



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2007

PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-83

**H. B. No. 15-288, HD2**

AN ACT

To waive the exemption fee charged by the Department of Labor for the hiring of new nonresident workers by new major developments; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1.     Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Public Law 11-6,  
2 codified under 3 CMC § 4601 *et seq.*, placed a moratorium on the hiring of nonresident  
3 workers. The only exceptions to this moratorium are for replacement hiring, for major new  
4 tourist oriented development and for critical professionals as they are considered essential to  
5 the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth. 3 CMC § 4601(d) specifically outlines the  
6 requirements that need to be met in order for an exemption to be granted for new major  
7 developments. This exemption for new major tourist oriented developments was created to  
8 support new developers in establishing their respective business ventures in the  
9 Commonwealth. With the current economic crisis facing the CNMI, it is necessary to assist all  
10 new major developments revitalize our ailing economy.

11           The Legislature further finds that regulations adopted by the Department of Labor  
12 placed an exemption fee of \$500.00 for each exemption application. This exemption fee is in  
13 addition to the processing, bonding, job vacancy announcement, and alien registration fees.  
14 Should a new major developer necessitate the hiring of new nonresident workers to meet the  
15 demands of the development's operation or construction, the cost of each exemption  
16 application will exponentially grow. These extra costs place an additional and unnecessary  
17 financial burden on new developers willing to assist in the revitalization of the  
18 Commonwealth's economy. It is, therefore, the purpose of this Act to exempt new major  
19 developers from paying the exemption fee charged by the Department of Labor for the hiring  
20 of new nonresident workers.

1           **Section 2. Waiver of Exemption Fee.** All new major developments investing  
2 \$10,000,000.00 or more in the Commonwealth, are hereby waived from paying the \$500.00  
3 exemption fee charged by the Department of Labor for the hiring of new nonresident workers  
4 necessary during the construction phase only of such development.

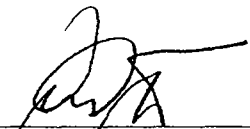
5           **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
6 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
7 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
8 circumstances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


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

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

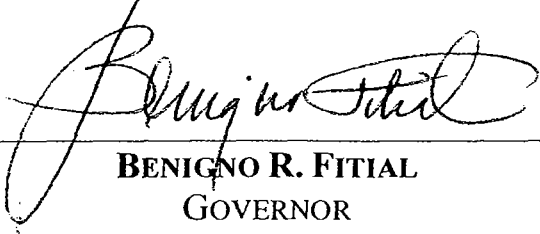
CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:

  
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**OSCAR M. BABAUTA**  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

  
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**EVELYN C. FLEMING**  
HOUSE CLERK

APPROVED on this 19th day of SEPTEMBER, 2007

  
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**BENIGNO R. FITIAL**  
GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS