

ELEVENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, 1999

PUBLIC LAW NO. 11-116

H. B. NO. 11-495

AN ACT

To appropriate \$600,000 from 4 CMC §1503(e) to complete the construction of the Department of Public Health's, Division of Mental Health Transitional Living Arrangement Facility; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE ELEVENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that there exists a need for a facility to house mental health patients whose care does not require acute mental health inpatient care but needs additional care to prepare the patient for independent living. Furthermore, the Legislature finds that there are approximately nine patients in the acute psychiatric ward that would immediately benefit by having this type of facility and service. The Legislature further finds that the Marianas Housing Corporation and the Department of Public Health had collaborated to address this critical mental health system's need; and, through their collaborative effort, the Marianas Housing Corporation through its Community Block Development Grant had committed approximately \$500,000 to the project.

Section 2. Appropriation. Notwithstanding the provisions set forth in Public Law 11-25 and Saipan Local Law 11-2, there is hereby appropriated \$600,000.00 for the completion of the Transitional Living Arrangement facility to the Department of Public Health. Such appropriation shall have no fiscal year limitation and shall be expended towards the full completion of the facility.

Section 3. Expenditure Authority. The Secretary of Public Health with consultation from the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) shall be the expenditure authority.

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

Section 5. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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:

ATTESTED TO BY:

/s/ Diego T. Benavente
DIEGO T. BENAVENTE
SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

/s/ Evelyn C. Fleming
EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

Approved this 24th day of January, 2000

/s/ Pedro P. Tenorio
PEDRO P. TENORIO
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS