



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

April 4, 2016

Honorable Rafael S. Demapan
Speaker, House of Representatives
Nineteenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Honorable Francisco M. Borja
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. 19-66, HS1, entitled, "To amend 9 CMC §5251 to include crosswalks, designated school bus stops, school drop zones, and pick up zones to protect our pedestrians including children from speeding vehicles; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and transmitted to the Governor on February 24, 2016, became law without the Governor's signature.

This bill became **Public Law No. 19-40**, on April 3, 2016.

Sincerely,

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

Victoria T. Guerrero
Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

cc: Lt. Governor
Attorney General's Office
Press Secretary
Public School System
Department of Public Safety
Special Assistant for Administration
Commonwealth Law Revision



House of Representatives

19th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

February 24, 2016

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

Dear Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 19-66, HS1**, entitled: "To amend 9 CMC §5251 to include crosswalks, designated school bus stops, school drop zones, and pick up zones to protect our pedestrians including children from speeding vehicles; 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

Third Special Session

May 22, 2015

Representative Vinson F. Sablan, of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Ramon A. Tebuteb, 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. 19-66, HS1

AN ACT

TO AMEND 9 CMC §5251 TO INCLUDE CROSSWALKS, DESIGNATED SCHOOL BUS STOPS, SCHOOL DROP ZONES, AND PICK UP ZONES TO PROTECT OUR PEDESTRIANS INCLUDING CHILDREN FROM SPEEDING VEHICLES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 19-35, adopted September 28, 2015.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015;
with amendments in the form of H. B. 19-66, HS1 and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law.
THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, FEBRUARY 10, 2016;
without amendments and was returned to the House of Representatives.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2015.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

Fifth Day, Second Regular Session

September 29, 2015

H. B. No. 19-66, HS1

AN ACT

TO AMEND 9 CMC §5251 TO INCLUDE CROSSWALKS, DESIGNATED SCHOOL BUS STOPS, SCHOOL DROP ZONES, AND PICK UP ZONES TO PROTECT OUR PEDESTRIANS INCLUDING CHILDREN FROM SPEEDING VEHICLES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** This legislature finds that due to the increase of
2 vehicles on the highways of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and road
3 activity in general, there have been several recent occurrences where pedestrians including
4 children that have been or almost struck by traveling vehicles. It is evident that private and
5 commercial vehicles which include taxis, tour vehicles (buses and vans), and rental vehicles
6 have been and continue to travel in speeds exceeding the set speed limit of the CNMI
7 highways and roads particularly at school zones and bus stops where pedestrians are present.
8 We must ensure that all vehicle operators practice safe and defensive driving when operating
9 vehicles as well as to follow all highway and road laws of the CNMI. It is vital that we
10 continue to promote safety and not wait for any tragic cases to occur.

HOUSE BILL 19-66, HS1

1 The purpose of this act is to amend 9 CMC §5251 to include crosswalks, designated
2 school bus stops, school drop zones, and pick up zones to protect our pedestrians including
3 children from speeding vehicles.

4 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC §5251 is amended by adding a new subsection (e)
5 to read as follows:

6 Section 5251. Speed Limits.

7 “(e) Where a safety zone has been established, or where traffic is controlled by
8 a police officer or mechanical traffic signal, cross-walks, designated school bus stops,
9 school drop-off and pick-up zones when pedestrians are present a vehicle may
10 proceed at a speed not greater than is reasonable and proper and in no event at a speed
11 greater than 10 miles per hour, and shall exercise due caution for the safety of all
12 pedestrians.”

13 9 CMC §5251 (e) and (f) are redesignated (f) and (g).

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


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

HOUSE BILL 19-66, HS1

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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. Maña, House Clerk

Certified by: 
SPEAKER RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN
House of Representatives
19th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

_____ this _____ day of _____, 2016

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands