

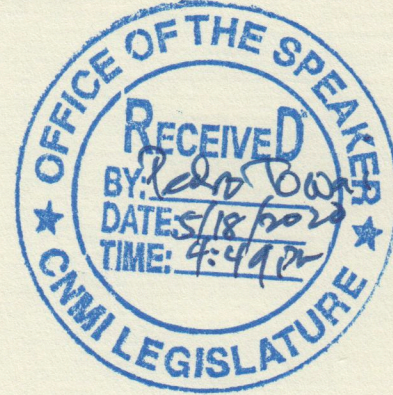
RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 18, 2020

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. 21-61**, entitled, "To amend 6 CMC § 10101(y) by adding the law enforcement officers of the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division and the Commonwealth Casino Commission into the definition of "law enforcement"; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

[Handwritten mark] This bill becomes **Public Law No. 21-27**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Department of Commerce; Commonwealth Casino Commission; Department of Public Safety; Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*
DATE 5/26/2020 TIME 9:32A





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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION

JUNE 24, 2019

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*), in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 21-61

AN ACT

TO AMEND 6 CMC §10101(Y) BY ADDING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO CONTROL DIVISION AND THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION INTO THE DEFINITION OF “LAW ENFORCEMENT”; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 21-34; adopted 10/15/2019.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, OCTOBER 15, 2019;
without amendments and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.**

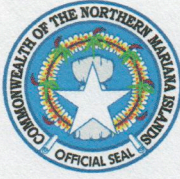
The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law, and Federal Relations which submitted Standing Committee Report 21-80; adopted 3/13/2020.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MARCH 13, 2020;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIFTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

OCTOBER 15, 2019

H. B. No. 21-61

AN ACT

TO AMEND 6 CMC §10101(Y) BY ADDING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO CONTROL DIVISION AND THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION INTO THE DEFINITION OF "LAW ENFORCEMENT"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 The Legislature finds that enforcement officers of the Department of Commerce,
3 Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control (ABTC) Division and the Commonwealth Casino
4 Commission are tasked to oversee respective establishments to ensure their compliance with
5 the appropriate laws of our great Commonwealth, both of whom specialize in enforcing a
6 particular field of law. Similar to our other respective law enforcement agencies, especially in
7 situations of high life-risking duress, these officers are usually the first line of defense in not
8 only protecting themselves but the surrounding individuals that are present during such

HOUSE BILL 21-61

1 situations. The Legislature finds that it is of utmost importance to include the enforcement
2 officers of the ABTC Division and the Commonwealth Casino Commission to allow for them
3 to avail of the similar rights as other law enforcement officers in order for them to efficiently
4 and effectively carry out their duties and responsibilities.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 6 CMC §10101(y) by adding the law
6 enforcement officers of the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division and the
7 Commonwealth Casino Commission into the definition of “law enforcement” and for other
8 purposes.

9 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

10 6 CMC §10101(y) is hereby amended by adding new subsections (22) and (23) to read
11 as follows:

12 “(22) law enforcement officers employed by the Department of Commerce,
13 Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division.

14 (23) Enforcement and Investigation officers of the Commonwealth Casino
15 Commission Division of Enforcement & Investigations.”

16 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

21 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

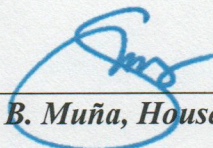
22 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any
23 existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule,
24 regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect
25 any proceeding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

HOUSE BILL 21-61

1 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**


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

Attested to by:



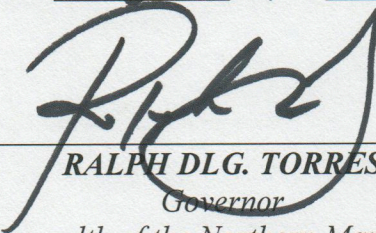
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



SPEAKER BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO
House of Representatives
21st Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this **18th** day of **May**, 2020



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands