



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

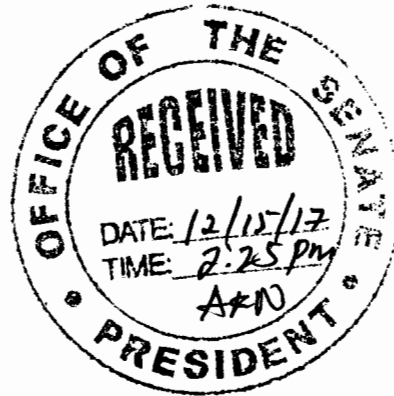
VICTOR B. HOCO
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

15 DEC 2017

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

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios
Senate President, The Senate
Twentieth 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. 20-145, entitled, "To appropriate \$22,000,000.00 set aside in the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full benefits and payment of a Bonus for all retirees.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-35**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


VICTOR B. HOCO
Acting Governor

cc: Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Secretary, Department of Finance; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

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12/15/17 3:05 pm



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

Second Regular Session

December 11, 2017

REPRESENTATIVE RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr.) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 20-145

AN ACT

TO APPROPRIATE \$22,000,000.00 SET ASIDE IN THE CASINO GRT ACCOUNT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE 25% OF THE SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBERS FULL BENEFITS AND PAYMENT OF A BONUS FOR ALL RETIREES.

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 11, 2017;**
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, DECEMBER 14, 2017;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON DECEMBER 11, 2017.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

TWELFTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

DECEMBER 11, 2017

H. B. NO. 20-145

AN ACT

**TO APPROPRIATE \$22,000,000.00 SET ASIDE IN THE CASINO
GRT ACCOUNT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE 25% OF THE
SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBERS FULL BENEFITS AND
PAYMENT OF A BONUS FOR ALL RETIREES.**

**Be it enacted by the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
Legislature:**

1 **Section 1. Findings.** The Governor has advised both houses of the Legislature by
2 letter dated November 29, 2017, identified as House Governors Communication 20-132, that
3 the \$22,000,000.00 has been set aside in the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the
4 25% of the Settlement Class Members full benefits and a Bonus. The Governor has
5 requested the Legislature to appropriate \$3,500,000.00 to be equally distributed to pay a
6 bonus to all retirees and beneficiaries. The purpose of this appropriation is to authorize the
7 Secretary of Finance, pursuant to 4 CMC §2308(a), to expend \$22,000,000.00 of the funds in
8 the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full

HOUSE BILL 20-145

1 benefits and a Bonus to all Settlement Class Members and CNMI Fund members receiving an
2 annuity.

3 **Section 2. Appropriation.** Pursuant to 4 CMC §2308, \$22,000,000.00 is
4 appropriated from the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement
5 Class Members full benefits and a \$3,500,000.00 Bonus to be distributed equally to all
6 Settlement Class Members and CNMI Fund members receiving an annuity. The appropriated
7 funds shall not lapse and shall be available for expenditure without fiscal year limitation.
8 The Secretary of Finance shall be the Expenditure Authority.

9 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions 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 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
14 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
15 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
16 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
17 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
18 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act
19 becomes effective.

HOUSE BILL 20-145

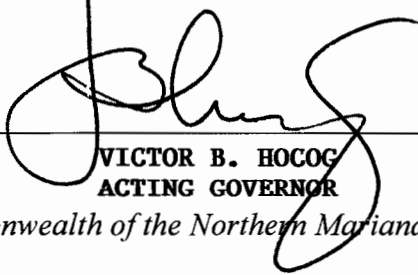
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Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by: 
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by: 
SPEAKER RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN
House of Representatives
20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 15th day of December, 2017


VICTOR B. HOCOG
ACTING GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands