

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1987

AN ACT

To amend Title 9 CMC, Division 2, Chapter 1, Section 2101 to prohibit the importation of right hand drive motor vehicles into the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Short Title. This act shall be known as and may be cited as "The Right Hand Drive Motor Vehicle Importation Act of 1987".

Section 2. Purpose. Present law prohibits the registration of a right hand drive motor vehicle, except heavy equipment or construction vehicles, in the Commonwealth unless the vehicle has been previously registered in the Commonwealth or the United States or its territories or possessions. The law does not prohibit the importation of such vehicles into the Commonwealth. There have been instances where such motor vehicles have been imported into the Commonwealth by uninformed owners at great expense who subsequently learned that the vehicles could not be registered. This Act will prohibit the importation of a right hand drive motor vehicle into the Commonwealth.

Section 3. Repealer and Reenactment. Title 9 CMC, Division 2, Chapter 1, Section 2101 is hereby repealed in its entirety and a new Section 2101 is hereby reenacted to read as follows:

"Section 2101. Registration: Application: Importation of Right Hand Drive Motor Vehicles.

(a) Every owner of a motor vehicle or bicycle shall prior to operating any such motor vehicle or bicycle on any highway in the Commonwealth register same with the Bureau. The application for registration shall be made

on the prescribed form, signed by the owner, and contain the applicant's residence address as well as a brief description of the vehicle or bicycle to be registered, including the name of the manufacturer, the engine and serial number when applicable, and whether said vehicle or bicycle is new or used.

(b) The owner of any foreign motor vehicle shall exhibit such evidence that will satisfy the Bureau that the applicant is the lawful owner of the vehicle; provided, that no foreign vehicle with right hand drive, except a heavy equipment or construction vehicle, shall be imported into the Commonwealth unless said vehicle has been previously registered in the Commonwealth or the United States, its territories or possessions.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any owner of a foreign motor vehicle with right hand drive which legally entered the Commonwealth prior to the effective date of this Section shall be permitted to register said vehicle upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence of ownership to the Bureau.

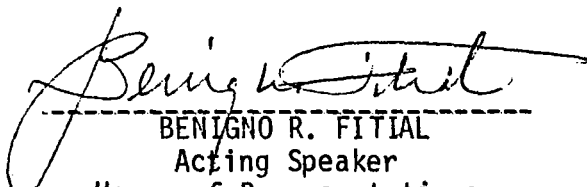
(d) Registration of all vehicles with right hand drive shall be prohibited in the Commonwealth on or after January 1, 1991."

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this act, or of any regulation or order issued under this act, or the application of such


provision, regulation, or order to any person or circumstances, shall be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this act, or such regulation or order, or the application of such provision, regulation, or order to person or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby.

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

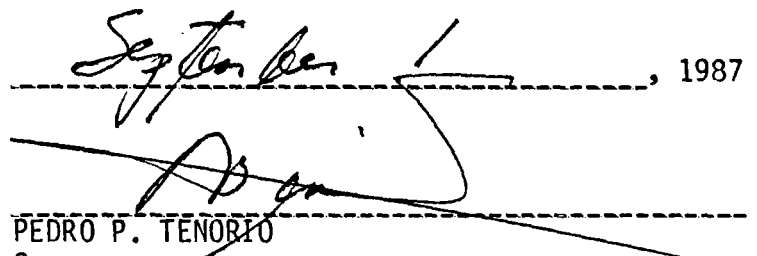

ATTEST:



BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Acting Speaker
House of Representatives



FRANCES P. SABLAN
House Clerk


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PEDRO P. TENORIO
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands