



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Benigno R. Fitial**

Governor

**Eloy S. Inos**

Lieutenant Governor

**30 AUG 2012**

Honorable Eliceo D. Cabrera  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Seventeenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Honorable Paul A. Manglona  
Senate President, The Senate  
Seventeenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 17-312 entitled, "To express the desire of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to have the insurance system commonly known as "Social Security" extended to the officers and employees of the Commonwealth Government and its political subdivisions and instrumentalities," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 17-79**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eloy S. Inos".

ELOY S. INOS  
Acting Governor

cc: Governor; Attorney General's Office; Press Secretary; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



*The House of Representatives*

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 500586  
Saipan, MP 96950

August 30, 2012

The Honorable Eloy S. Inos  
Acting Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Acting Governor Inos:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. 17-312**, entitled: "An Act to express the desire of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to have the insurance system commonly known as "Social Security" extended to the officers and employees of the Commonwealth Government and its political subdivisions and instrumentalities.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Muña  
House Clerk

Attachment



*Seventeenth Legislature  
of the  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Sixth Regular Session**

**July 12, 2012**

Representative Felicidad T. Ogomoro, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Ramon S. Basa, Eliceo D. Cabrera, and Sylvestre I. Iguel) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. 17-312**

**AN ACT**

**TO EXPRESS THE DESIRE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TO HAVE THE INSURANCE  
SYSTEM COMMONLY KNOWN AS "SOCIAL SECURITY"  
EXTENDED TO THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLITICAL  
SUBDIVISIONS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES.**

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee and was placed on the Bill Calendar.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 12, 2012;**  
*without amendments* in the form of H. B. 17-312 and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee and was placed on the Bill Calendar  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 29, 2012;**  
*without amendments.*

**H. B. 17-312 WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON AUGUST 30, 2012.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON JULY 12, 2012**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. Muña".

**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**



*Seventeenth Legislature  
of the  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Second Day, Sixth Special Session

July 12, 2012

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**H. B. 17-312**

**AN ACT**

**TO EXPRESS THE DESIRE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TO HAVE THE INSURANCE SYSTEM COMMONLY KNOWN AS "SOCIAL SECURITY" EXTENDED TO THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES.**

**Be it enacted by the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the United States  
2 Congress enacted Public Law 86-778 which excluded, upon certification, the officers and  
3 employees of the government of Guam from participation in the insurance system commonly  
4 known as "Social Security." This exclusion was extended to the Commonwealth  
5 government. Employees in the private sector were not so excluded.

6           The Legislature finds that government employees often are employed outside of the  
7 government upon separation from the government. The disparate systems often leads to  
8 difficulties upon retirement, the very time when residents should be secure in their futures.

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**HOUSE BILL 17-312**

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1 The Legislature finds that it is now beneficial for the welfare of the residents of the  
2 Commonwealth that the Commonwealth government participates in the insurance system  
3 commonly known as "Social Security." The government's participation will reduce  
4 operating expenses of the government and help ensure a stable retirement for the people of  
5 the Commonwealth.

6 The Legislature finds and declares that this Act is necessary, and is a proper use of the  
7 legislative authority granted by Article II of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.

8 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 1 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended by  
9 the inclusion of the following:

10 "(a) Statement of Intent. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
11 Islands desires to have the insurance system established by Title II of the Social  
12 Security Act extended to the elected officials and employees of the Commonwealth of  
13 the Northern Mariana Islands and its political subdivisions and instrumentalities as  
14 provided in 26 USC §3103 and §3111.

15 (b) Certification Required. No later than ten (10) days after the effective date  
16 of this Act, the Governor shall certify to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United  
17 States of America that this legislation has been adopted by the government of the  
18 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

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

HOUSE BILL 17-312

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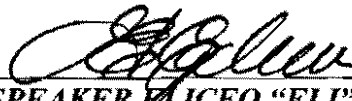
1           **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
2 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
3 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
4 contained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

**HOUSE BILL 17-312**


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

Attested to by:   
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:   
SPEAKER ELICEO "ELI" D. CABRERA  
House of Representatives  
17<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

APPROVED this 30<sup>TH</sup> day of AUGUST, 2012

  
ELOY S. NOS  
Acting Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands