

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lieutenant Governor

30 DEC 2015

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

Honorable Francisco M. Borja
Acting Senate President, The Senate
Nineteenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Acting President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 19-121, HD2, entitled, "To amend Public Law 19-08, Section 602(b) Hiring Restrictions and Section 702(d) Judicial Branch Probation Officers; and for other purposes", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 19-29**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. DLG. Torres", written over a horizontal line.

RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Attorney General's Office; Judicial Branch; Office of Adult Probation; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



House of Representatives

19th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

December 28, 2015

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

Dear Acting Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 19-121, HD2**, entitled: "To amend Public Law 19-08, Section 602(b) Hiring Restrictions and Section 702(d) Judicial Branch Probation Officers; 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

Second Regular Session

December 16, 2015

Representative Antonio P. Sablan, of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*;) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 19-121, HD2

AN ACT

**TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 19-08, SECTION 602(B) HIRING
RESTRICTIONS AND SECTION 702(D) JUDICIAL BRANCH
PROBATION OFFICERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 21, 2015;**
with amendments in the form of H. B. 19-121, 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, DECEMBER 23, 2015;
without amendments.

H. B. 19-121, HD2 WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON DECEMBER 23, 2015.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON DECEMBER 21, 2015.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

Tenth Day, Second Regular Session

December 21, 2015

H. B. No. 19-121, HD2

AN ACT

**TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 19-08, SECTION 602(B) HIRING
RESTRICTIONS AND SECTION 702(D) JUDICIAL BRANCH
PROBATION OFFICERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

1 **Section 1. Findings.** The Legislature finds that probation officers are necessary to
2 ensure their offenders remain supervised by the law and behave themselves. This is an
3 important part of the criminal justice system because it requires the officer to remain
4 committed to the offender and ensure that they do not commit another offense again. While
5 probation only lasts a short period, there is still a lasting effect that many criminals have as a
6 result of probation which stays with them throughout their life. Probation officers simply
7 help with the transition from criminal back to citizen, allowing many offenders a second
8 chance at life, rather than incarceration. For many individuals who have been convicted of a
9 crime, probation officers are probably the bane of their existence: the people who keep them
10 from leaving the island, checking up on them nearly every day. However, probation officers
11 are a necessary part of our criminal justice system and serve to help rehabilitate many
12 offenders.

13 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to ensure that the Office of Adult Probation
14 retains the two probation officers position to help make certain that offenders are held
15 accountable for their crimes and to focus on making our victims and communities whole
16 again.

HOUSE BILL 19-121, HD2

1 **Section 2. Amendment.** Section 602 (b) of Public Law 19-08 is hereby amended to
2 ready as follows:

3 “(b) In order to reduce the size of the Government, except for the Public
4 School System, the Northern Marianas College, the Department of Public Safety, the
5 Department of Corrections, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services,
6 the Department of Finance, the law enforcement officers of Customs, Fish &
7 Wildlife, Quarantine, CNMI Adult Probation Office, and Commerce ABTC &
8 Enforcement Compliance Divisions, any position that becomes vacant shall be
9 blocked if it is not filled within 90 days. Provided however, (1) if a Notice of
10 Personnel Action has been executed by the hiring agency and a candidate to fill the
11 vacancy has been selected or (2) an action has been initiated, including announcing a
12 job vacancy, to fill the position by any department or agency and filed at the Office of
13 Personnel Management in Rota, Tinian, and Saipan prior to the expiration of the 90
14 day requirement, the vacant position(s) shall be deemed in conformance within the 90
15 day requirement. The renewal of the contract for an existing employee shall not be
16 considered creating a vacant position. Any funds realized as a result of position
17 vacancies shall go to the Medical Referral Services, Business Unit 1979.

18 **Section 3. Amendment.** Section 702 (d) of Public Law 19-08 is hereby amended to
19 read as follows:

20 “(d) The two probation officers funded by Federal funds for FY 2015 may be
21 converted and funded for Probation Officers under the Judiciary personnel
22 appropriation business unit 1690 for FY 2016 or the two new positions may be
23 otherwise filled as new probation officers under the Judiciary personnel appropriation
24 business unit 1690 for FY 2016.”

25 **Section 4. Amendment.** Section 709 (h) of Public Law 19-08 is hereby amended to
26 read as follows:

27 “(h) Group Health and Life Insurance. The funds earmarked to the Group
28 Health and Life Insurance pursuant to 4 CMC § 1402(a)(16) and funds appropriated
29 to the Group Health Insurance under business unit 1533 for the executive branch shall
30 not be reprogrammed for any other purpose. Any lapsed funds shall be used to reduce
31 the premium of the government group health insurance. Funds appropriated to the
32 Group Health Insurance under business unit 1533 may be used to pay unpaid claims
33 incurred in prior years.”

34 **Section 5. Severability.** If any of this Act or the application of any such provision in
35 any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the
36 remainder of this Act or the application of its provision to persons or circumstance other than
37 those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

38 **Section 6. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
39 construed as affecting any excising right required under contract or acquired under statutes
40 repealed or under any rule, regulations or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers

HOUSE BILL 19-121, HD2

1 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
2 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
3 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act
4 becomes effective.

5 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
6 Governor or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by:



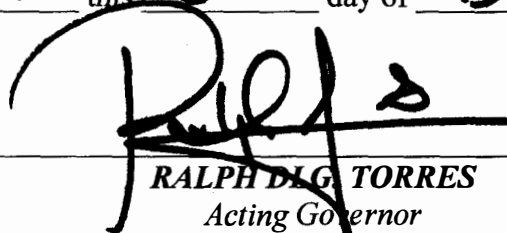
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



SPEAKER JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
House of Representatives
19th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 30th day of December, 2015



RALPH D.G. TORRES
Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands