



RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor

VICTOR B. HOCOG  
Lieutenant Governor

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

09 NOV 2018

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

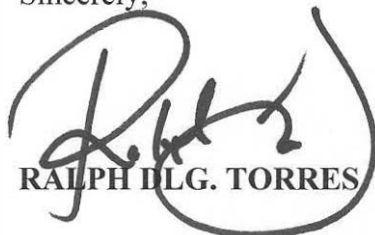
The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios  
Senate President, The Senate  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 20-132**, entitled, "To amend 1 CMC §7406(a)(4) by including the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control (ABTC) Division's vehicles in the definition of "Law enforcement vehicle".", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-81**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Department of Commerce; Department of Public Safety; Division of Customs; 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

October 5, 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. 20-132**, entitled: "To amend 1 CMC §7406(a)(4) by including the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control (ABTC) Division's vehicles in the definition of "Law enforcement vehicle".", 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 JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*;) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. NO. 20-132**

**AN ACT**


**TO AMEND 1 CMC §7406(A)(4) BY INCLUDING THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO CONTROL (ABTC) DIVISION'S VEHICLES IN THE DEFINITION OF "LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE".**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-86; adopted 11/21/17.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, NOVEMBER 29, 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, AUGUST 30, 2018;**  
*without amendments and was returned to*  
**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON NOVEMBER 29, 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**

TENTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

NOVEMBER 29, 2017

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**H. B. No. 20-132**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 1 CMC §7406(A)(4) BY INCLUDING THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO CONTROL (ABTC) DIVISION'S VEHICLES IN THE DEFINITION OF "LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE".**

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Alcohol Beverage  
2 and Tobacco Control (ABTC) Division, under the Department of Commerce, is responsible  
3 for enforcing laws pertaining to alcoholic beverages and tobacco. Similar to the Department  
4 of Public Safety (DPS) and the Division of Customs, the ABTC Division consists of  
5 enforcement officers to carry out such enforcement. By including the ABTC Division's  
6 vehicles in the definition of "law enforcement vehicle", the ABTC Division vehicles will be  
7 awarded the same rights and privileges as DPS and Division of Customs vehicles in order to  
8 carry out their duties and responsibilities more efficiently.

9           The Legislature also finds that under 1 CMC §7406(a)(5), which is the definition of  
10 "Unmarked law enforcement vehicle", DPS and the Division of Customs are allowed possess  
11 unmarked law enforcement vehicles, which will enable them to apprehend criminals and  
12 enforce the laws more efficiently. Similar to DPS and the Division of Customs, the ABTC

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**HOUSE BILL 20-132**

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1 Division is allowed to conduct undercover operations. The only difference is that the ABTC  
2 Division is not allowed to have unmarked law enforcement vehicles. By amending 1 CMC  
3 §7406(a)(4), the ABTC Division will be afforded the opportunity to possess unmarked law  
4 enforcement vehicles and allow for them to conduct their operations more efficiently.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 1 CMC §7406(a)(4) by including the  
6 Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control (ABTC) Division's vehicles in the definition of  
7 "Law enforcement vehicle".

8 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC §7406(a)(4) is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 "(4) "Law enforcement vehicle" means police cars and other such government  
10 vehicles operated by the Department of Public Safety, Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco  
11 Control (ABTC) Division, or Division of Customs and used primarily for the  
12 enforcement of Commonwealth or federal laws and regulations.

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

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

**HOUSE BILL 20-132**

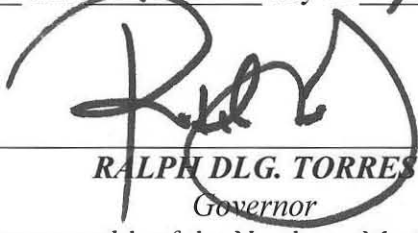
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**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018

  
RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands