



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

02 NOV 2017

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

Dear Speaker Demapan and Senate President Palacios:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 20-34**, entitled, "To repeal in part Section 3 of Public Law No. 19-42 and revive former 6 CMC § 2222(e) and its associated definitions.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

I have signed this bill as an embodiment of this administration's commitment to ensuring the safety of all citizens and residents of our great Commonwealth. In just the past few years, our nation has been plagued with gun-related violence and death, exceeding any other developing country in the world. Just last month, fifty-eight innocent people lost their lives at a Las Vegas concert at the hands of a mass-shooter. Another 546-innocent people who were present at the event suffered gun-related injuries. And while the Commonwealth mourns with our fellow countrymen following the news of these tragedies, we are fortunate enough to have experienced only a small fraction of gun-associated casualties on Commonwealth soil. Therefore, it is this administration's top priority to execute all the necessary safeguards to prevent these tragic occurrences from happening within our islands. It is my strong belief that **HB No. 20-34** will play a key role in accomplishing this important objective.

As an island territory who possesses a war-ridden past, we are aware of and have experienced first-hand, the destruction that firearms can pose, especially in tight-knit communities like

ours. Thus, justifiably, the revival of the handgun prohibition in former 6 CMC § 2222(e) is in better accord with the wishes of the Commonwealth people. Our unique handgun restriction law, since its implementation, has remained an effective preventive measure for controlling gun-related violence throughout our islands. Accordingly, it is imperative that this measure be preserved. For these reasons, I stand with the community in extending my full support of this critical piece of legislation.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-27**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



RALPH DLG. TORRES



House of Representatives

20th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

September 25, 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. 20-34**, entitled: "To repeal in part Section 3 of Public Law No. 19-42 and revive former 6 CMC § 2222(e) and its associated definitions.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



*Twentieth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 31, 2017

REPRESENTATIVE VINSON F. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, and Edmund S. Villagomez,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 20-34

AN ACT

**TO REPEAL IN PART SECTION 3 OF PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-42
AND REVIVE FORMER 6 CMC § 2222(E) AND ITS ASSOCIATED
DEFINITIONS.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 20-16; adopted 5/5/17.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, MAY 5, 2017;
without amendments and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law.
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON MAY 5, 2017.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

FIRST DAY, THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

MAY 5, 2017

H. B. NO. 20-34

AN ACT

**TO REPEAL IN PART SECTION 3 OF PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-42 AND
REVIVE FORMER 6 CMC § 2222(E) AND ITS ASSOCIATED
DEFINITIONS.**

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

1 Section 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited to as the “Handgun Prohibition
2 Revival Act.”

3 Section 2. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that the handgun
4 prohibition in former 6 CMC § 2222(e) better protected the public safety, and better accorded
5 with the wishes of the people of the Commonwealth, than does the SAFE Act, Public Law
6 No. 19-42, which repealed that prohibition. The Legislature further finds that it did not
7 intend, in repealing 6 CMC § 2222(e), to endorse the ruling of the District Court in the
8 *Radich* case, or to moot any appeal from that ruling, but only to conform to the prevailing
9 judicial construction while it remained in force. In fact, the Legislature strongly disagrees
10 with the ruling in *Radich*, disputes its premise that the Covenant extends the *Heller* and
11 *McDonald* decisions to the CNMI, and is hopeful that it will be reviewed and overturned on
12 appeal, and former law returned to force. The Legislature therefore finds that former 6 CMC

HOUSE BILL 20-34

1 § 2222(e) (together with its associated definitions) ought now to be revived and reinstated in
2 its entirety, so as to be ready to be enforced as soon as there is no controlling judicial
3 decision blocking its implementation. It is the purpose of this Act to provide for such revival.

4 **Section 3. Repeal and Revival.** Section 3 of Public Law No. 19-42, insofar as it
5 repealed 6 CMC § 2222(e), 6 CMC § 102(a), and 6 CMC § 102(m), is hereby repealed, and
6 the aforesaid sections are hereby revived, and the penalties prescribed in 6 CMC § 10309(c)
7 shall be applicable to violations thereof; provided, however, that such sections shall become
8 effective only upon the judgment of the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands in
9 *Rodich v. Guerrero*, D.N.M.I. Civ. No. 14-20, being vacated, reversed, stayed, overruled,
10 superseded, or in any other way rendered without immediate binding force.

11 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such
12 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
13 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
14 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

15 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
16 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
17 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
18 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
19 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
20 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act
21 becomes effective. Provided further that this provision shall not operate to permit or
22 authorize the possession or ownership of any handgun, automatic weapon, or ammunition
23 prohibited by this Act.

HOUSE BILL 20-34

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

Attested to by:



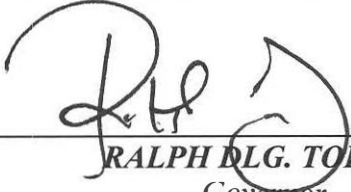
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



SPEAKER RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN
House of Representatives
20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 2nd day of November, 2017



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands