



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

Public Law 16-31
H. B. No. 16-206

AN ACT

To authorize the Department of Public Lands to pay for land compensation judgments using its operations fund bank accounts by amending 1 CMC § 2803(c)(3); and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Department of
2 Public Lands is tasked with the responsibility of administering the Commonwealth's land
3 exchange program, which includes land compensation in cases where land exchange is not a
4 viable or desirable option. The Legislature further finds that the Department of Public Lands
5 is a party to land compensation cases filed in court and should be responsible for paying final
6 judgments, if any, to land compensation claimants. Land compensation judgments usually
7 include interest which is compounded until the judgment is paid in full thereby making it
8 imperative that the judgments are paid as soon as possible. The Legislature finds that the
9 Department of Public Lands has the ability to satisfy land compensation judgments.
10 Accordingly, the purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Department of Public Lands to
11 pay for final land compensation judgments using its operations fund bank accounts.

12 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 2803(c)(3), as established by Public Law 15-2, is
13 hereby amended to read as follows:

14 "(3) All debts, liabilities, obligations, and operational expenses of the
15 Department including land compensation judgments shall be paid from the DPL
16 Operations Fund bank account(s)."

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7 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.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.

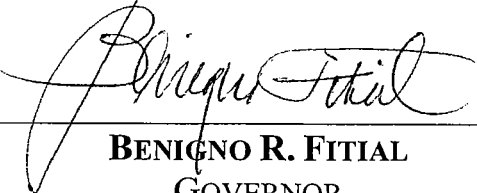
CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:


ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

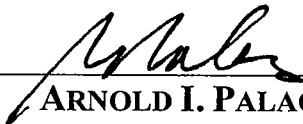

EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

DISAPPROVED on this 11th day of FEBRUARY, 2009


BENIGNO R. FITIAL
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Overridden by the House of Representatives on February 13, 2009, and by the Senate on March 10, 2009, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members in each house.


CERTIFIED BY:



ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



DATE



PETE P. REYES
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



DATE