The Honorable Victor B. Hocog  
Senate President, The Senate  
Twenty-First Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-First Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill No. 21-3, SD1, HD1 entitled, “To repeal and re-enact 2 CMC § 7142 and § 7145, relative to adopting the International Building Code as the official building code of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes Public Law No. 21-14. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

Ralph DLG. Torres  
GOVERNOR

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Department of Public Works; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review
November 13, 2019

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Capital Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action Senate Bill No. 21-03, SD1, HD1, entitled: “To repeal and re-enact 2 CMC § 7142 and § 7145, relative to adopting the International Building Code as the official building code of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes,” which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dolores S. Bermudes
Senate Clerk

Attachments
AN ACT

To repeal and re-enact 2 CMC § 7142 and § 7145, relative to adopting the International Building Code as the official building code of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

SENATE ACTION

Offered by Senator(s): Sixto K. Igisomar

Date: January 30, 2019

Referred to: Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations

Standing Committee Report No.: 21-14 adopted on 7/18/19

First and Final Reading: July 18, 2019-SD1 and accepted HD1 on 11/06/19

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to: Committee Judiciary and Governmental Operations

Standing Committee Report No.: 21-37 – Adopted 10/15/19

First and Final Reading: October 15, 2019
AN ACT

To repeal and re-enact 2 CMC § 7142 and § 7145, relative to adopting the International Building Code as the official building code of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that, nationally, building codes are updated in three (3) year cycles. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is currently using a version of the building code that is based on the 2009 International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), as adopted by regulation. The Legislature finds it is critical for the proper development of local infrastructure to ensure the building code remains up to date with national standards. It is the intent of the Legislature, therefore, to adopt the International Building Code as the official building code of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to make the 2018 edition the current version applied in the Commonwealth and to direct the Building Safety Official to adopt relevant appendices, and updates to, or new editions of this Code, and exclude non-applicable sections, as needed.

Section 2. Repealer. The following provisions are hereby repealed:

“2 CMC §§ 7114, 7115; 2 CMC §§ 7125, 7143 and 7144(b).”

Section 3. Repealer and Reenactment. 2 CMC § 7142 is hereby repealed and re-enact to read as follows:


(a) The International Building Code (IBC) as published by the International
Code Council, is hereby adopted and enacted as the building code for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, commencing with the 2018 Edition of the IBC, including Appendices C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M. The IBC shall be recognized as the standard for the furtherance of the intent of Division 7, Chapter 1 of this Title, the Building Safety Code, which is to secure and promote the safety, health and general welfare of the people of the Northern Marianas by providing standards for the location, design, material, construction, enlargement, maintenance, use, occupancy, and moving of buildings and structures in the Commonwealth, and which is dedicated to the development of better building construction and greater safety for the citizens and residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) The Building Safety Official may adopt by regulation updates to, and new editions of, the International Building Code pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act. The Building Safety Division shall publish notice of each such update or new edition in accordance with 1 CMC § 9104(a).”

Section 4. Repealer and Reenactment. 2 CMC § 7145 is hereby repealed and re-enacted to read as follows:


(a) Where conflicts or contradictions exist between provisions of the Building Safety Code or regulations issued hereunder and the International Building Code, the Commonwealth regulations or Building Safety Code shall apply.

(b) Reference in the International Building Code to the “Building Official” shall be taken to mean the Building Safety Official of the Department of Public Works, as established herein.

(c) No fees or inspections, nor any certificate of approval, or occupancy required by the International Building Code shall be required in the Commonwealth unless such requirement is specifically adopted by regulation.”

Section 5. Public Notice to be Given. Following enactment into law of this Act, the Building Safety Division is hereby directed to publish in a newspaper of general circulation the adoption and effective date of the International Building Code as the new building code of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to post, in conspicuous locations within its premises, notice of the same. This publication and posting shall take place no later than thirty (30) days after enactment.

Section 6. Savings Clause. Approval of this Act shall not be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any act or regulation hereby repealed as cited in this Act; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Act.

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect 180 days after its approval by the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:  
VICTOR B. HOCOG  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ATTESTED BY:  
SIXTO K. IGISOMAR  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this day of December, 2019.

RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands