This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 19-68, SD1, entitled, “To amend the Youth Affairs Act of 2001 as codified as 1 CMC § 20105 and 20108 through 20112; 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. 19-47. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Attorney General’s Office; Special Assistant for Youth Affairs; Department of Public Safety; Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; Public Health; Department of Labor; Public School System; Division of Youth Services; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review
May 3, 2016

The Honorable Ralph D. 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. 19-68, SD1, entitled: “To amend the Youth Affairs Act of 2001 as codified as 1 CMC § 20105 and 20108 through 20112; 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
Representative Angel A. Demapan, 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. 19-68, SD1

AN ACT

TO AMEND THE YOUTH AFFAIRS ACT OF 2001 AS CODIFIED AS 1 CMC § 20105 AND 20108 THROUGH 20112; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 19-29; adopted September 28, 2015.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015; without amendments and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Youth Affairs, which submitted Standing Committee Report 19-81; adopted April 5, 2016.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, APRIL 5, 2016; with amendments in the form of H. B. 19-68, SD1 and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. 19-68, SD1 during its First Day, Second Special Session on April 27, 2016.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON APRIL 27, 2016.

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk
H. B. No. 19-68, SD1

AN ACT

TO AMEND THE YOUTH AFFAIRS ACT OF 2001 AS CODIFIED AS 1 CMC § 20105 AND 20108 THROUGH 20112; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that the Youth Affairs Act of 2001 was enacted in an effort to address the importance of the youth in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to provide them with the necessary resources and programs to formulate plans and policies that develops a comprehensive approach to youth development in the Commonwealth. Since the enactment of Public Law 12-67, the Office of Special Assistant for Youth Affairs, within the Office of the Governor, has offered programs and services for the youth of the Commonwealth. The Legislature further finds that in order for the Office of Special Assistant for Youth Affairs to wholly carry out its intended goals and objectives, the Youth Affairs Act needs to be strengthened and made more efficient.

Section 2. Amendment. 1 CMC § 20105 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“§ 20105. Chief Administrative Officer.

The Special Assistant shall be the chief administrative officer of the Office and shall be appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Special
Assistant shall be responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the Office and the development and submission of the Office’s annual budget request to the Governor via the Council. The Special Assistant shall have hiring authority for such staff as is deemed necessary to carry out the functions of the Office. The Special Assistant shall be the expenditure authority for funds appropriated to the Office.”

Section 3. Amendment. 1 CMC § 20108 is hereby amended to read as follows:


There is hereby established a Commonwealth Council on Youth Affairs within the Office of the Governor. The Council shall consist of eight members appointed by the Governor for terms specified below. Council members otherwise eligible may be appointed to serve no more than two terms. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of the vacant position. The members shall be so selected that there be one representative from each of the following:

(a) the Department of Public Safety for a term of three years;
(b) the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Division of Public Health Services for a term of three years;
(c) the Department of Labor for a term of three years;
(d) the youths of Saipan and the Northern Islands for a term of one year;
(e) the youths of Tinian for a term of one year;
(f) the youths of Rota for a term of one year;
(g) the Public School System for a term of three years;
(h) the Youth Congress for a term of two years; and
(i) the Division of Youth Services for a term of two years.”

Section 4. Amendment. 1 CMC § 20109 is hereby amended to read as follows:


The Council shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Act in an advisory capacity for the formulation of the Office’s policies, programs, and review and make recommendations on annual budget requests from the Special Assistant;
(b) Make recommendations to the Special Assistant, and when necessary to the Governor, on the over-all operation of the Office;
(c) Furnish leadership needed for long-range planning; and
(d) Adopt such rules that are necessary for the functioning of the Council, including by-laws for internal governance and decision-making.
(e) The Council shall meet at such times and places as it shall prescribe by rule or resolution."

Section 5. Amendment. 1 CMC § 20110 is hereby amended to read as follows:
"§ 20110. Council Meetings.
The Council shall meet at such times and places as it shall prescribe by rule or resolution, but it shall not be less than once every three months. All its meetings shall be public and notice of such meetings shall be given three days prior to the date scheduled."

Section 6. Amendment. 1 CMC § 20111 is hereby amended to read as follows:
"§ 20111. Voluntary Services.
The Council has the authority to solicit and accept services of individuals and organizations on a voluntary basis in the Office’s programs under a carefully planned and supervised manner."

Section 7. Amendment. 1 CMC § 20112 is hereby amended to read as follows:
"§ 20112. Annual and Special Report.
Utilizing the resources of the Office, the Special Assistant shall make an annual report to the Governor, with a copy to the Council, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House, at the termination of each fiscal year setting forth a summation of its activities and general recommendations. Within two years of the establishment of the Council, the Council shall make a special report to the Governor with copies to the Special Assistant, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House on recommendations on how, if feasible, to consolidate the various government activities relating to youth of the CNMI."
Section 8. Transition. The incumbent members of the Commonwealth Council on Youth Affairs shall serve the remainder of their terms and may be subsequently re-appointed pursuant to the new provisions of this Act.

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

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

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

Approved this 2nd day of June, 2016

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands