



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

H. B. No. 16-187

AN ACT

To amend Section 7(a)(2) and repeal and reenact Section 7(c) of the Rota Casino Act of 2007; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that Section 7(a)(2) of the
2 Rota Casino Act of 2007 must be amended to authorize the Rota Casino Gaming
3 Commission to utilize all funds collected from casino licenses and fees as necessary without
4 any restrictions. The Rota Casino Gaming Commission's operation is funded by the
5 collection of such licenses and fees and any restriction on the use of such funds hampers the
6 Commission's operation and ability to regulate casinos in Rota.

7 The Legislature further finds that Section 7(c) must be amended to be consistent with
8 the provisions of The Local Law Act of 1983 as set forth in 1 CMC § 1402. Accordingly,
9 the purpose of this legislation is amend Section 7(a)(2) and repeal and reenact Section 7(c) to
10 comply with the provisions of 1 CMC § 1402(c)(I) and (4), specifically relating to a gross
11 revenue surtax and gambling revenue tax.

12 Section 2. Amendment. Section 7(a)(2) of the Rota Casino Act of 2007 is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 "(2) The Commission may impose annual license fees in connection with
15 casino licenses issued under this title. The first such fee shall be paid upon approval
16 of the license application and the license shall issue as of the date such fee is paid.
17 The license year for a casino shall be reckoned from the date the license is issued, and
18 the total license fee for any casino shall not exceed \$200,000 for anyone license year,
19 except that the Commission may, by regulation, increase such maximum fee not

1 sooner than one year after the first license is issued or one year after the last such
2 increase, if it finds that the demand for licenses so warrants and that the increase will
3 not have a significantly adverse effect on investment in casinos on Rota, provided,
4 that the fee in effect on the date a casino license becomes effective shall not be
5 increased for that casino during the first three years of that license. If any increase
6 under this paragraph would cause a license fee to exceed \$200,000, such increase
7 shall not be for more than 10 percent of the fee then in effect."

8 Section 3. Amendment. Section 7(c) of the Rota Casino Act of 2007 is hereby
9 repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

10 "(c) Rota Casino Tax.

11 (1) A gross revenue surtax of one percent of gross revenue as provided in 1
12 CMC § 1402(c)(I) shall be paid each month by each licensee.

13 (2) A gambling revenue tax pursuant to 1 CMC § 1402(c)(4) equal to ten
14 percent per annum of the casino gross revenues, shall payable on or before the
15 seventh day of each month.

16 (3) An annual gambling amusement machine tax pursuant to 1 CMC
17 § 1402(c)(4) for all slot machines and poker machines located on the casino premises
18 and poker machines located on the casino premises, shall be payable in an amount to
19 be determined by the Commission by regulation."


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

24 Section 5. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
25 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
26 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
27 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
28 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,

1 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act
2 becomes effective.

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

CERTIFIED BY:



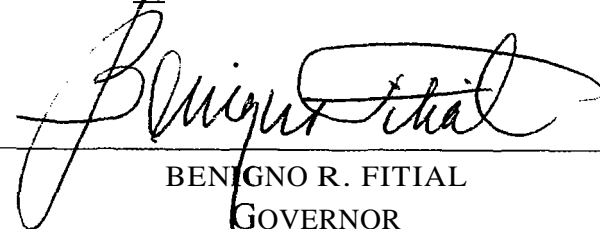
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

ATTESTED TO BY:



EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

APPROVED on this 15th day of APRIL, 2009



BENIGNO R. FITIAL
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS