

FOURTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2004

PUBLIC LAW NO. 14-6

SENATE BILL

NO. 14-15, SD1

AN ACT

To amend 3 CMC § 4332(b) to allow for up to a 90-day stay limit on initial entry permits for tourists; and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. **Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that there are a number of foreign tourists to the CNMI who would spend an extended amount of vacation time in the Commonwealth if the permitting process for entry were more efficient. Specifically, the Legislature finds that elderly retirees from Japan could be expected to spend the winter season in the CNMI with its warm tropical climate, possibly renting condominiums or apartments, thereby contributing significantly to the CNMI economy. Visiting family members could be expected to take shorter trips to the Commonwealth further contributing to the islands' economy. The Legislature, accordingly, finds that the current practice of DOLI granting 30-day entry permits to visitors, should be amended to extend the duration of stay to 90 days to accommodate our elderly visitors. Presently, DOLI will grant a 60-day extensions to those qualifying non-immigrant aliens choosing to stay in the Commonwealth beyond their original 30-day entry permit. To facilitate this process the Legislature proposes

to grant 90-day initial entry permits to all non-immigrant aliens visiting the Commonwealth as tourists.

Section 2. **Amendments.** 3 CMC 4332(b)(1) is amended to read as follows:

§ 4332(b) Duration of Stay; Extension and Modification of Permit.

“(1) The length of stay or period of validity of an entry permit for each class of nonimmigrant aliens defined in 3 CMC § 4303(q) shall be fixed by regulation and shall appear on any issued entry permit or visa, provided, however, that visitors entering the CNMI as tourists under a non-immigrant alien entry permit may be granted a permit for a period of up to 90 days upon arrival.

Section 3. **Regulations.** The Office of the Attorney General is authorized promulgate regulations to implement the intent and provisions of this act.

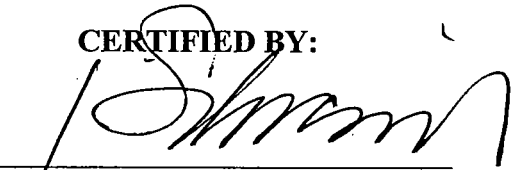
Section 4. **Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to 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 at the date this Act becomes effective.

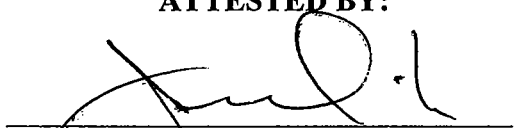
Section 6. **Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval

CERTIFIED BY:



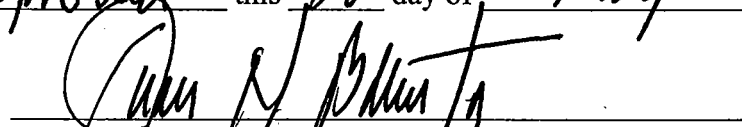
JOAQUIN G. ADRIANO
President of the Senate

ATTESTED BY:



JOSEPH M. MENDIOLA
Senate Legislative Secretary

Approved this *20th* day of *May*, 2004



JUAN N. BABAUTA
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands