



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lieutenant Governor

06 OCT 2017

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

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twentieth 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. 20-45, HD2, entitled, "To provide a limited exemption to register a right-hand drive vehicle after it is converted to left-hand drive and passes safety inspection; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-21**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph DLG. Torres", written over a circular stamp or seal.

RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Department of Public Safety; Bureau of Motor Vehicle; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



THE SENATE
TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE BILL NO. 20-45, HD2

AN ACT

To provide a limited exemption to register a right-hand drive vehicle after it is converted to left-hand drive and passes safety inspection; and for other purposes.

SENATE ACTION

Offered by Senator(s): Justo S. Quitugua

Date: May 25, 2017

Referred to: Committee on Public Utilities, Transportations and Communications

Standing Committee Report No.: None


First and Final Reading: August 24, 2017

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to: None

Standing Committee Report No.: None

First and Final Reading: August 18, 2017


DOLORES S. BERMUDES
SENATE CLERK



THE SENATE
TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2017

S. B. NO. 20-45, HD2

AN ACT

To provide a limited exemption to register a right-hand drive vehicle after it is converted to left-hand drive and passes safety inspection; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Commonwealth Legislature acknowledges
2 that prior to the effective date of Public Law 11-12, April 30, 1998, any right-hand drive
3 vehicle having already entered the Commonwealth may be registered if the safety and
4 regulatory criteria are met. The Legislature also acknowledges that right-hand heavy
5 equipment and construction vehicles are authorized to enter and be registered in the
6 Commonwealth pursuant to 9 CMC § 2112.

7 The Legislature finds that, for one reason or another, a right-hand drive foreign
8 vehicle was authorized to enter the Commonwealth but the owner is now unable to register
9 it because the vehicle had not been previously registered in the Commonwealth, United
10 States, its territories or possessions. In order to provide some relief to the vehicle owner,
11 the Legislature finds it necessary to allow for a limited exception provided that the vehicle
12 is properly converted to left-hand drive and passes safety inspection.

13 **Section 2. Enactment.** Subject to the codification by the Law Revision
14 Commission the following is enacted to read:

15 “Notwithstanding 9 CMC § 2101(b), any right-hand drive vehicle, other
16 than a vehicle described in 9 CMC §2101(c) in the Commonwealth as of February
17 1, 2017 may be registered after the following conditions are met:

18 (a) The vehicle is converted from right-hand driver to left-hand driver;

1 (b) The vehicle is inspected by the Director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicle
2 and the Director determines that the converted vehicle is safe to drive; and

3 (c) The conversion pursuant to subsection (a) and the inspection pursuant to
4 subsection (b) of this section shall be accomplished within 90 days after this Act
5 becomes law.”

6 **Section 3. Amendment.** Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 1, Section 2101 (c) and
7 Section 2112 are hereby amended to read as follows:

8 “§2101. Registration: Application.

9 “(c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any owner of a motor
10 vehicle with right hand drive which legally entered the Commonwealth prior to
11 December 30, 1991, and any owner of a right hand drive heavy equipment, 50 tons
12 or higher primarily used for agricultural purposes, or construction vehicle shall be
13 permitted to register the vehicle upon approval of the Department of Environmental
14 Quality regarding vehicular emission control standards as found in the
15 Commonwealth’s air pollution control regulations promulgated pursuant to 2 CMC
16 § 3101 et seq., the Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act, and presentation
17 of satisfactory evidence of ownership to the bureau. The Director of Public Safety
18 is authorized to promulgate regulations to define the types of vehicles to be
19 included in the definition of heavy equipment or construction vehicles.

20 § 2112. Exemption for Right Hand Drive Heavy Equipment, Right Hand
21 Drive Motor Vehicles (.50 tons or higher) primarily used for Agricultural Purposes,
22 and Construction Vehicles Preserved.

23 Nothing in PL 11-12 shall be construed to affect the exemption for
24 importation and registration of right hand drive heavy equipment, vehicles of .50
25 tons or higher primarily used for agricultural purposes, or construction vehicles
26 granted pursuant to 9 CMC § 2101.”

27 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
28 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent

SENATE BILL NO. 20-45, HD2

1 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
2 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

3 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not
4 be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under
5 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes.
6 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant
7 to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any
8 way modifying, any liability civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the
9 date this Act becomes effective.

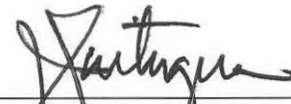
10 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
11 Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:



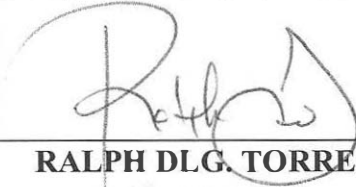
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ATTESTED BY:



JUSTO S. QUITUGUA
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 6th day of October, 2017



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands