

RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor



VICTOR B. HOCO  
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

15 DEC 2017

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

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

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 20-145, entitled, "To appropriate \$22,000,000.00 set aside in the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full benefits and payment of a Bonus for all retirees.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-35**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



**VICTOR B. HOCO**  
Acting Governor

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



# House of Representatives

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

P.O. BOX 500586  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

December 15, 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. 20-145**, entitled: "To appropriate \$22,000,000.00 set aside in the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full benefits and payment of a Bonus for all retirees.", 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**

**Second Regular Session**

**December 11, 2017**

REPRESENTATIVE RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr.) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 20-145**

**AN ACT**

**TO APPROPRIATE \$22,000,000.00 SET ASIDE IN THE CASINO GRT ACCOUNT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE 25% OF THE SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBERS FULL BENEFITS AND PAYMENT OF A BONUS FOR ALL RETIREES.**

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 11, 2017;  
*without amendments* and transmitted to the  
THE SENATE.**

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 14, 2017;  
*without amendments and was returned to*  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON DECEMBER 11, 2017.**

  
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Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

TWELFTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

DECEMBER 11, 2017

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**H. B. NO. 20-145**

**AN ACT**

**TO APPROPRIATE \$22,000,000.00 SET ASIDE IN THE CASINO  
GRT ACCOUNT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE 25% OF THE  
SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBERS FULL BENEFITS AND  
PAYMENT OF A BONUS FOR ALL RETIREES.**

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

1           **Section 1. Findings.** The Governor has advised both houses of the Legislature by  
2 letter dated November 29, 2017, identified as House Governors Communication 20-132, that  
3 the \$22,000,000.00 has been set aside in the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the  
4 25% of the Settlement Class Members full benefits and a Bonus. The Governor has  
5 requested the Legislature to appropriate \$3,500,000.00 to be equally distributed to pay a  
6 bonus to all retirees and beneficiaries. The purpose of this appropriation is to authorize the  
7 Secretary of Finance, pursuant to 4 CMC §2308(a), to expend \$22,000,000.00 of the funds in  
8 the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full

HOUSE BILL 20-145

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1 benefits and a Bonus to all Settlement Class Members and CNMI Fund members receiving an  
2 annuity.

3       **Section 2. Appropriation.** Pursuant to 4 CMC §2308, \$22,000,000.00 is  
4 appropriated from the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement  
5 Class Members full benefits and a \$3,500,000.00 Bonus to be distributed equally to all  
6 Settlement Class Members and CNMI Fund members receiving an annuity. The appropriated  
7 funds shall not lapse and shall be available for expenditure without fiscal year limitation.  
8 The Secretary of Finance shall be the Expenditure Authority.


9       **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions 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 be  
14 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
15 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
16 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
17 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
18 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
19 becomes effective.

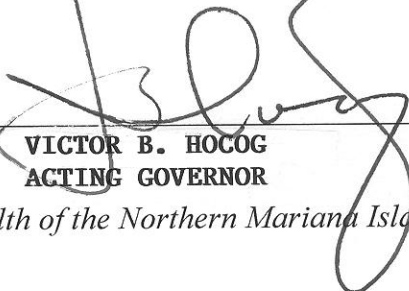
HOUSE BILL 20-145

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

Approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017

  
**VICTOR B. HOCOG**  
**ACTING GOVERNOR**  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands