

THIRTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2002

Public Law 13-6

SENATE BILL NO. 13-17,SD1

AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC § 1304(a) regarding the surrender of a person's driver's license when stopped by a police officer; and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that a person who is stopped by a police officer for a traffic or other related violation is required to surrender his or her driver's license pending a court appearance. The Legislature finds that to surrender one's driver's license is not only unnecessary because of the availability of obtaining a bench warrant from the court if the person fails to appear at the appointed time, but also very inconvenient to the person who may rely exclusively on the driver's license as the person's sole form of identification for common everyday transactions.

Section 2. Amendment. 9 CMC § 1304(a) is amended as follows:

“§ 1304. Written Traffic Citation; Discretion of Officer to Give Warning.

(a) Whenever a person is halted by a police officer for any violation of this title and is not taken before a judge, the driver of the of the vehicle shall surrender his or her operator's license for inspection by the police office and the officer shall prepare a written traffic citation. The police officer, after inspecting the information of the operator's license, shall return the operator's license to the driver of the vehicle.”

Section 3. 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 provision to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Saving 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herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under or pursuant to prior law.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.

Sections 5. 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/ _____
PAUL A. MANGLONA
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

/S/ _____
JOSE M. DELACRUZ
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 31st day of May, 2002

/S/ _____
JUAN N. BABAUTA
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS