



GOV. COMM. 12-90  
(HOUSE)

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**Pedro P. Tenorio**  
Governor  
**Jesus R. Sablan**  
Lt. Governor

Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670)664-2200  
Fax: (670)664-2211

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twelfth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

OCT 31 2000

and

The Honorable Paul A. Manglona  
Senate President  
Twelfth 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. 12-220, entitled, "To amend Title 2 section 5326 of the Commonwealth Code, to modify quarantine requirements; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

I am happy to note that the public safety concerns raised in a similar prior bill, which was disapproved, have been addressed in this measure. A few minor clarification might be considered in the future if, during the implementation of this Act, the need for improvement should arise. Change "Commonwealth Veterinarian" (a position title that no longer exists within DLNR) to "Chief of Animal Health and Industry". Delete the word "U.S." on page 1, line 16, before the words "Office of International Epizootics." Although, Infectious Canine Hepatitis was not included as requiring vaccination, this could be addressed, in the meantime, through a permit requirement.

This measure addresses the long overdue need to modify our prior quarantine law, while it benefits our community, and safeguards the health and safety of the people.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 12-29**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
**PEDRO P. TENORIO**

CC; Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources  
Special Assistant for Programs & Legislative Review

**RECEIVED**  
DATE: 10/31/00



*The House of Representatives*  
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. Box 500586  
Saipan, MP 96950

October 4, 2000

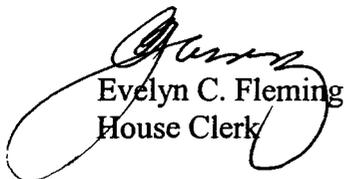
The Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands  
Office of the Governor  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

*PUBLIC LAW NO. 12-29*

Dear Governor Tenorio:

I have the honor to transmit herewith for your action House Bill No. 12-220, entitled, "*To* amend Title 2 section **5326** of the Commonwealth Code, to modify quarantine requirements; and for other purposes," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Respectfully,

  
Evelyn C. Fleming  
House Clerk

Attachment

*David 10/4/00*

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

PUBLIC LAW NO. 12-29

## HOUSE BILL NO. 12-220

---

### AN ACT

To amend Title 2 section 5326 of the Commonwealth Code, to modify quarantine requirements; and for other purposes.

---

**Offered by Representative(s):**

Dino M. Jones

and David M. Apatang

**Date:** July 18,2000

---

### HOUSE ACTION

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

**Standing Committee Report:** 12-130

**First and Final Reading:** August 8,2000

---

### SENATE ACTION

**Standing Committee Report:** None

**Final Reading:** September 22,2000

  
Evelyn C. Fleming  
House Clerk

TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

*PUBLIC LAW NO, 12-29*

EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2000

**H. B. NO. 12-220**

---

**AN ACT**

To amend Title 2 section 5326 of the Commonwealth Code, to modify quarantine requirements; and for other purposes.

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

1           Section . Purpose. The Legislature finds that controlling the spread if infectious  
2 diseases among animals imported into the Commonwealth is of critical importance to our  
3 sland ecosystem. The Legislature further finds that the current system of quarantining animals  
4 or 120 days needs to be revisited. With the advances being made in veterinary medicine, we  
5 feel that the Commonwealth Veterinarian should be allowed greater flexibility in determining  
6 he appropriate type and duration of quarantine.

7           Section 2. Amendment. Title 2 section 5326 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8           The Commonwealth Veterinarian may quarantine any animal known to be affected  
9 with or to have been exposed to any contagious, infectious or communicable disease, and  
10 destroy the same when in his opinion the measure is necessary to prevent the spread of disease.  
11 At the owners expense, the Commonwealth Veterinarian or his designee may provide for the  
12 proper disposition of its hide, carcass or feathers, and disinfect premises where the disease may  
13 have existed.

14           (a) All dogs and cats, except as otherwise provided for under this statute,  
15 from areas other than those declared to be rabies free by either the State of Hawaii, the  
16 World Health Organization, or the U.S. Office of International Epizootics may be  
17 confined at the As Perdido Animal Quarantine Facility for up to 120 days, or longer if  
18 in the opinion it is necessary to prevent the introduction of rabies or other infectious,

1 contagious or communicable disease of cats and dogs. The Commonwealth  
2 Veterinarian may approve a period of home quarantine if in his discretion it will not  
3 create unnecessary risk to the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Veterinarian will  
4 maintain and publish a listing of rabies-free areas in the regulations as changes occur.

5 (b) Dogs and cats from rabies-free areas may be exempted from the  
6 quarantine requirements provided that their areas remain free, at the time of  
7 importation, of rabies and maintained, at the time of importation, to the satisfaction of  
8 the Commonwealth Veterinarian, stringent entry requirements to prevent the  
9 introduction of disease into their areas; and that they have been vaccinated for the  
10 following:

11 Dogs: Distemper, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Rabies, Leptospira, and  
12 Coronavirus Kennel cough:

13 Cats: Panleukopenia virus, Calicivirus, Rhinotracheitis, Pneumonitis, Rabies and  
14 Leukemia and provided that, in addition to meeting the requirements applicable to dogs  
15 and cats, they are imported in compliance with the entry conditions and requirements  
16 stipulated in the regulations and on their entry permits.

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

21 Section 4. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
22 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
23 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained  
24 in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The  
25 enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any  
26 liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes  
27 effective.

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

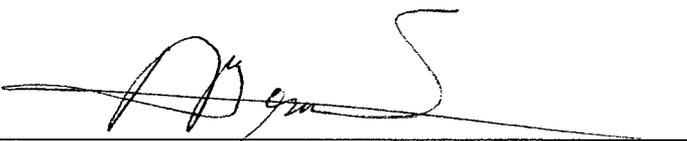
CERTIFIED BY:

  
BENIGNO R. FITIAL  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

ATTESTED TO BY:

  
EVELYN C. FLEMING  
HOUSE CLERK

Approved this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2000

  
PEDRO P. TENORIO  
GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS