



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lieutenant Governor

28 APR 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 I have signed into law House Bill No. 19-62, HD1, entitled, "To amend Title 9 of the Commonwealth Code regarding motor vehicle licensure and rental.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 19-43**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Attorney General's Office; Department of Public Safety; Bureau of Motor Vehicle; 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

March 22, 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. 19-62, HD1**, entitled: "To amend Title 9 of the Commonwealth Code regarding motor vehicle licensure and rental.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Muña".

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 Glenn L. Maratita, of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*), in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 19-62, HD1
AN ACT
TO AMEND TITLE 9 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE
REGARDING MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSURE AND RENTAL.

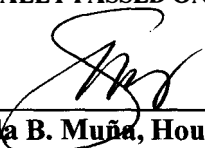
The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 19-28; adopted September 28, 2015.

**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. 19-62, HD1 and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law, which submitted Standing Committee Report 19-79; adopted March 11, 2016.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MARCH 11, 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. 19-62, HD1

AN ACT

**TO AMEND TITLE 9 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE REGARDING
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSURE AND RENTAL.**

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

1 **Section 1. Findings.** The Legislature finds that driver's education in the
2 Commonwealth needs to be enhanced in order to promote safer operation of motor vehicles.
3 Specifically, while tourism and immigration have greatly enriched the Commonwealth, it has
4 provided challenges for law enforcement. In particular, visitors and immigrants are often
5 unaccustomed to American-style traffic laws, imperiling the safety of tourists and residents
6 alike. Furthermore, people enrolling in the driver's education course would benefit from an
7 easy-to-use summary of the Commonwealth's traffic laws.

8 The Commonwealth Law Revision Commission has prepared a Driver's Handbook
9 summarizing the traffic laws and safety practices necessary to drive in the Commonwealth.
10 This book is available in the principal languages of residents and guest in the
11 Commonwealth. The Legislature finds that to enhance the safety of the Commonwealth's
12 roads, business that rent motor vehicles should be required to provide their customers with
13 copies of the Driver's Handbook. In addition, to those who enroll in the driver's education
14 should also be required to purchase a copy of the Handbook.

15 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC § 2413 is amended by adding subsection (c) to read
16 as follows:

HOUSE BILL 19-62, HD1

1 “(c) Each enrolled student shall purchase a copy of the most recent edition of
2 the Driver’s Handbook from the available options.”

3 **Section 3. Amendment.** Title 9, Division 5, Chapter 8 of the Commonwealth Code is
4 amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

5 **“§ 5815. Motor Vehicle Rental Safety.**

6 (a) No individual or business shall rent a motor vehicle to any person unless
7 the person renting the motor vehicle is allowed to operate the vehicle pursuant to
8 9 CMC § 2201 or 2202.

9 (b) A business that provides motor vehicle rental services shall, upon
10 registering or renewing the registration of a rental vehicle, produce a receipt showing
11 that the business has purchased a copy of the Driver’s Handbook produced by the
12 Commonwealth Law Revision Commission in each of the languages in which it is
13 published for the vehicle within the last 30 days. The receipt shall note the license
14 plate number of the vehicle. If the business does not produce the receipt, the vehicle
15 shall not be registered.

16 (c) A business that provides motor vehicle rental services shall provide a copy
17 of the Driver’s Handbook produced by the Commonwealth Law Revision
18 Commission in each of the languages in which the Handbook is published with each
19 vehicle rented. Provided further that each individual or business motor vehicle rental
20 service shall provide a video on road safety tips for each respective renter in the
21 respective language.

22 (d) Failure to provide the Driver’s Handbook to a person renting a motor
23 vehicle may constitute evidence of negligence in a civil action.”

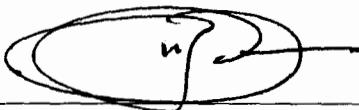
24 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such
25 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
26 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
27 circumstances other than 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 19-62, HD1

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 RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN
House of Representatives
19th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

APPROVED this **28th** day of **APRIL**, 2016


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