



**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor

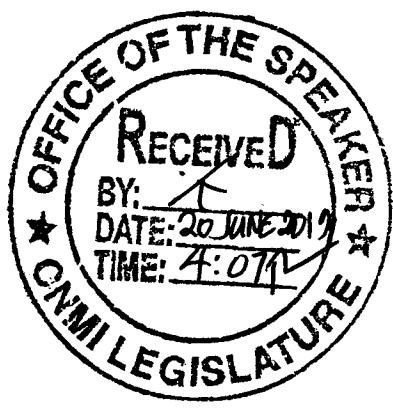
**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Lieutenant Governor

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

20 JUN 2019

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

The Honorable Victor B. Hocog  
Senate President, The Senate  
Twenty-First Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

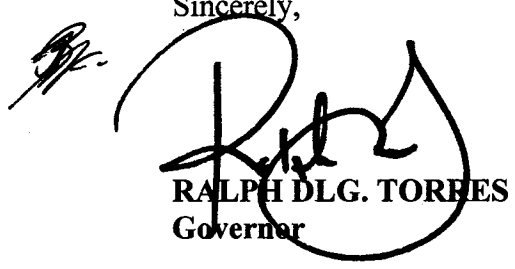


Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 21-56, HSI, HD1** entitled, "To authorize the Governor, Chief Justice, Director of the Legislative Bureau, the Mayors and Municipal Councils reprogramming authority prior to the enactment of a comprehensive appropriations act for fiscal year 2020.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 21-2**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Secretary of Finance; Chief Justice; Director, Legislative Bureau; Mayor of Saipan; Mayor of Tinian; Mayor of Rota; Tinian Municipal Council; Rota Municipal Council; Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council; Office of Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

HOUSE CLERK'S  
RECEIVED BY   
DATE 06/19/19 TIME 4:25 pm



*Twenty-First Legislature*  
*of the*  
*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**THIRD SPECIAL SESSION**

**JUNE 11, 2019**

REPRESENTATIVE RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Antonio SN. Borja, Joel C. Camacho, Luis John DLG. Castro, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Marco T. Peter, John Paul P. Sablan) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 21-56, HS1, HD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNOR, CHIEF JUSTICE, DIRECTOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUREAU, THE MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS REPROGRAMMING AUTHORITY PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.**

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, JUNE 11, 2019;**  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. 21-56, HS1, HD2 and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FINAL READING, JUNE 13, 2019;**  
*without amendments and was returned to*  
**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON JUNE 11, 2019.**

  
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Venetia S. Rosario, Acting House Clerk



*Twenty-First Legislature*  
*of the*  
*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

FIRST DAY, THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

JUNE 11, 2019

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**H. B. No. 21-56, HS1, HD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNOR, CHIEF JUSTICE, DIRECTOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUREAU, THE MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS REPROGRAMMING AUTHORITY PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that it is financially imperative that the  
2 Governor, Chief Justice, Director of the Legislative Bureau, the Mayors of the First, Second and  
3 Third Senatorial Districts, the Mayor of the Northern Islands, each member of the Municipal  
4 Councils for the First and Second Senatorial District, and the Chairperson of the Municipal  
5 Council for Saipan and the Northern Islands be provided with reprogramming authority over and  
6 beyond the provisions of 1 CMC §7402 in order to avoid fiscal crisis and deficit spending. The  
7 purpose of this Act is to assist all of the branches of government in prioritizing needs until a  
8 comprehensive budget for FY 2020 is enacted.

## HOUSE BILL 21-56, HS1, HD1

**Section 2. Reprogramming.**

1           **Section 2. Reprogramming.**  
2           (a) Prior to the enactment of a comprehensive appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2020,  
3 and notwithstanding the limitations of 1 CMC §7402 to the contrary, the Governor, Chief Justice,  
4 Director of the Legislative Bureau, Mayor of the First Senatorial District, Mayor of the Second  
5 Senatorial District, Mayor of the Third Senatorial District, Mayor of the Northern Islands, each  
6 member of the Rota Municipal Council, each member of the Tinian and Aguiguan Municipal  
7 Council, and the Chairperson of the Municipal Council for Saipan and the Northern Islands shall  
8 have unlimited authority to reprogram funds for Fiscal Year 2019 that are available under Public  
9 Law 20-67.

10           (b) The Governor's shall be provided unlimited authority to reprogram funds under this  
11 section within the Executive Branch; provided that such funds are not restricted from  
12 reprogramming by federal law, federal grant conditions, Commonwealth constitutional  
13 prohibitions, and deposit and other security restrictions related to bond covenants and the  
14 financing of public projects.

15           (c) The Governor's authority to reprogram funds under this section shall not include trust  
16 funds invested by the Marianas Public Land Trust and funds appropriated under all local laws.

17           (d) The Governor's authority to reprogram funds under this section shall not include the  
18 funds of the legislative branch, judicial branch, mayors, municipal councils, and autonomous or  
19 semi-autonomous public corporations and agencies, including the Public School System,  
20 Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Health Care Corporation, Commonwealth Utilities  
21 Corporation, Office of the Public Auditor, and Office of the Attorney General.

**HOUSE BILL 21-56, HS1, HD1**

1 (e) The Governor, Chief Justice and Director of the Legislative Bureau shall report any  
2 reprogramming under this section, as provided by 1 CMC § 7402(e).

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

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


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

HOUSE BILL 21-56, HS1, HD1

Attested to by:   
*Venetia S. Rosario, Acting House Clerk*

Certified by:   
**SPEAKER BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO**  
*House of Representatives*  
*21<sup>st</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature*

*Approval* this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019

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