



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Eloy S. Inos
Governor

Jude U. Hofschneider
Lieutenant Governor

Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
Speaker, House of Representatives
Eighteenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres
Senate President, The Senate
Eighteenth 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. 18-160, entitled, "To amend 6 CMC § 2304 to establish the exit of the United States Post Office as an official Customs Point of Entry; and for other purposes," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 18-33**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eloy S. Inos", with a long vertical line extending upwards from the end of the signature.

ELOY S. INOS

cc: Lt. Governor; Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel; Attorney General's Office; Press Secretary; Department of Finance; Customs; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



House of Representatives

18th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Eloy S. Inos
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Inos:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 18-160**, entitled: "To amend 6 CMC § 2304 to establish the exit of the United States Post Office as an official Customs Point of Entry; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda B. Muña".

Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



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

Second Regular Session

January 9, 2014

Representative John Paul P. Sablan, of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives George N. Camacho, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, Antonio P. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Edmund S. Villagomez) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 18-160

AN ACT

**TO AMEND 6 CMC § 2304 TO ESTABLISH THE EXIT OF THE
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AS AN OFFICIAL CUSTOMS
POINT OF ENTRY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JANUARY 9, 2014;
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, JANUARY 14, 2014;
without amendments and returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON JANUARY 9, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. Muña", written over a horizontal line.

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

**First Day, Third Regular Session
January 9, 2014**

H. B. 18-160

AN ACT

TO AMEND 6 CMC § 2304 TO ESTABLISH THE EXIT OF THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AS AN OFFICIAL CUSTOMS POINT OF ENTRY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that taxable goods and
2 prohibited contraband are making their way into the Commonwealth via United States mail.
3 These items are evading inspection by the Customs Division because Customs officers have
4 limited authority to inspect mail when it arrives at the airport. When a package or letter is
5 delivered to the U.S. Postal Service it remains under the custody of the United States Postal
6 Service until it is delivered to the rightful addressee. As such, for Customs purposes, a
7 package or letter entering the Commonwealth through the United States Postal Service does
8 not officially enter the Commonwealth until it is out of United States Postal Service custody.
9 To address this issue, the Legislature finds that the United States Post Office should be

HOUSE BILL 18-160

1 designated as an official entry point for United States mail matter.

2 **Section 2. Amendment.** 6 CMC § 2304 is hereby amended as follows:

3 “(a) The jurisdiction of the Customs Service shall include all official customs
4 points of entry into the Commonwealth and points of exit out of the Commonwealth
5 as follows, as well as any future official customs ports of entry that may be
6 established from time to time:

7 *Island Official Customs Point of Entry/Exit*

8 Saipan Tanapag Harbor (Charlie Dock), Sugar Dock, Smiling Cove,
9 Garapan Fishing Complex, Baker Dock, and Isley Field
10 (Saipan International Airport)

11 Rota Rota Harbor (West Dock) and Rota International Airport

12 Tinian Tinian Harbor and West Tinian Airport

13 (1) The United States Post Offices in the Commonwealth are the
14 official points of entry for packages and other mail matter entering the
15 Commonwealth through the United States Postal Service (USPS). The
16 Customs Service shall have authority to inspect packages and other mail
17 matter reasonably suspected of containing taxable goods or contraband at the
18 Post Offices after they are released from the custody of the USPS. The ability
19 of Customs Service to carry out inspection on USPS premises shall be subject
20 to authorization from the USPS.

21 (b) When the Customs Service discovers or has probable cause to believe that
22 contraband described in 6 CMC § 2301 (a) has entered the Commonwealth, the

HOUSE BILL 18-160

1 jurisdiction of the Customs Service shall extend inside the Commonwealth to the
2 destination(s) where the person importing the contraband travels to deliver, consume,
3 and/or distribute the contraband; provided, however, that the duration of such
4 jurisdiction outside the points of entry shall be limited to 72 hours after the arrival
5 into the Commonwealth of the suspected contraband; and further provided that the
6 person carrying the suspected contraband or the vehicle or container in which the
7 suspected contraband is contained is subjected to constant surveillance by the
8 Customs Service from the point of entry.

9 (c) The jurisdiction of the Customs Service shall also extend to all points of
10 entry and exit within and between the islands of the Commonwealth and within 200
11 miles of the shoreline of any island of the Commonwealth.”

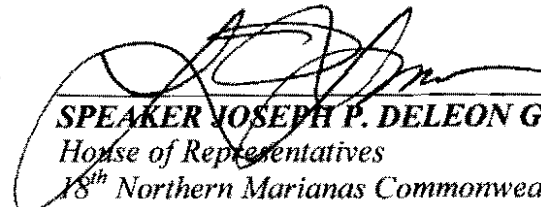
12 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such
13 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
14 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
15 circumstances other than 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.

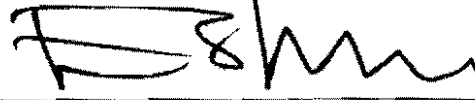
HOUSE BILL 18-160

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 JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
House of Representatives
18th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

~~Approved~~ this 23rd day of JANUARY, 2014


ELOY S. INOS
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands