



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

13 JUN 2014

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. 18-140, entitled, "To amend Public Law No. 17-43 to give the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) the power to adopt rules and regulations in furtherance of its duties; 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. 18-50**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eloy S. Inos", with a 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; Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority; Public Auditor; 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

May 14, 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. 18-140**, entitled: "To amend Public Law No. 17-43 to give the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) the power to adopt rules and regulations in furtherance of its duties; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



*Eighteenth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Second Regular Session

October 24, 2013

Representative Antonio P. Sablan, 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. 18-140

AN ACT

**TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW NO. 17-43 TO GIVE THE
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA)
THE POWER TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS IN
FURTHERANCE OF ITS DUTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, which submitted Standing Committee Report 18-83, adopted on January 9, 2014.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, FEBRUARY 11, 2014;
without amendments and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, which submitted Standing Committee Report 18-58, adopted on May 2, 2014.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MAY 2, 2014;
without amendments and returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON FEBRUARY 11, 2014.

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

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

Fourth Day, Third Regular Session

February 11, 2014

H. B. 18-140

AN ACT

TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW NO. 17-43 TO GIVE THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA) THE POWER TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS DUTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature created the Commonwealth Office
2 of Transit Authority (COTA) to administer federal grants from the Federal Transit
3 Administration. COTA's primary duties are to assess the transportation needs of the
4 Commonwealth and to develop a public transportation system. Under the current law, COTA
5 does not have the authority to adopt rules and regulations. The Legislature finds that COTA
6 should have the authority to adopt rules and regulations to carry out its duties.

7 **Section 2. Amendment.** Section 2 (b) of Public Law No. 17-43, which is codified as
8 1 CMC § 20161 is amended by adding a new subsection (b) (1) to read as follows:

9 “(b) (1) The Special Assistant may adopt rules and regulations as necessary to
10 carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Commonwealth Office of Transit
11 Authority.”

HOUSE BILL 18-140

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


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

HOUSE BILL 18-140

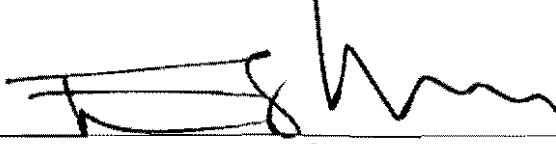
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Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

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 13TH day of JUNE, 2014


ELOY S. INOS
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands