



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Eloy S. Inos**  
Governor

**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Lieutenant Governor

**13 FEB 2015**

Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Nineteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

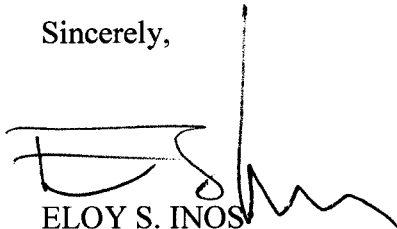
Honorable Victor B. Hocog  
Senate President, The Senate  
Nineteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 18-211, entitled, "To amend Title 1 Division 8 Part 2 Chapter 4 (Public Employment/Employee Compensation) of the Commonwealth Code. To exempt the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) from the salary limitations imposed by the Compensation Adjustment Act," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 18-74**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



ELOY S. INOS

cc: Lt. Governor; Attorney General's Office; Northern Marianas Housing Corporation; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



# *House of Representatives*

18<sup>th</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

January 5, 2015

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

Dear Governor Inos:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 18-211**, entitled: "To amend Title 1 Division 8 Part 2 Chapter 4 (Public Employment/Employee Compensation) of the Commonwealth Code. To exempt the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) from the salary limitations imposed by the Compensation Adjustment Act.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Muña  
House Clerk

Attachment



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

**Fourth Regular Session**

**November 25, 2014**

Representative John Paul P. Sablan, of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Janet U. Maratita, and Ralph N. Yumul) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H.B. 18-211**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND TITLE 1 DIVISION 8 PART 2 CHAPTER 4 (PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT/EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION) OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE. TO EXEMPT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC) FROM THE SALARY LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT ACT.**

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, NOVEMBER 25, 2014;  
*without amendments* and transmitted to the  
THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to a Senate Committee.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 23, 2014;  
*without amendments* and returned to  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON NOVEMBER 25, 2014.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. Muña", written over a horizontal line.

**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk.**



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

**FIFTH DAY, FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**

**NOVEMBER 25, 2014**

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**H. B. 18-211**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND TITLE 1 DIVISION 8 PART 2 CHAPTER 4 (PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT/EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION) OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE. TO EXEMPT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC) FROM THE SALARY LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT ACT.**

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and purpose.** The Legislature finds that on August 23, 1994,  
2 the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) was established by  
3 Executive Order 94-3. NMHC is an autonomous government agency that provides efficient  
4 and responsive delivery of housing, mortgage and community development needs to the  
5 people of the Commonwealth through the administration of U.S. Department of Housing and  
6 Urban Development (HUD) programs, specifically, the Community Development Block  
7 Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Neighborhood  
8 Stabilization Program, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and New Construction  
9 Multifamily Programs. Additionally, the Legislature finds that NMHC administers the U.S.  
10 Department of the Treasury's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. The Legislature  
11 finds that NMHC efficiently and responsively delivers these vital federally-related programs  
12 and services to the people of the Commonwealth in large part to the dedicated and qualified

## HOUSE BILL 18-211

1 staff and management who possess the certification, specialized training, and institutional  
2 knowledge of the various programs administered by this agency.

3 The Legislature finds that according to HUD, while Public Housing Authorities  
4 (PHAs) (NMHC is a PHA) are administered by the states and their employees are state rather  
5 than federal employees, PHAs administer significant federal resources and as such must  
6 adhere to federal standards of fiscal responsibility.” HUD, as the grantor agency, requires all  
7 PHAs to provide on an annual basis data on the compensation for their top 5 highest  
8 compensated employees to ensure that pay ranges are commensurate with the size and  
9 number of housing units in housing authorities in uniformity with federal standards.

10 Furthermore, the Legislature finds that one hundred percent (100%) of NMHC’s  
11 operating and personnel budget is derived from federal funds (HUD). Further, HUD has  
12 implemented a tier system and reporting requirement that ensures that pay ranges are  
13 commensurate with the size and number of units in housing authorities.

14 Therefore, the Legislature finds that because the services performed by NMHC staff  
15 are special, unique, and require degree of expertise or special knowledge and these services  
16 are essential to the housing and community development needs of the people of the  
17 Commonwealth, it is only fitting and justifiable that NMHC be exempted from certain  
18 provisions of the Compensation Adjustment Act. The intent of this Act is to amend  
19 1 CMC § 8250 (e).

20 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 8250 (e) is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 “1 CMC §§8245(b)-(d), 8246, 8248(a), 8251, and 8252 shall not apply to the  
22 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Northern Marianas Housing  
23 Corporation.”

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

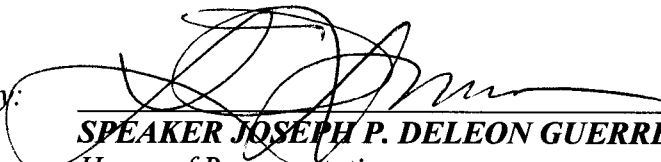
28 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
29 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
30 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
31 contained in this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

**HOUSE BILL 18-211**

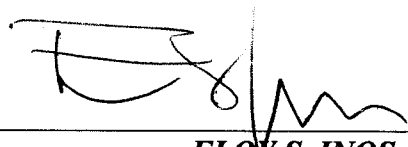
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**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by:   
**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**

Certified by:   
**SPEAKER JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO**  
House of Representatives  
18<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

~~Approved~~ this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014<sup>15</sup>

  
**ELOY S. INOS**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands