

**ELEVENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

PUBLIC LAW NO. 11-54
**SENATE BILL
NO. 11-95**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1998

AN ACT

To amend the 9 CMC § 2101 (c) to allow the registration of any right hand drive vehicle which entered the Commonwealth prior to the effective date of P.L. 11-12; to impose strict liability on any shipping company transporting right hand drive vehicles to the Commonwealth after the effective date of P.L. 11-12; to impose a \$500.00 per car civil penalty on any person found importing right-hand drive vehicles into the Commonwealth after the effective date of P.L. 11-12; and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Registration of Right Hand Drive Vehicles. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the owner of any right hand drive vehicle which entered the Commonwealth prior to the effective date of P.L. 11-12 shall be permitted to register the vehicle if it meets the safety and regulatory criteria set forth in 9 CMC § 2101(c).

Section 2. Penalties. Any person, business entity, or governmental authority found to be importing vehicles in violation of P.L. 11-12, including but not limited right hand drive vehicles in violation of 9 CMC § 2101, shall pay a civil penalty of \$500.00 per vehicle to the Commonwealth general fund.

Section 3. Transporter's Liability. Any shipping or transporting company which transports right hand drive vehicles or other vehicles in violation of P.L. 11-12 to the Commonwealth shall be strictly liable for immediate return shipment of such vehicles to the point of embarkation. Any shipping or transporting company failing to immediately remove such vehicles from the Commonwealth shall be fined \$500.00 per car per day until departure from the Commonwealth.

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.

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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herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes.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 bill shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Paul A. Manglona
PAUL A. MANGLONA
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

/s/ Edward U. Maratita
EDWARD U. MARATITA
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 29th day of January, 19989.

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