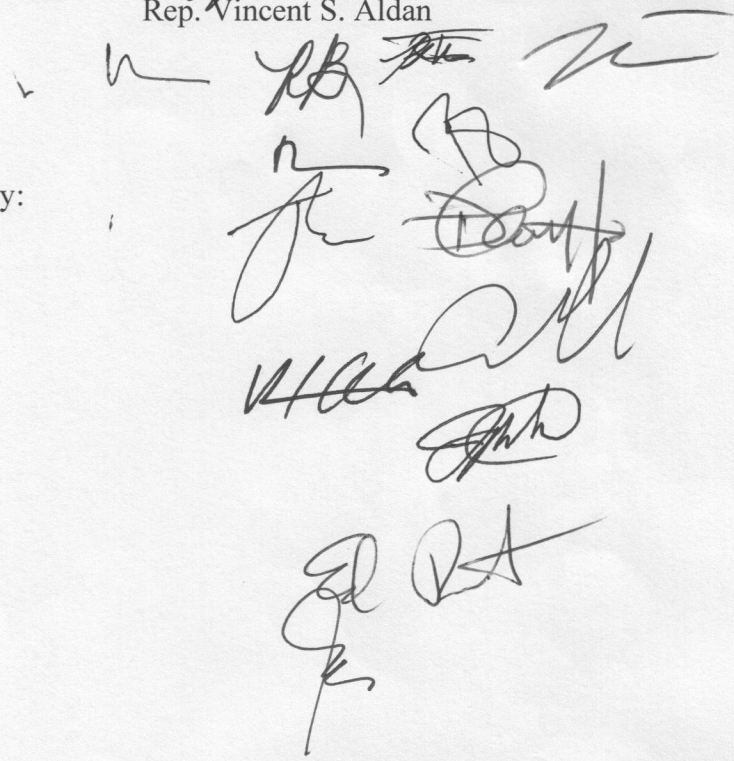
Date: _____

Introduced by: _____


Rep. Vincent S. Aldan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel

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