



GOV. COMM. 21-141  
(HOUSE)

**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor

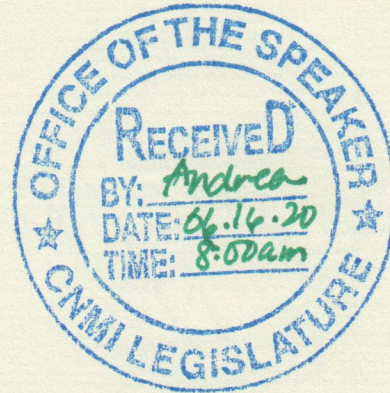
**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

15 JUN 2020

The Honorable John Paul P. Sablan  
Chairman  
The Saipan and Northern Islands  
Legislative Delegation  
Twenty-First Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-First Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950



Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Local Bill No. 21-48, D1** entitled, "To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the Third Senatorial District under Public Law No. 20-59; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

The Department of Finance has certified these funds, however, in light of the Attorney General's comments on the local bill, I request that the Legislature ensure that 25% of the amount appropriated is sequestered until more clarity is provided concerning the constitutional question of whether part of these fees should be paid to Public School System following the Supreme Court's Opinion in *In the Matter of a Certified Petition from Torres and Ada*, 2020 MP 2.

This bill becomes **Saipan Local Law No. 21-13**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

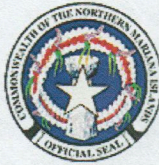
**RALPH DLG. TORRES**

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Secretary of Finance; Office of Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

HOUSE CLERK'S OFC

RECEIVED BY   
DATE 6/18/2020 TIME 11:05am





**SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION  
TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2020**

**HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-48, D1**

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

To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the Third Senatorial District under Public Law No. 20-59; and for other purposes.

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**Offered by Representatives:**

Blas Jonathon "BJ" T. Attao, John Paul P. Sablan and Ralph N. Yumul

On May 21, 2020

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**HOUSE ACTION**

Transmitted to Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for action on

May 22, 2020

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**DELEGATION ACTION**

Referred To	: None
Comments Solicited	: None
Comments Received	: None
Standing Committee Report	: None
Passed First & Final Reading	: May 26, 2020

  
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Frances Joan P. Kaipat  
Delegation Clerk





**SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**  
**Third Senatorial District**  
**Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature**

**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 2020**

**HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-48, D1**

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

To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the Third Senatorial District under Public Law No. 20-59; 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:**

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE.**

The Delegation finds that Public Law 20-59 reserved revenues from the licensing of amusement machines within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to pay back the Third Senatorial District for Within Grade Increase (WGI) obligations of the Central Government to its civil service employees. The Delegation further finds that the Central Government has already fulfilled its obligation to the Second Senatorial District.

Furthermore, the Delegation finds that the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the government's ability to provide essential services in addition to employees of both the private and public sectors temporarily losing their jobs. The Delegation additionally finds that many families are having a difficult time meeting their obligations such as rental agreements. The Delegation finds that it is imperative that it takes additional measures to assist its residents in



**HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-48, D1**

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1 these tough times. The Delegation is cognizant of the fact that monies will be coming in from  
2 the federal government but the Delegation believes that with the limited funds we may have we  
3 need to take action in helping the residents of the Third Senatorial District at the soonest until  
4 federal aid is available.

5 Therefore, the intent of this Act is to appropriate the funds allocated to the Third  
6 Senatorial District under Public Law No. 20-59.

**7 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.**

8 Notwithstanding any provisions, statutes, laws or regulations to the contrary, the Saipan  
9 and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation hereby appropriated One Million, Eight Thousand,  
10 Six Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$1,008,630 USD) of the funds allotted to the Third Senatorial  
11 District under Public Law No. 20-59 as follows;

12 (1) \$100,000.00 to Karidat Social Services, to support its emergency food and rental  
13 assistance programs, as well as other unfunded client needs, in the Third Senatorial  
14 District.

15 (2) \$208,630.00 to the Northern Marianas College (NMC) for the Third Senatorial  
16 District; expenditure authority shall be the President of NMC or his/her designee;

17 (3) \$400,000.00 to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD);  
18 expenditure authority shall be the Chairperson of the Delegation or his/her designee;  
19 and

20 (4) \$300,000.00 to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) to assist  
21 tenants and/or home loan program(s) within the Third Senatorial District, provided  
22 that up to fifteen percent shall be reserved for administrative cost associated with the



**HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-48, D1**

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1 implementation of this program; expenditure authority shall be the Corporate  
2 Director of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) of his/her  
3 designee.

**SECTION 3. REPROGRAMING.**

5 Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the contrary, funds appropriated  
6 under this Act shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose.

**SECTION 4. MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS.**

8 The funds appropriated under Section 2 of this Act shall be transferred into specific  
9 accounts. The Secretary of Finance shall regulate and control the funds appropriated under this  
10 Act so that no activity may spend contrary to this Act or fiscal management policies of the  
11 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Furthermore, unless specified in Section 2 of  
12 this Act the Secretary of the Department of Finance shall be the expenditure authority of the  
13 funds.

**SECTION 5. EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY.**

15 Unless specified in this Act the expenditure authority of the funds allocated under  
16 Section 2 of this Act shall be the Secretary of the Department of Finance; provided, that the  
17 expenditure authorities under Sections 2 and 4 of this Act shall submit reports to the Secretary  
18 of Finance and the Chairperson of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation or  
19 their respective designees of the expended funds on a monthly basis. Failure to provide monthly  
20 expenditure reports to the Secretary of Finance and the Chairperson of the Saipan and Northern  
21 Islands Legislative Delegation or their respective designees shall result in a suspension of the  
22 distribution of any funds under this Act and any other future funds appropriated to the respective



HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-48, D1

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1 entities until all required information is submitted to the Secretary of Finance and the  
2 Chairperson of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

3 **SECTION 6. FISCAL YEAR.**

4 The funds appropriated under this Act shall be appropriated without fiscal year  
5 limitation(s).

6 **SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY.**

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

11 **SECTION 8. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

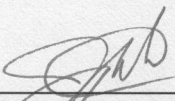



HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 21-48, D1

**SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

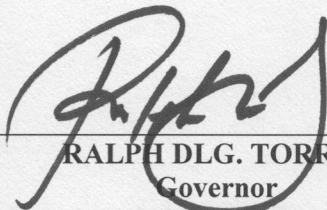
This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or its becoming law without such approval.

**CERTIFIED BY:**

  
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**JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN**  
Chairman  
Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation

  
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**BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO**  
Speaker  
House of Representatives

Approved on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

  
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**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands