



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor

**Victor B. Hocog**  
Lieutenant Governor

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

17 AUG 2016

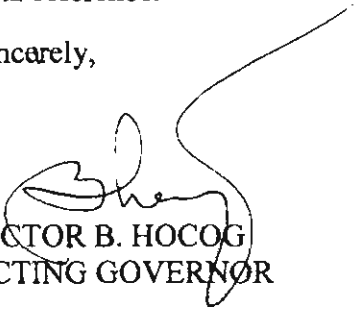
The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Nineteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill No. 19-01, entitled, "To limit the wharfage fees charged by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to cargo offloaded at a port or harbor in the Commonwealth and to waive wharfage fees on cargo shipped to and from the islands within the Commonwealth; 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. 19-62**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



VICTOR B. HOCOG  
ACTING GOVERNOR

cc: Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Department of Finance;  
Northern Marianas Settlement Fund; Special Assistant for Administration;  
Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review; Public Auditor



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

July 26, 2016

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

Dear Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action Senate Bill No. 19-01, entitled: "To limit the wharfage fees charged by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to cargo offloaded at a port or harbor in the Commonwealth and to waive wharfage fees on cargo shipped to and from the islands within the Commonwealth; 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. 19-01**

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**AN ACT**

To limit the wharfage fees charged by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to cargo offloaded at a port or harbor in the Commonwealth and to waive wharfage fees on cargo shipped to and from the islands within the Commonwealth; and for other purposes

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**Offered by Senator(s):** Francisco Q. Cruz

**Date:** January 13, 2015

**Referred to:** Committee on Fiscal Affairs

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**Final Reading:** July 23, 2015

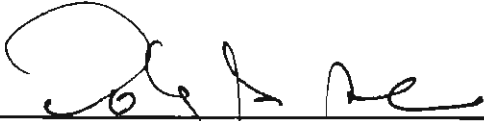
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**Referred to:** Committee on Commerce and Tourism

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 19-122 adopted on July 06, 2016

**First and Final Reading:** July 14, 2016

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**DOLORES S. BERMUDES**  
**SENATE CLERK**



**THE SENATE**  
**NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2015**

**S. B. NO. 19-01**

**AN ACT**

To limit the wharfage fees charged by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to cargo offloaded at a port or harbor in the Commonwealth and to waive wharfage fees on cargo shipped to and from the islands within the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

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

**Section 1. Findings and Purpose.**

The Legislature finds that the cost of commodities on Rota and Tinian is a great burden to the consumers. A portion of the added cost is a result of the wharfage fees imposed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) on commodities shipped from Saipan to Rota and Tinian.

The intent of this Act is to ensure that wharfage fees are charged one time for commodities that are off loaded at any port or harbor under the CPA jurisdiction. The same commodities shall not be assessed wharfage a second time regardless whether the same cargo is shipped from Saipan to Rota or Tinian on a different vessel. In addition, this Act provides that no wharfage fees shall be assessed on cargo shipped to and from any Commonwealth port or harbor.

**Section 2. Wharfage Fees.**

Notwithstanding the wharfage rates imposed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority pursuant to NMIAC 40-20.2-201, the wharfage fees charged by the Commonwealth Ports Authority shall be as follows:

SENATE BILL NO. 19-01

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1           (a) Wharfage fees shall be limited to all cargo including liquid petroleum  
2 products shipped from outside the Commonwealth and offloaded at the Port of Saipan,  
3 Rota West Harbor, or Tinian Harbor. Provided, however, that no additional wharfage fees  
4 shall be assessed on the same cargo when shipped, regardless of the vessel, from any port  
5 or harbor under the CPA jurisdiction and subsequently shipped to its final destination at  
6 any other port or harbor in the Commonwealth.

7           (b) No wharfage fees shall be charged on all cargo including liquid petroleum  
8 products shipped to and from Saipan, Rota West Harbor, or Tinian Harbor.

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

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

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

SENATE BILL NO. 19-01

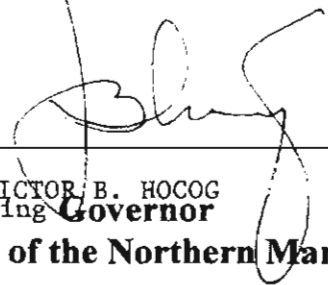
CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

  
FRANCISCO M. BORJA  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

  
TERESITA A. SANTOS  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

*Approved* this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016

  
VICTOR B. HOCOG  
Acting **Governor**  
**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**