



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
PROGRAMS & LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OFFICE

November 9, 2015

Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero  
Speaker, House of Representatives President of the Senate  
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 House Bill No. 19-83, HD2, entitled, "To vest the Department of Finance specifically the Division of Customs with all the fines collected at the ports of entry of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and transmitted to the Governor on September 29, 2015, became law without the Acting Governor's signature.

This bill became **Public Law No. 19-19**, on November 7, 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria T. Guerrero".

**Victoria T. Guerrero**  
Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

cc: Attorney General's Office  
Press Secretary  
Department of Finance  
Division of Customs  
Special Assistant for Administration  
Commonwealth Law Revision



# *House of Representatives*

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

P.O. BOX 500586  
SAIPAN, MP 96950


September 29, 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. 19-83, HD2**, entitled: "To vest the Department of Finance specifically the Division of Customs with all the fines collected at the ports of entry of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Muña  
House Clerk

Attachment



*Nineteenth Legislature  
of the  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Sixth Special Session**

**July 16, 2015**

**Representative John Paul P. Sablan**, of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 19-83, HD2**

**AN ACT**

**TO VEST THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SPECIFICALLY THE DIVISION OF CUSTOMS WITH ALL THE FINES COLLECTED AT THE PORTS OF ENTRY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which submitted Standing Committee Report 19-27; adopted August 25, 2015.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 25, 2015;**  
*with/ amendments* in the form of H. B. 19-83, HD2 and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015;**  
*without amendments.*

**H. B. 19-83, HD2 WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2015.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON AUGUST 25, 2015.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**



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

**Second Day, Second Regular Session**

**August 25, 2015**

---

---

**H. B. No. 19-83, HD2**

**AN ACT**

**TO VEST THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SPECIFICALLY THE DIVISION OF CUSTOMS WITH ALL THE FINES COLLECTED AT THE PORTS OF ENTRY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

1           **Section 1. Findings.** The Legislature finds that certain businesses within the  
2 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are being dishonest in their declaration  
3 when importing goods to be more profitable and to gain a competitive edge against other  
4 businesses in the CNMI. The Legislature finds that the Division of Customs under the  
5 Department of Finance is task to protect our borders and to assess goods and commodities at  
6 our ports of entry. The Legislature finds that the Division of Customs is currently relying  
7 strictly on man power to investigate and assess all containers at the seaport and each package  
8 at the airport(s) and post office(s). Additionally, the Legislature finds that the lack of proper  
9 equipment within the Division of Customs adds up to man power hours which relate to

---

**HOUSE BILL 19-83, HD2**

---

1 overtime payment that businesses would rather avoid paying and delays clearance at the ports  
2 of entry. Furthermore, the Legislature finds that Division of Customs has been given the  
3 gravest responsibility to protect not just our borders but to make sure that goods and  
4 commodities entering the commonwealth are safe. The Legislature finds that in addition to  
5 protecting our borders, the Division of Customs is an integral part of a task force that is  
6 fighting the ice epidemic within the CNMI.

7 Therefore, the intent of this Act is to vest the Department of Finance specifically the  
8 Division of Customs with all the fines collected at the ports of entry of the Commonwealth of  
9 the Northern Mariana Islands.

10 **Section 2. Enactment.** Subject to proper codification by the CNMI Law Revision  
11 and notwithstanding any laws, provisions or statutes to the contrary the following new  
12 provision is hereby enacted:

13 “101. Collection of fines at the ports of entry.

14 The Department of Finance specifically the Division of Customs is hereby  
15 vested with the authority to collect and keep all fines imposed on businesses and  
16 individuals at the ports of entry for but not limited to training, operations and  
17 personnel costs associated with the division’s mission to improve services and the  
18 fight on the ice epidemic in the Commonwealth. Such funds shall not be subject to  
19 reprogramming. Provided further that the Division of Customs shall create rules and  
20 regulations to standardize fines and to regulate such fines. The expenditure authority  
21 of all the collections shall be the Secretary of Finance in consultation with the  
22 Director of the Division of Customs or his/her designee.

---

**HOUSE BILL 19-83, HD2**

---

## 1                   102. Reporting Requirement.

2                   The Secretary of Finance in collaboration with the Director of the Division of  
3                   Customs shall report, on the collection and expenditure of all fines collected pursuant  
4                   to Section 101 of this Act, on a quarterly basis to the Presiding Officers of the  
5                   Legislature.”

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

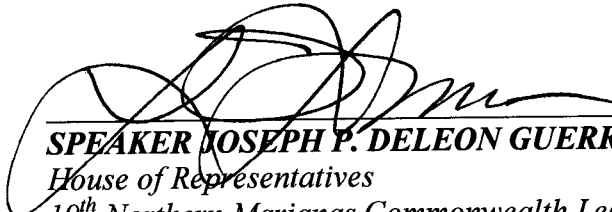
10                  **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
11                  construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
12                  repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted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

**HOUSE BILL 19-83, HD2**

---

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 JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO**  
House of Representatives  
19<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

\_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_  
**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
**Acting Governor**  
*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*