

GOV. COMM. 20-16
(HOUSE)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLG. Torres

Governor

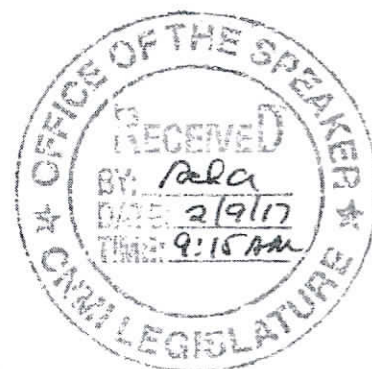
Victor B. Hocog

Lieutenant Governor

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

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

06 FEB 2017

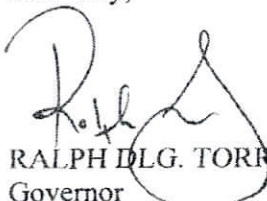



Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill No. 19-110, entitled, "Mandating the Division of Customs to conduct K-9 unit drug detections for all inter-island commuter flight entries and seaport entries in the effort to combat drugs within the Commonwealth by amending 6 CMC § 2304 to add a new subsection (d); and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 19-86**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY 
DATE 2/9/17 TIME 2:50pm

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Commissioner of Public Safety; Division of Customs; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review; Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor



THE SENATE
NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE BILL NO. 19-110

AN ACT

Mandating the Division of Customs to conduct K-9 unit drug detections for all inter-island commuter flight entries and seaport entries in the effort to combat drugs within the Commonwealth by amending 6 CMC § 2304 to add a new subsection (d); and for other purposes.

SENATE ACTION

Offered by Senator(s): Steve K. Mesngon

Date: August 08, 2016

Referred to: Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law

Standing Committee Report No.: None

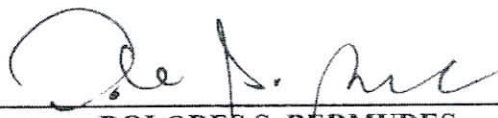
Final Reading: December 02, 2016

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to: None

Standing Committee Report No.: None

First and Final Reading: December 28, 2016


DOLORES S. BERMUDES
SENATE CLERK



THE SENATE
NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2016

S. B. NO. 19-110

AN ACT

Mandating the Division of Customs to conduct K-9 unit drug detections for all inter-island commuter flight entries and seaport entries in the effort to combat drugs within the Commonwealth by amending 6 CMC § 2304 to add a new subsection (d); and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Commonwealth Legislature finds that the
2 prevalence of drugs, especially methamphetamines "ice", in the Commonwealth has
3 greatly increased. The Commonwealth Legislature finds that drugs continue to harm
4 communities and destroy families. With the efforts to combat drugs through the CNMI's
5 "War on Ice", the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has greatly increased and prioritized
6 its enforcement strategies to crack down on drugs such as ice. However, the
7 Commonwealth Legislature finds that DPS cannot fight this war alone. The
8 Commonwealth Legislature believes that all enforcement agencies must come together in
9 collaboration to truly make an impact in the effort to eradicate drugs in the CNMI; this
10 includes fighting drugs in our borders.

11 The Commonwealth Legislature finds that an effective strategy to tackle drugs at
12 the port of entries is to also conduct drug detections with the use of K-9 units of inter-
13 island travelers. Currently, the Division of Customs enforces our borders through the use
14 of K-9 units solely in Saipan. The Commonwealth Legislature finds that increased efforts
15 should include drug detection through the use of K-9s at the port of entries in Rota and

1 Tinian. The use of K-9 units to conduct drug detection in Rota and Tinian would-deter the
2 smuggling of drugs using inter-island commuter routes.

3 The Commonwealth Legislature believes that the ice epidemic is not just a problem
4 occurring in Saipan but also greatly affecting the communities in Tinian and Rota. The
5 Commonwealth Legislature further finds that in order to deter the smuggling of drugs into
6 our borders, it is necessary to conduct drug detection screenings through the use of K-9s at
7 all points of entries in the Commonwealth. The purpose of this legislation is to require the
8 Division of Customs to conduct K-9 unit drug detections for all inter-island commuter
9 flight entries and seaport entries in the effort to combat drugs within the Commonwealth.

10 **Section 2. Amendment.** 6 CMC § 2304 is hereby amended by adding a new
11 subsection (d) to read as follows:

12 “(d) The Division of Customs shall extend K-9 unit screenings for the purpose of
13 detecting illegal drugs and other contrabands at all seaports and airports within the
14 Commonwealth including all inter-island outgoing and incoming commuter flights as well
15 as incoming and outgoing water crafts.”

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

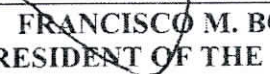
20 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not
21 be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under
22 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes.
23 Repealers contained in this Act shall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

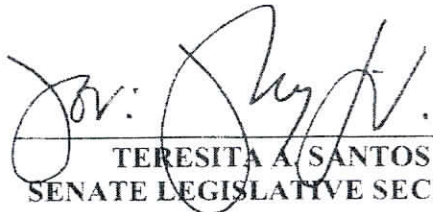
27 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
28 Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SENATE BILL NO. 19-110

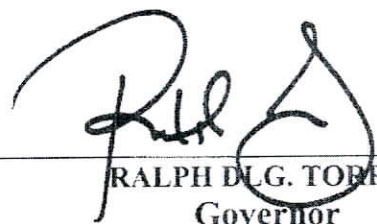
CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:


FRANCISCO M. BORJA
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE


TERESITA A. SANTOS
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 6th day of February, 2017


RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands