

TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

PUBLIC LAW NO. 10-87

H.B. NO. 10-438

FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION, 1997

AN ACT

To amend 4 CMC, Div. 8, Chapter 1 by adding a new Section to require all garment factories and hotels already hooked up or will be hooking up to the public wastewater systems to install CUC approved bar screens within their sewer laterals within the premises, which maintenance responsibilities are the premises' owners; to require businesses with cafeterias or dining places to install grease traps approved by CUC within their premises prior to discharging to the wastewater system, which maintenance responsibilities are the premises' owners; to impose penalties for violations to the contrary; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the Public Wastewater Systems Protection Act of 1997.

Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that the various wastewater manholes across Saipan have been recurrently overflowing from backflowed sewage. The Legislature also finds that the public has been unfairly exposed to the potentially health hazardous effects from such numerous reoccurring overflows. The Legislature was made to understand that the overflows was directly attributed to an increasing presence of foreign materials (of which garment rags, and pieces of wood are among the highest) that are not supposed to be in the public wastewater system. The Legislature further finds that the tremendous increase of foreign materials in the public wastewater system directly clogs up the passage of sewage being pumped by the wastewater impellers installed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. Fortunately, because the impeller pumps are designed to automatically trip off once foreign objects can not be pumped, the clogging occurs. The clogging exacerbates a "chain reaction", forcing the preceding impeller pumps to correspondingly shut off, causing sewage backflows and subsequent manhole overflows. To this end, the Legislature, therefore, seeks to assist remedy the situation seek preventive measures by requiring all garment factories and hotels to install CUC approved bar screens and grease traps within their premises and for which the premises' owners are responsible for the maintenance of such installed preventive systems.

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Section 3. Enactment. There is hereby enacted a new section to require all garment factories and hotels to install bar screens and grease traps within their premises to prevent the entrance of foreign materials into the public wastewater system. The bar screen and grease traps designs must be submitted to the CUC Wastewater Division for certification within approved standards by the USEPA before being installed. The maintenance of such preventive systems lies with the premises' owners. As appropriate, pertinent regulations governing such systems may be promulgated by the CUC Wastewater Division and the effective date of the implementation of this Act may take effect pending the promulgation of such regulations.

Section 4. Penalties Imposed. Simultaneous to the implementation of this Act, the CUC Wastewater Division is herein authorized to impose penalties for violations to the provisions of this Act. For purposes of effective and practical enforcement, the following penalties are hereby assessed.

A. A \$10,000 penalty fee for garment factories and hotels hooked up or will be hooking up to the public wastewater system will be imposed for non-installation of bar screens within approved CUC standards within their premises; and

B. A \$5,000 penalty fee for garment factories and hotels with cafeterias and/or dining areas is imposed for non-installation of grease traps within approved standards of CUC within their premises.

Section 5. Severability. If any provision of this Act be held declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

/s/ Diego T. Benavente
DIEGO T. BENAVENTE
Speaker
House of Representatives

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Evelyn C. Fleming
EVELYN C. FLEMING
House Clerk

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 Vetoed this 9th day of January , 1998.

 /s/ Froilan C. Tenorio
FROILAN C. TENORIO
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Overridden by the House of Representatives on January 22, 1998, and the Senate on January 23, 1998, with the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members in each house, Eleventh Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

CERTIFIED BY:

 /s/ Diego T. Benavente
DIEGO T. BENAVENTE
Speaker of the House

 /s/ Paul A. Manglona
PAUL A. MANGLONA
President of the Senate

Overridden by the Senate on : 1/23/98

Overridden by the House on : 1/22/98

Became Public Law No. 10-87.