



**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor

**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

19 DEC 2019

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

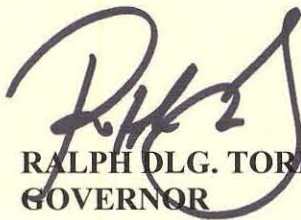
The Honorable Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-First Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

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



THE SENATE  
Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
P. O. Box 500129  
Saipan, MP 96950

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dolores S. Bermudes".

Dolores S. Bermudes  
Senate Clerk

Attachments



**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 21-03, SD1, HD1**

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**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***

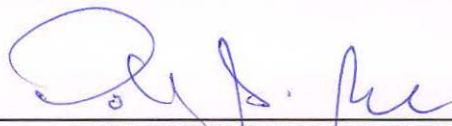
**Referred to:** Committee Judiciary and Governmental Operations

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

**First and Final Reading:** October 15, 2019

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**DOLORES S. BERMUDES**  
**SENATE CLERK**



**THE SENATE**  
 TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2019**

**S. B. NO. 21-03, SD1, HD1**

**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:**

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

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

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

12  
 13           **Section 3. Repealer and Reenactment.** 2 CMC § 7142 is hereby repealed and re-  
 14 enacted to read as follows:

**“§7142. International Building Code Adopted.**

(a) The International Building Code (IBC) as published by the International

16

**SENATE BILL NO. 21-03, SD1, HD1**

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

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

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

17 **“§7145. Precedence of Commonwealth Building Safety Code.**

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

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

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

27 **Section 5. Public Notice to be Given.** Following enactment into law of this Act, the  
28 Building Safety Division is hereby directed to publish in a newspaper of general circulation the  
29 adoption and effective date of the International Building Code as the new building code of the

SENATE BILL NO. 21-03, SD1, HD1

1 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to post, in conspicuous locations within  
2 its premises, notice of the same. This publication and posting shall take place no later than  
3 thirty (30) days after enactment.

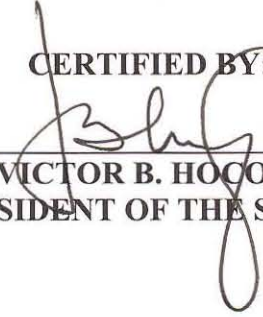
4 **Section 6. Savings Clause.** Approval of this Act shall not be construed to affect any  
5 suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any  
6 cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any act or regulation hereby repealed as  
7 cited in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

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

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

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

  
VICTOR B. HOCOG  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

  
SIXTO K. IGISOMAR  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019

  
RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands