

**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor



**VICTOR B. HOCO**  
Lieutenant Governor

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

**27 AUG 2018**

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. 20-111 entitled, "To amend 6 CMC § 3304 to make it a crime to alter any document bearing the court seal of a copy or the court seal.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-62**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RDLG", written over a circular stamp or watermark.

**RALPH DLG. TORRES**

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; CNMI Judiciary, 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

July 19, 2018

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. 20-111**, entitled: "To amend 6 CMC § 3304 to make it a crime to alter any document bearing the court seal of a copy or the court seal.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Muña", written over a circular stamp or mark.

Linda B. Muña  
House Clerk

Attachment



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

**Fourth Special Session**

**August 18, 2017**

REPRESENTATIVE GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself.*) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 20-111**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 6 CMC § 3304 TO MAKE IT A CRIME TO ALTER ANY DOCUMENT BEARING THE COURT SEAL OF A COPY OR THE COURT SEAL.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on 8/8/17, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-73; adopted 10/11/17.

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

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government & Law.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 9, 2018;**  
*without amendments and was returned to*  
**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON OCTOBER 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**

**EIGHTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**OCTOBER 11, 2017**

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**H. B. No. 20-111**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 6 CMC § 3304 TO MAKE IT A CRIME TO ALTER ANY  
DOCUMENT BEARING THE COURT SEAL OF A COPY OR THE  
COURT SEAL.**

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

1           Section 1. **Findings.** Persons are obtaining certified copies of court records and  
2 documents and altering the certified copy and copies of the certified document. The  
3 falsification of documents bearing the court seal reflects adversely upon the integrity of the  
4 court. This bill includes the alteration of any document bearing the court seal of a copy of  
5 the court seal in the crime of altering a court document.

6           Section 2. **Amendment.** 6 CMC Section 3304 is amended as follows:

7                   “§ 3304. Tampering with Judicial Records or Process.

8                   Every person who willfully and unlawfully conceals, removes, takes away,  
9 mutilates, obliterates, alters (including the alteration of any document displaying the

**HOUSE BILL 20-111**

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1 court seal or a copy of the court seal), or destroys, or attempts to do so, or willfully  
2 takes and carries away records or process in or from any court or official authorized  
3 to issue or serve the same, is guilty of tampering with judicial records or process, as  
4 the case may be, and upon conviction thereof, may be imprisoned for not more than  
5 five years, or fined not more than \$1,000, or both.”

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.

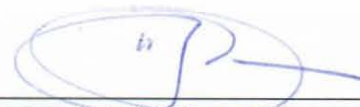
10 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
11 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
12 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
13 contained in this 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.



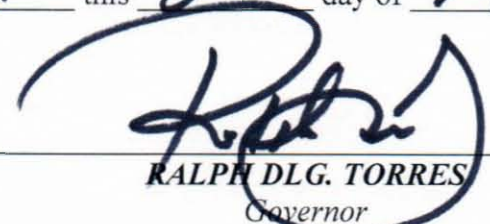
HOUSE BILL 20-111

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 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018

  
RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands