

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Eloy S. Inos
Governor

Ralph DLG. Torres
Lieutenant Governor

NOV 25 2015

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

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

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill No. 19-56, entitled, "To amend 4 CMC § 50204 to exempt developer infrastructure taxes from qualifying certificate tax abatement or rebate for the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 19-22**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph DLG. Torres".

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Acting Governor

cc: Governor; Attorney General's Office; Commonwealth Development Authority;
Public Auditor; Mayor of Saipan; Mayor of Tinian; Mayor of Rota; Special Assistant for
Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



THE SENATE
Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
P. O. Box 500129
Saipan, MP 96950

November 05, 2015

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres
Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Capital Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Acting Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith Senate Bill No. 19-56, entitled: "To amend 4 CMC § 50204 to exempt developer infrastructure taxes from qualifying certificate tax abatement or rebate for the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolores S. Bermudes".

Dolores S. Bermudes
Senate Clerk

Attachments



THE SENATE
NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE BILL NO. 19-56

AN ACT

To amend 4 CMC § 50204 to exempt developer infrastructure taxes from qualifying certificate tax abatement or rebate for the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

SENATE ACTION

Offered by Senator(s): Justo S. Quitugua, Arnold I. Palacios and Sixto K. Igisomar

Date: July 15, 2015

Referred to: Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs

Standing Committee Report No.: 19-50 adopted on 10/9/15


Final Reading: October 09, 2015

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to: None

Standing Committee Report No.: None

First and Final Reading: October 27, 2015


DOLORES S. BERMUDES
SENATE CLERK

NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2015

S. B. NO. 19-56

AN ACT

To amend 4 CMC § 50204 to exempt developer infrastructure taxes from qualifying certificate tax abatement or rebate for the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the CNMI's
2 qualifying certificate program offers abatement and rebate of most applicable taxes
3 including the developer infrastructure taxes. However, abatement or rebate of the developer
4 infrastructure tax has substantially reduced the funds available to develop and further
5 expand the CNMI's infrastructure including roads and highways, water, sewer and power
6 systems.

7 The Legislature further finds that investors and developers must be good business
8 partners and contribute to the improvements and expansions of the CNMI infrastructure in
9 order to sustain and expand the investor's new or renovated establishment. Without a
10 sustainable infrastructure, new and existing investors will be reluctant to build a new
11 structure or renovate existing ones and existing infrastructure will be jeopardized by new
12 expansions. Accordingly, the purpose of this legislation is to exempt the developer
13 infrastructure tax from applying to the qualifying certificate program for the Third
14 Senatorial District.

15 **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC § 50204 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 “§ 50204. **Tax Abatements and Tax Rebates.**

SENATE BILL NO. 19-56

1 Subject to the provisions of this Chapter, the Governor is authorized to issue a
2 Qualifying Certificate prospectively, from the date of issuance, abating the following taxes
3 or establishing a higher tax rebate level on the following terms:

4 (a) Abatement of taxes of whatever nature, except taxes under the NMTIT and
5 developer infrastructure tax for the Third Senatorial District, paid or to be paid to the
6 Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands of up to 100 percent for
7 a period of up to 25 years.

8 (b) Rebate of taxes of whatever nature, except for developer infrastructure tax for the
9 Third Senatorial District, paid to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern
10 Mariana Islands of up to 100 percent for a period of up to 25 years.”

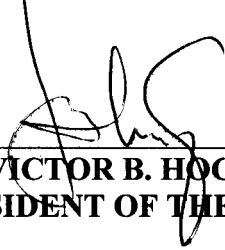
11 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
12 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
13 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
14 circumstances other than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

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

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

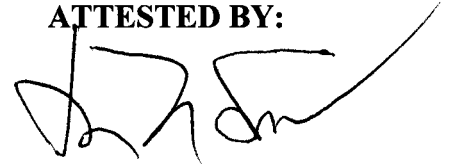
SENATE BILL NO. 19-56

CERTIFIED BY:



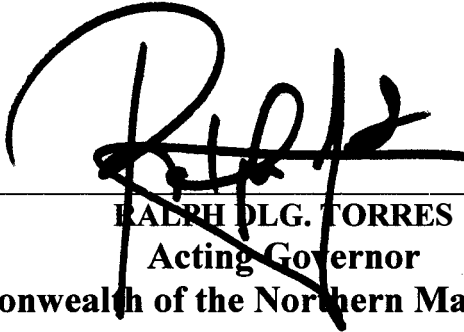
**VICTOR B. HOCO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

ATTESTED BY:



**TERESITA A. SANTOS
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**

Approved this *25th* day of *November*, 2015



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