

**TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2001**

*Public Law 12-60*  
**SENATE BILL**  
**NO. 12-94**

---

---

**AN ACT**

To clarify the law enforcement status of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Police and to provide for the death beneficiaries of CPA Police and firefighters; and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that, although the commonwealth Ports Authority is given the power to protect and police its sea and air ports by 2 CMC § 2122 (b), and although the Commonwealth Ports Authority Police officers are deputized as special law enforcement officers by the commissioner of Public Safety, their status as law enforcement officers is not clear under existing statute. As law enforcement personnel, CPA should have clear statutory authority to carry firearms and to make arrests as required by law. In addition, CPA police and firefighters work in occupations that, by their nature, put their lives at risk. Hence, the death beneficiaries of CPA police and firefighters should be afforded the same benefits statutorily enjoyed by the beneficiaries of law enforcement officers of the Commonwealth.

Section 2. Death Benefits Amendment. 1 CMC § 8282, as enacted by Public Law 8-40, is hereby amended by creating a new subsection (m), to read as follows:

“§ 8282. Law Enforcement Officers.

For purposes of this chapter, law enforcement officers shall include the following:

(m) Commonwealth Ports Authority Police officers and firefighters.”

Section 3. Weapons Control Act Amendment. 6 CMC § 2208 is hereby amended by adding a new subsection (f), to read as follows:

“(f) For purposes of this chapter the Commonwealth Ports Authority Police shall be considered to be a law enforcement agency, headed by a Chief of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Police. All officers employed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority Police are deemed to be law enforcement officers and shall have within the Commonwealth Port Authority premises, all the powers, authority and benefits that other law enforcement officers are accorded by law.”

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstances 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 at the date this Act becomes effective.

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

**CERTIFIED BY:**

**ATTESTED BY:**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
**PAUL A. MANGLONA**  
President of the Senate

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
**JOAQUIN G. ADRIANO**  
Senate Legislative Secretary

**Approved** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2001

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
**PEDRO P. TENORIO**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands