

**TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

SESSION, 2021

H. L. B. 22-18

**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To amend Title 10, Division 3 of the Commonwealth Code by inserting a new Chapter 15 to establish permitting requirements for aircraft and/or personal landings in the Northern Islands; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT DELEGATION

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF THE

COMMONWEALTH CODE:

1 SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

2 The Legislature finds that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
3 Islands is home to some of the most pristine natural environments and ecosystems
4 in the world. Throughout the years, individuals from around the globe travel to our
5 islands to witness and experience the limitless beauty and positive aura of our
6 natural surroundings. The extravagant fauna and flora of our islands symbolizes our
7 uniqueness and tranquility with the world that our inhabitants, residents and visitors
8 alike, hold near and dear to their hearts. The Legislature further finds that the
9 islands north of Saipan, commonly known as the "Northern Islands", displays the

1 beauty of our Commonwealth in a manner that entices others to want to explore
2 these environmentally-friendly islands. The Northern Islands is considered to be an
3 alluring gem of significant importance to our Commonwealth that must be valued
4 and protected at all times from any foreseeable and unforeseeable forces.

5 The Legislature further finds that many people, either private citizens or
6 businesses, have endeavored to the Northern Islands without proper authorization
7 from the respective authoritative agency, such as the Mayor of the Northern Islands.
8 Without such authorization and proper knowledge of the surrounding areas, these
9 individuals will not only endanger the islands' natural surroundings but also
10 endanger their own lives in the event of a catastrophic occurrence (ship wreck, cap
11 size, engine failure, etc.). To prevent the occurrence of such incidents, the
12 Legislature finds that it is imperative to establish permitting requirements for
13 visitations to the Northern Islands for safety precautional purposes. This will allow
14 for the Mayor of the Northern Islands and his/her respective staff to be aware of
15 activities that are taking place and aid such individuals when necessary. The safety
16 of both the natural surroundings and human life are of great importance.

17 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend Title 10, Division 3 of the
18 Commonwealth Code by inserting a new Chapter 15 to establish permitting
19 requirements for aircraft and/or personal landings in the Northern Islands.

20 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 10, Division 3 of the Commonwealth Code
21 is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter 15 to read as follows:

1 **“CHAPTER 15. Landing Restrictions in the Northern Islands.**

2 **§30601. Landing Restrictions in the Northern Islands.**

3 (a) No aircraft or personal landings on the Northern Islands (islands north
4 of Saipan) shall be allowed without first obtaining written permission
5 from the Office of the Mayor of the Northern Islands, and such landings
6 shall be subject to any reasonable and nondiscriminatory condition
7 stated in the permit.

8 (b) Each island shall require a separate landing permit pursuant to
9 subsection (a).

10 (c) Any existing law or ordinance not consistent with this section is hereby
11 repealed.

12 **§30602. Penalties and Fees.**

13 The Office of the Mayor of the Northern Islands shall establish and
14 promulgate rules and regulations, including but not limited to penalties
15 and fees, to enforce this chapter.

16 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

1 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

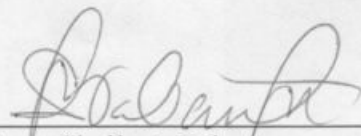
9 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

10 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or its becoming
11 law without such approval.

Prefiled: 7/2/2021

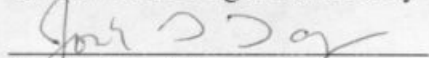
Date: 7/2/2021

Introduced by:


Rep. Sheila J. Babauta

Rep. Joel C. Camacho

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel