



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
FOURTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2005

PUBLIC LAW NO. 14-72  
**H. B. No. 14-288, HS1**

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**AN ACT**

To amend Title 6, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 1 of the Commonwealth Code by adding a new § 3112 to prohibit the operation of a vehicle on a highway for rent or hire without having a taxicab driver's license or taxicab registration card; and for other purposes.

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

**Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that persons operate vehicles on the highways for hire or rent without obtaining a taxicab driver's license or registering the vehicle as a taxicab. As such, the Legislature finds that there exists within the Commonwealth an illegal underground taxicab industry, which has lead to the infestation of many unauthorized taxicabs on the highways. This situation has created an unsafe and unregulated ground transportation business on the islands and caused a loss of revenue for the Commonwealth due to the failure of these persons to obtain a taxicab business license and a taxicab driver's license. The purpose of this legislation is to prohibit and criminalize such illegal and unauthorized taxicab activity within the Commonwealth.

**Section 2. Amendment.** Title 6, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 1 of the Commonwealth Code is amended by adding a new section 3112 to read as follows:

“§ 3112. Operating a vehicle for rent or hire without a taxicab driver's license or taxicab registration card.

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle upon a highway for rent or hire without having in his immediate possession a valid taxicab driver's license or a taxicab registration card.

(b) Any person convicted of knowingly violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by imprisonment of not more than one year or a fine of not more than \$2,000 or both.

(c) Any alien convicted of violating this section shall be subject to immediate deportation.

(d) Any person convicted of violating this section shall not be eligible for a taxi cab driver's license or a taxi cab business license.

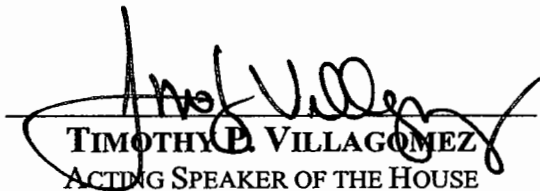
(e) Any vehicle used in violation of this section shall be confiscated and subject to forfeiture to the Commonwealth pursuant to the provisions set forth in 6 CMC § 2150."

**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 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 4. 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 the 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 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

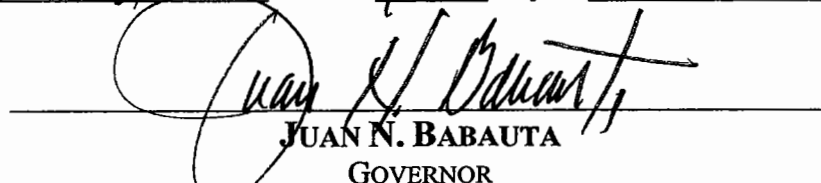
CERTIFIED BY:

  
TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ  
ACTING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

ATTESTED TO BY:

  
CECILIA TAITANO-CELES  
ASSISTANT HOUSE CLERK

Approved on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2005

  
JUAN N. BABAUTA  
GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS