



**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor

**VICTOR B. HOCO**  
Lieutenant Governor

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

**15 OCT 2018**

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

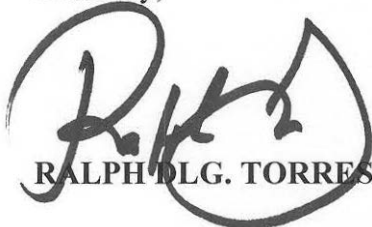
The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios  
Senate President, The Senate  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 20-130, HD1** entitled, "To repeal and reenact 3 CMC § 4972(b)(1) to allow the Public School System to hire foreign national workers as classroom teachers for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), special education and related services; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-76**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



**RALPH DLG. TORRES**

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Public School System; State Board of Education; 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

September 7, 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. 20-130, HD1**, entitled: "To repeal and reenact 3 CMC § 4972(b)(1) to allow the Public School System to hire foreign national workers as classroom teachers for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), special education and related services; and for other purposes.", 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

OCTOBER 11, 2017

REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian and Aguiguan, Precinct 6 (*for himself*.) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. NO. 20-130, HD1**

**AN ACT**

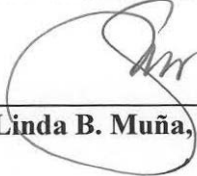
**TO REPEAL AND REENACT 3 CMC § 4972(B)(1) TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM TO HIRE FOREIGN NATIONAL WORKERS AS CLASSROOM TEACHERS FOR STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH), SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Education, which submitted Standing Committee No. Report 20-124; adopted 5/22/17.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MAY 22, 2018;**  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. No. 20-130, HD1 and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Youth.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 30, 2018;**  
*without amendments and was returned to*  
**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON MAY 22, 2018.**

  
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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 22, 2018

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**H. B. No. 20-130, HD1**

AN ACT

**TO REPEAL AND REENACT 3 CMC § 4972(B)(1) TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM TO HIRE FOREIGN NATIONAL WORKERS AS CLASSROOM TEACHERS FOR STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH), SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Public School  
2 System (PSS) is currently unable to employ foreign national workers to fill certain essential  
3 positions pursuant to restrictions set forth in 3 CMC § 4972(b)(1). The Legislature further  
4 finds that the PSS is unable to fill essential teaching positions with permanent resident or  
5 citizen employees at this time, and the extension of the exemption for hiring foreign national  
6 workers is necessary for the PSS to meet its teaching staff needs. The purpose of this  
7 legislation is to allow the PSS to hire qualified foreign national workers to fill classroom  
8 teacher positions in the STEM field, special education and related services.

9           **Section 2. Repealer.** 3 CMC § 4972(b)(1) of the Commonwealth Code is repealed  
10 and reenacted to read:

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**HOUSE BILL 20-130, HD1**

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1           “(b) (1) Public School System: Hiring Foreign National Workers. In the  
2 absence of qualified U.S. citizens or permanent residents, the Public School System  
3 may hire foreign national workers as classroom teachers for STEM (science,  
4 technology, engineering, math), special education and related services. Persons hired  
5 under this subsection shall meet all the certification requirements of the  
6 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education. Persons  
7 hired under this subsection shall not be provided any housing benefits. Provided that  
8 PSS shall certify in writing to the PSS Board of Education, that it has exhausted all  
9 efforts to recruit and hire qualified United States citizens or U.S. Citizen-Qualified  
10 Green Card holders before any persons are hired under this section and that there are  
11 no qualified local hires available at the time.”

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

16           **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
17 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
18 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
19 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
20 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
21 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
22 becomes effective.  
23

**HOUSE BILL 20-130, HD1**

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**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

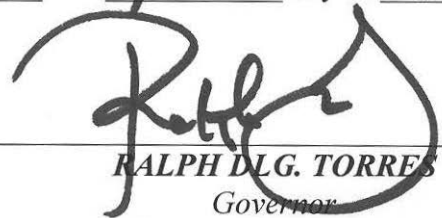
Attested to by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**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 October, 2018

  
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**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands