

TITLE 4: ECONOMIC RESOURCES
DIVISION 2: TOURISM

§ 2103. Duty to Promote Tourism.

The MVA shall promote tourism and attract tourists to the Northern Mariana Islands by:

(a) Organizing and conducting programs, advertising, and publicizing the Northern Mariana Islands and its attractions to the traveling public.

(b) Advising the Governor and Legislature on the need for development, expansion and improvement of existing tourist facilities, and recommending methods to increase visitor satisfaction.

(c) Encouraging the investment of private funds to improve tourist facilities in the Northern Mariana Islands.

(d) Planning, constructing and maintaining reception and information booths and other tourist facilities and providing staff for such facilities.

(e) Recommending procedures for expediting immigration and customs clearance for tourists.

(f) Improving communication with foreign visitors by assisting in the establishment of foreign language training programs.

(g) Promoting the indigenous arts and crafts of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(h) Promoting the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(i) Promoting beautification programs in the Northern Mariana Islands.

(j) Preparing information booklets in English and other appropriate languages, for distribution to all tourists.

(k) Collecting, compiling, and analyzing statistics and other data and information that may be helpful in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

(l) Providing advice and technical assistance to tourism development organizations and tourism related enterprises.

(m) Encouraging and supporting the employment of local residents in the tourism industry.

(n) Coordinating efforts with all departments and agencies of the Commonwealth government including the mayors of each Senatorial district.

(o) Regulating the tour industry through the issuance of certifications to tour operators and tourist land/sea transport operators attesting to their compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements for engaging in the tour operator and tourist land/sea transport operators business and tour guides through the issuance of certifications attesting to a minimum proficient in the English language and their successful completion and training in the history, culture, and scenic attractions of the CNMI.

Source: PL 11-15, § 5; subsection (o) added by PL 18-58 § 3 (July 31, 2014).

Commission Comment: See the comment to [4 CMC § 2101](#).

PL 18-58 (July 31, 2014) contained, in addition to savings and severability clauses, the following Short Title and Findings provisions:

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Section 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the “Tour Operator and Tour Guide Regulatory Act of 2013.”

Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that tourism is an essential component of the Commonwealth’s economy and an industry of great interest and importance. It must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of pride for all citizens.

Furthermore and towards this end, it is in the public’s interest to regulate the operation of tour guides and tour operator businesses to ensure the highest level of professionalism and service; and minimize negative impression of the Northern Marianas. In this regard, the Legislature thus finds that there is a need to develop a standard of conduct for tour guides and tour operators.