

TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2019

S. L. B. NO. 21-03

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A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend the definition of hotel in the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT DELEGATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative  
2 Delegation finds that the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act defines an approved  
3 casino hotel as a hotel with at least 300 rooms. However, the current depressed economic  
4 state of the municipality of Tinian makes it extremely difficult for casino operators to  
5 build a 300-room hotel and casino. Moreover, in light of the ongoing issues with the  
6 federal Commonwealth only transitional worker program and the construction labor  
7 shortage in the CNMI, the Delegation finds that it is necessary to amend the definition of  
8 hotel to reduce the requisite number of rooms from 300 to 100, which is a more feasible  
9 to build in Tinian. Accordingly, the purpose of this legislation is to amend the definition  
10 of hotel in the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989 to reduce the number  
11 of rooms required for a casino operator to qualify for a casino license.

12           **Section 2. Amendment.** Section 4(1) of Part I of the Revised Tinian Casino  
13 Gaming Control Act of 1989 is hereby amended by amending the definition of hotel to  
14 read as follows:

15           “‘hotel’ or ‘approved hotel’ means building containing not fewer than 100 ~~300~~  
16 sleeping units, each of at least 325 square feet measured to the center of perimeter walls,  
17 including bathroom and closet space and excluding hallways, balconies and lounges; each  
18 containing private bathroom facilities; and each held available and used regularly for the  
19 lodging of tourists and guests and conforming in all respects to the agreement referred to

1 in section 15. In no event shall the main entrance or only access to an approved hotel be  
2 through a casino.”

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

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

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

Date: 05/21/19

Introduced By: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Antonette R. Villagomez

Senate Legal Counsel