



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2008

PUBLIC LAW NO. 16-1  
H. B. No. 16-55

AN ACT

TO AMEND 9 CMC § 2201, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE:

1 Section 1. Findings and purpose. The Commonwealth Legislature finds that  
2 violation of 9 CMC § 2201(c) should be a civil offense rather than a misdemeanor due to the  
3 nature of the offense, the lack of a victim, and the current cost to the court system in  
4 appointing attorneys to represent persons charged under the section.

5 Section 2. Amendment. Title 9, Section 2201 is amended as follows:

6 "§ 2201. Operator's License.

7 (a) No person, other than those expressly exempted in this division, shall  
8 operate any motor vehicle upon a highway in the Commonwealth unless that person  
9 has been licensed as an operator under this division.

10 (b) A fee of fifteen dollars (\$15) shall be paid to the Director of the  
11 Department of Finance for each operator's license issued. A fee of five dollars (\$5)  
12 shall be paid to the Director of the Department of Finance for each duplicate or  
13 substitute license issued.

14 (c) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway in the  
15 Commonwealth without having on his person or in his immediate possession a valid  
16 license issued by the Bureau or a valid operator's license from outside the  
17 Commonwealth, provided there is compliance with 9 CMC § 2202.

18 (d) A violation of subsections (a) of this section shall be punishable by not  
19 more than six (6) months imprisonment, or a fine of not more than five hundred  
20 dollars (\$500), or both.

1 (e) A violation of subsection (c) of this section shall be a civil infraction  
2 punishable by a fine of not more than fifty dollars (\$50) for the first offense and not  
3 more than one hundred dollars (\$100) for any second or subsequent offense. Any  
4 person assessed a civil fine under this subsection may, in lieu of appearing in court,  
5 pay the fine to the Clerk of Court prior to the court appearance date."


6 Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
7 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
8 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
9 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

10 Section 4. Savings clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
11 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
12 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
13 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
14 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
15 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
16 becomes effective.

17 Section 5. Effective date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
18 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

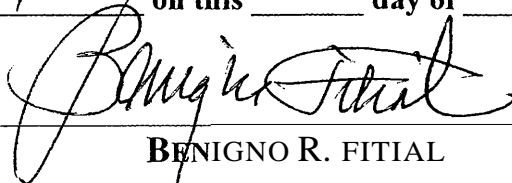
CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:

  
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

  
ELY

APPROVED on this 2nd day of MAY, 2008

  
BENIGNO R. FITIAL  
GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS