



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2008

PUBLIC LAW NO. 16-18
H. B. No. 16-123, HD1

AN ACT

To exempt CNMI airports, hotels, hotel resorts, or golf course resorts from the prohibition of alcoholic beverage sales on Election Day; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The prohibition of alcoholic beverage sales on
2 Election Day is to prevent conflicts between party camps from escalating. The
3 Commonwealth Legislature finds, however, that this prohibition has a potential loss of
4 economic growth within our tourism industry. This is an industry that the CNMI has been
5 largely dependent on for its economic growth for the past 30 years. Thus, our tourists' visit
6 within the CNMI should not be hampered in any way. Tourists visiting the Commonwealth
7 on Election Day are restricted from purchasing alcoholic beverages for their consumption
8 though they are not involved with local political affairs. The purpose of this Act therefore, is
9 to exempt CNMI airports, hotels, hotel resorts, and golf course resorts from the prohibition of
10 alcoholic beverage sales on Election Day.

11 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 6706 is amended to read as follows:

12 "**§ 6706.**

13 (a) No person may sell, purchase or dispense any alcoholic beverages or
14 liquor while the polls are open on the day of an election. Any person who knowingly
15 and willfully violates this section shall upon conviction be fined not more that \$1,000
16 or imprisoned for not more that one hundred (100) days, or both.

17 (b) This section shall not apply to CNMI airports, hotels, hotel resorts, or
18 golf course resorts."


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

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7 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.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

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

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:

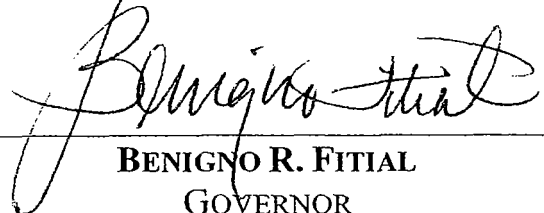


ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

APPROVED on this 31st day of OCTOBER, 2008



BENIGNO R. FITIAL
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MANANA ISLANDS