



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor

**Victor B. Hocog**  
Lieutenant Governor

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

**16 JAN 2017**

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios  
President  
The Senate  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

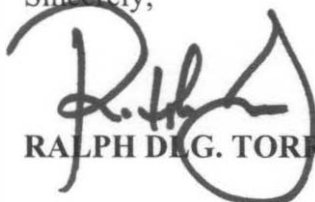
Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 19-81**, entitled, "To amend 6 CMC § 1601(b) to include elderly citizens and people with disabilities, and to establish a set of punishments for theft committed against them; and for other purposes," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

While I am signing this bill into law, I respectfully advise the Legislature to define the term "disability" under § 1601(b) to indicate the degree of disability and whether it includes physical and/or intellectual disabilities.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 19-80**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
RALPH DLG. TORRES



# House of Representatives

19<sup>th</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

December 12, 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. 19-81**, entitled: **“To amend 6 CMC §1601(b) to include elderly citizens and people with disabilities, and establish a set of punishments for theft committed against them; 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**

**Fifth Special Session**

**June 17, 2015**

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 19-81**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 6 CMC §1601(B) TO INCLUDE ELDERLY CITIZENS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND ESTABLISH A SET OF PUNISHMENTS FOR THEFT COMMITTED AGAINST THEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law, which submitted Standing Committee Report 19-64; adopted 12/21/15.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 21, 2015;  
*without amendments* and transmitted to the  
THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 6, 2016;  
*without amendments* and was returned to  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON DECEMBER 21, 2015.**

  
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Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

Eleventh Day, Second Regular Session  
December 21, 2015

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**H. B. No. 19-81**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 6 CMC §1601(B) TO INCLUDE ELDERLY CITIZENS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND ESTABLISH A SET OF PUNISHMENTS FOR THEFT COMMITTED AGAINST THEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

1           Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that Man Amko (elderly) persons  
2 exploitation occurs when an individual or institution utilizes undue power over an individual  
3 over the age of 55 in order to gain an advantage over that person, either through control of  
4 finances or decision-making. Our Man Amko (elderly) persons may be especially vulnerable  
5 to exploitation due to dependency upon family members and caregivers. During the current  
6 economic crisis, the Legislature further finds that there is an immediate need to take a  
7 proactive approach to ensure the prevention of a potential increase in the number and severity  
8 of cases involving the exploitation of our Man Amko (elderly) persons or person with a  
9 disability.

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1 Accordingly, this legislation will compliment current laws pertaining to Man Amko  
2 (elderly) physical abuse and mental cruelty that will further protect them including a person  
3 with a disability and deter unscrupulous individuals that might financially exploit them.

4 **Section 2. Amendment.** 6 CMC §1601(b) is amended by adding a new subsection  
5 (4) to read as follows:

6 **“§1601. Theft.**

7 (b) A person convicted of theft under any section of this chapter may be  
8 punished:

9 (1) If the value of the property or service is \$20,000 or more, by  
10 imprisonment for not more than 10 years; or

11 (2) If the value of the property or service is at least \$250 but less than  
12 \$20,000, by imprisonment for not more than five years; or

13 (3) If the value of the property or service is less than \$250, by  
14 imprisonment for not more than one year; or

15 (4) If the victim of the crime is a person at least 55 years of age or a  
16 person with a disability, the offense is punishable by:

17 (i) imprisonment between 1 and 3 years and/or a fine up to  
18 \$25,000 if the value of the property is \$300 or less; or

19 (ii) imprisonment between 3 and 5 years and/or a fine up to  
20 \$25,000 if the value of the property is more than \$300 but less than  
21 \$5,000; or

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1 (iii) imprisonment between 5 and 7 years and/or a fine up to  
2 \$25,000 if the value of the property is \$5,000 or more but less than  
3 \$50,000; or

4 (iv) imprisonment between 7 and 15 years and/or a fine up to  
5 \$25,000 if the value of the property is \$50,000 or more.”

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


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


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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  
19<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016 

  
RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands