

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

SESSION, 2021

H. L. B. 22-19

A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT

To amend 10 CMC, Division 3, § 3702, Authorization to the Municipalities, to require dog owners to be responsible for their pets solid waste disposal.

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.**

2 The Delegation finds that the Administrative Code § 165-10.1-401 Dog
3 Leash Required states that “No person owning, having a proprietary interest in,
4 harboring or having the care, charge, control, custody, or possession of a dog, shall
5 permit such dog to be in or upon any public street, park, or other public place unless
6 such dog is upon a secure leash not more than eight feet long held continuously, in
7 the hands of a responsible person capable of controlling the dog...”. In addition to
8 the leash requirement, it is just as important that all dog owners and keepers be
9 required to immediately and properly dispose of their dog’s solid waste deposited
10 on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by the person.

1 The Delegation further finds that having a dog is both a pleasure and a
2 responsibility. Not only do dog owners have a responsibility for the care, feeding
3 and general welfare of their dogs, they have a responsibility for protecting their
4 community as well. That responsibility includes proper disposal of their dog's solid
5 waste.

6 The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers dog waste a
7 pollutant of water bodies and it is most often introduced into receiving waters by
8 way of storm water runoff. Everyone must do their part to protect the quality of our
9 storm water runoff. Dog waste left on the ground increases exposure of you, your
10 neighbors, and our community to bacteria, viruses and parasites. Those particularly
11 at risk are other pets and children who play outside. Some of these bacteria, viruses
12 and parasites are: Fecal coliform - bacteria; Salmonella - bacteria; Hookworms,
13 roundworms & tapeworms - parasites; and Toxoplasma gondii - virus.

14 Therefore, as the different government agencies and non-governmental
15 organizations help keep our island clean, so should dog owners be responsible for
16 their pets solid waste disposal.

17 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

18 Title 10, Division 3, § 3702 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 **“§3702. Authorization to the Municipalities.**

20 (a) The municipalities of Saipan and the Northern Islands are hereby
21 authorized to adopt rules and regulations for the regulation, control, and

1 licensing of dogs on the Northern Islands and the island of Saipan. At a
2 minimum, said rules and regulations shall provide for licensing of all dogs,
3 licensing fees, storage and handling fees for any dogs picked up by the
4 municipality, a minimum holding period before disposal, and disposal of
5 unclaimed dogs.

6 (1) Each person who owns or controls a dog must promptly store
7 and remove any feces left behind by that dog on any public property
8 or right of way or on any private property other than property owned
9 or leased by the person owning or responsible for the dog and
10 sanitarily dispose of it.

11 (b) The municipalities of Saipan and the Northern islands are further
12 authorized to administer and enforce rules and regulations adopted pursuant
13 to subsection (a) of this section, including any rules relating to the capture
14 of stray dogs, charging of any fees, and disposal of unclaimed dogs.”

15 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

21 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

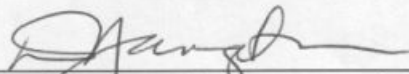
1 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as
2 affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
3 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes.
4 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted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

8 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

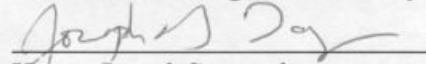
9 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or its becoming
10 law without such approval.

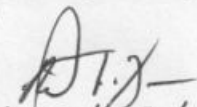
Prefiled: 7/20/2021

Date: 7/20/2021 Introduced by:


Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel


Richard T. Lizama