



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

20 JAN 2017

The Honorable Francisco M. Borja
Acting President
The Senate
Twentieth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Speaker Demapan and Acting President Borja:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill 19-85, HD2, SD1** entitled, "To amend Title 6, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 4 of the Commonwealth Code to establish a regulation to prohibit smoking in vehicles when in the presence of minors; 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. 19-82**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Acting Governor



House of Representatives

19th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

January 3, 2017

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. 19-85, HD2, SD1**, entitled: "To amend Title 6, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 4 of the Commonwealth Code to establish a regulation to prohibit smoking in vehicles when in the presence of minors; 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

Sixth Special Session

July 16, 2015

Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, 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. 19-85, HD2, SD1

AN ACT

**TO AMEND TITLE 6, DIVISION 3, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 4 OF
THE COMMONWEALTH CODE TO ESTABLISH A REGULATION
TO PROHIBIT SMOKING IN VEHICLES WHEN IN THE
PRESENCE OF MINORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

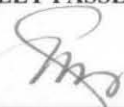
The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 19-48; adopted 11/6/15.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 17, 2015**
with amendments in the form of H. B. 19-85, HD2 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;
with amendments in the form of H. B. 19-85, HD2, SD1 *and was returned to*
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. 19-85, HD2, SD1, during its 11th Day, Fourth Regular Session on December 28, 2016.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON DECEMBER 28, 2016.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

Eleventh Day, Fourth Regular Session
December 28, 2016

H. B. No. 19-85, HD2, SD1

AN ACT

**TO AMEND TITLE 6, DIVISION 3, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 4 OF THE
COMMONWEALTH CODE TO ESTABLISH A REGULATION TO
PROHIBIT SMOKING IN VEHICLES WHEN IN THE PRESENCE OF
MINORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that secondhand smoke can
2 cause serious health risks for individuals, especially for minors. When an individual is
3 smoking inside a vehicle, the scent and smoke of the product circulates inside the vehicle and
4 can inflict serious long term illnesses on the minors present inside. Therefore, action must be
5 taken to protect minors from being negatively affected by the negligence of the smoker(s)
6 inside the vehicle. The Legislature further finds that prohibiting smoking in vehicles when in
7 the presence of minors can lead to the betterment of our overall environment. Therefore,
8 proper measures must be taken to protect minors and our overall environment to improve the
9 outlook of our great Commonwealth.

10 This Act amends Title 6, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 4 of the Commonwealth Code
11 for the purpose of formulating proper regulations to prohibit drivers and passengers from
12 smoking in a vehicle when in the presence of minors.

HOUSE BILL 19-85, HD2, SD1

1 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 6, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 4 of the
2 Commonwealth Code is hereby amended by adding a new subsection 3176 and the CNMI
3 Law Revision Commission shall renumber the remaining subsections accordingly:

4 **“§ 3176. Prohibition of Smoking in Vehicles When Minors are Present.**

5 It is unlawful for a person to smoke a pipe, cigar, e-cigarette or cigarette in a
6 passenger compartment of a motor vehicle, whether said vehicle is in motion or at
7 rest, in which there is a person under the age of 18 present within the vehicle.
8 A violation of this section is an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding
9 Five Hundred dollars (\$500) for each violation.”

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

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


HOUSE BILL 19-85, HD2, SD1

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 20th day of January, 2016


ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands