

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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SESSION, 2021

H.B. 22-69

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To repeal Title 1, Division 8, Part 2, Chapter 2, Article 1 (codified as 1 CMC §§ 8221-8223) in order to remove taxpayer-funded housing for key elected officials.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 22<sup>ND</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** This bill repeals Title 1, Division 8,  
2 Part 2, Chapter 2, Article 1, which became effective on December 29, 1980,  
3 and provides for government housing for the Commonwealth Governor,  
4 Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
5 Representatives. The Legislature finds that historically, Governors and  
6 Lieutenant Governors of prior administrations have availed of government  
7 housing pursuant to 1 CMC Sections 8221 – 8223. Today, however, all  
8 government facilities previously used for housing the Commonwealth’s chief  
9 executives are derelict, abandoned, or converted to government offices. In the  
10 absence of government housing, the Department of Finance has permitted the  
11 use of public funds to pay utilities at the private residences of the  
12 Commonwealth’s top key elected officials, namely Governors and Lieutenant  
13 Governors. The Legislature finds there is no legal basis or public purpose  
14 justification for the taxpayer-funded payment of utilities at the private  
15 residences of elected officials. Moreover, in the present economic downturn, as  
16 the people of the Commonwealth struggle to recover from typhoon disasters  
17 and the impacts of the Covid-19 global pandemic, the government is compelled  
18 to cut unnecessary costs and prioritize limited resources for essential needs. As  
19 the Commonwealth’s citizens bear the burden of paying for their own housing

1 and their own utilities, so should the Commonwealth's highest-paid  
2 government officials, and the government must live within its means.

3 **Section 2. Repealed.** Be it enacted by the Legislature that 1 CMC §  
4 8221, 1 CMC § 8222, and 1 CMC § 8223, are hereby repealed.

5 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this act or application of  
6 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a  
7 court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this act to persons or  
8 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected  
9 thereby.

10 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** The act contained herein shall not be  
11 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired  
12 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the  
13 statutes. Repealers shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant  
14 to prior law. This repealer shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way  
15 modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence  
16 on the date this act becomes effective.

17 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This act shall take effect upon its approval  
18 by the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 5/21/2021

Date: 5/21/2021

Introduced By: [Signature]  
Rep. Richard Lizama

[Signature]  
Rep. Christina Sablan

Rep. Edwin Propst  
[Signature]  
Sheila Babauta

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

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House Legal Counsel

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Leila Staffler

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Denita Yangetman