

**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor



**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Lieutenant Governor

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

01 JUL 2020

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

The Honorable Victor B. Hocog  
Senate President, The Senate  
Twenty-First 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. 21-68, SD1**, entitled, "To amend 1 CMC section 1402 (a) to permit Senatorial Districts to create and regulate Community Improvement Districts or CIDs.," 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. 21-30**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold I. Palacios".

**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Governor; Press Secretary; Mayor of Saipan; Mayor of Tinian; Mayor of Rota; 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

May 27, 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. 21-68, SD1**, entitled: "To amend 1 CMC section 1402 (a) to permit Senatorial Districts to create and regulate Community Improvement Districts or CIDs.", 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**

**FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION**

**JULY 18, 2019**

REPRESENTATIVE IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Joel C. Camacho, Luis John DLG. Castro, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, and John Paul P. Sablan,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 21-68, SD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 1 CMC SECTION 1402 (A) TO PERMIT SENATORIAL DISTRICTS TO CREATE AND REGULATE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS OR CIDS.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 21-35; adopted 10/15/2019.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, OCTOBER 15, 2019;  
*without amendments* and transmitted to the  
THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 21-84; adopted 3/13/2020.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MARCH 13, 2020;  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. No. 21-68, SD1.**

**H. B. NO. 21-68, SD1, WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON APRIL 16, 2020.**

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. No. 21-68, SD1, during its First Day, Second Special Session on May 21, 2020.

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON MAY 21, 2020.**

  
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

FIRST DAY, SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

MAY 21, 2020

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**H. B. No. 21-68, SD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 1 CMC SECTION 1402 (A) TO PERMIT SENATORIAL DISTRICTS TO CREATE AND REGULATE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS OR CIDS.**

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

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

2           The Legislature finds that certain tourism areas in Garapan and other tourist-frequented  
3 areas in the Commonwealth should be better and more holistically managed to provide a better  
4 overall cultural and commercial environment for present and future generations of locals and  
5 tourists alike. In pursuing this policy, these specific areas, such as the tourist-frequented areas  
6 in Garapan will be subject to rules and regulations in areas called Community Improvement  
7 Districts or CIDs that will both enhance existing features and create new attractions that will  
8 be traditional, commercially feasible, and aesthetically pleasing.

9           Title 1 Section 1402 (a) of the Commonwealth Code expressly lists subjects or matters  
10 within which a senatorial district may enact local laws. Subsection (a) defines a local bill as a

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**HOUSE BILL 21-68, SD1**

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1 bill that “if enacted, becomes a law pertaining exclusively to matters within one senatorial  
2 district”.

3 Because Article II, section 6 of the CNMI Constitution allows for a Senatorial District  
4 to legislate within the district, the Legislature hereby deems it important to add to the list set  
5 forth in 1 CMC section 1402 (a) to include the establishment and regulation of Community  
6 Improvement Districts or CIDs.

7 Accordingly, this Act, is hereby enacted to allow all CNMI Senatorial Districts to enact  
8 regulations and laws within their municipalities that are needed to establish these CIDs for the  
9 purpose of creating a better overall business and tourist friendly experience.

10 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

11 Title 1, Division 1, Chapter 4, Enactment of Local Laws, section 1402 (a) Definitions  
12 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended by adding the following new subsection (20)  
13 that shall read as follows:

14 “(20) The establishment and regulation of Community Improvement Districts  
15 or CIDs that enhance existing features or create new attractions within a district  
16 established by local law or regulations. The purpose of establishing a CIDs is to  
17 improve the community through infrastructure investment and creating conditions that  
18 attract new growth. CIDs may include capital improvements, beautification,  
19 community safety, business retention and economic development.

20 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

25 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

26 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any  
27 existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule,  
28 regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect  
29 any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not

HOUSE BILL 21-68, SD1

1 have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which  
2 shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

3 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

Attested to by:   
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:   
SPEAKER BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO  
House of Representatives  
21<sup>st</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2020

  
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
Lt. Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands