

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor



ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

05 FEB 2021

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

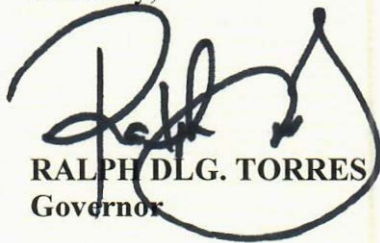
The Honorable Jude U. Hofschneider
Senate President, The Senate
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 21-43, HD3, HS1, SD1, CCS1** entitled, "To amend 2 CMC §43104(a)(5) to provide proper eligibility for people who wish to avail of the village and agricultural homesteading programs under the Department of Public Lands; and for other purposes.," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 21-44**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Department of Public Lands; Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



House of Representatives

TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

December 29, 2020

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. 21-43, HD3, HS1, SD1, CCS1**, entitled: "To amend 2 CMC §43104(a)(5) to provide proper eligibility for people who wish to avail of the village and agricultural homesteading programs under the Department of Public Lands; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,


Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



*Twenty-First Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

APRIL 29, 2019

REPRESENTATIVE JOEL C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Luis John DLG. Castro, Jose I. Itibus, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Janet U. Maratita, and Marco T. Peter,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 21-43, HD3, HS1, SD1, CCS1

AN ACT

TO AMEND 2 CMC §43104(A)(5) TO PROVIDE PROPER
ELIGIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WHO WISH TO AVAIL OF THE
VILLAGE AND AGRICULTURAL HOMESTEADING PROGRAMS
UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, which submitted Standing Committee Report 21-11; adopted 6/11/2019; and Standing Committee Report 21-25; adopted 8/9/2019.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 9, 2019;**
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 21-43, HD3, HS1 and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, which submitted Standing Committee Report 21-67; adopted 2/10/2020.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, FEBRUARY 10, 2020;
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 21-43, HD3, HS1, SD1 and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FEBRUARY 11, 2020.

The House of Representatives rejected the Senate amendments and the Bill was sent to Conference, which submitted Conference Committee Report 21-3.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON DECEMBER 22, 2020.



 Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



Twenty-First Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TENTH DAY, FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

DECEMBER 22, 2020

H. B. No. 21-43, HD3, HS1, SD1, CCS1

AN ACT

TO AMEND 2 CMC §43104(A)(5) TO PROVIDE PROPER ELIGIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WHO WISH TO AVAIL OF THE VILLAGE AND AGRICULTURAL HOMESTEADING PROGRAMS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 The Legislature finds that many former residents of the Northern Islands have long
3 expressed their desires in relocating back to the beautiful and pristine islands in the north to
4 establish a home for themselves and their respective loved ones. Pursuant to the enactment of
5 Public Law 16-50, which established the village and agriculture programs for the Northern
6 Islands under the Department of Public Lands (DPL), that long-awaited dream to finally return
7 home seemed near to fruition for many of these individuals. However, based on specific
8 provisional languages specified in 2 CMC §43104(a)(5), many of these individuals are
9 considered ineligible to avail of such programs. Cognizant of the fervent desire of these

HOUSE BILL 21-43, HD3, HS1, SD1, CCS1

1 individuals to return home and establish a life for themselves and their loved ones, it is vital to
2 amend 2 CMC §43104(a)(5) to properly allow these individuals to be able to establish their
3 lives in their desired location within the CNMI.

4 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 2 CMC §43104(a)(5) to provide proper
5 eligibility for people who wish to avail of the village and agricultural homesteading programs
6 under the Department of Public Lands and for other purposes.

7 **SECTION 2. REPEAL AND RE-ENACT.**

8 2 CMC §43104(a)(5) is hereby repealed and re-enacted to read as follows:

9 “(5) An applicant must be registered to vote in the Northern Islands elections
10 prior to applying and must either reside or have resided in the Northern Islands or be
11 born in or be a descendant of a person born in the Northern Islands as indicated in a
12 valid birth certificate or court document. Priority shall be granted to those born on or
13 who are descendants of someone born in the Northern Islands.”

14 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

19 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

HOUSE BILL 21-43, HD3, HS1, SD1, CCS1

1 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law
3 without such approval.

Attested to by:

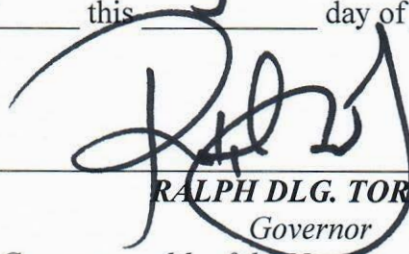


Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



SPEAKER BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO
House of Representatives
21st Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approval this 5th day of February, 2021


RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands