

**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor



**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Lieutenant Governor

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

**22 SEP 2020**

The Honorable Victor B. Hocog  
Senate President, The Senate  
Twenty-First Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

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

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **Senate Bill No. 21-67, SD1**, entitled, "To allow a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission to appear, attend, participate, and vote in an official meeting using a telephone, video, or other electronic means," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 21-33**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph", is written over a circular official stamp. The stamp contains the text "RALPH DLG. TORRES" and "Governor".

**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Secretary of Finance; Commonwealth Election Commission; Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; Homeland Security Emergency Management; Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



THE SENATE  
Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
P. O. Box 500129  
Saipan, MP 96950

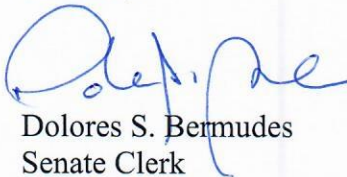
September 17, 2020

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Capital Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action Senate Bill No. 21-67, SD1, entitled: "To allow a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission to appear, attend, participate, and vote in an official meeting using a telephone, video, or other electronic means.," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dolores S. Bermudes".

Dolores S. Bermudes  
Senate Clerk

Attachments



**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 21-67 SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To allow a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission to appear, attend, participate, and vote in an official meeting using a telephone, video, or other electronic means.

***SENATE ACTION***

**Offered by Senator(s):** Sixto K. Igisomar

**Date:** July 28, 2020

**Referred to:** Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law & Federal Relations

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**Final Reading:** August 28, 2020

***HOUSE ACTION***

**Referred to:** None

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**First and Final Reading:** September 08, 2020

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**DOLORES S. BERMUDEZ**  
**SENATE CLERK**





**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2020**

**S. B. NO. 21-67, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To allow a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission to appear, attend, participate, and vote in an official meeting using a telephone, video, or other electronic means.

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

1       **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that with the continued  
2 implementation of the safety measures in response to the global pandemic resulting from  
3 COVID-19 that there has been a shift to a new normal of day to day activities. More  
4 importantly, the end of this pandemic is still far out of reach as many states and countries  
5 are seeing a surge in positive cases. Furthermore, as the COVID-19 has affected the world  
6 on a global scale, the loss of the Commonwealth's tourist industry has detrimentally  
7 affected revenue source causing additional hardships on government services and private  
8 businesses further impacting the livelihood of our residents in the Commonwealth.

9       The Legislature further finds that with the midterm elections fast approaching, that  
10 the Commonwealth Election Commission has been unable to conduct an official meeting  
11 within a safe and cost effective setting during these difficult times. It is imperative that  
12 alternative measures be considered to allow election commission members physically  
13 present in the Commonwealth to fulfill their fiduciary duties when the governor declares  
14 the Commonwealth to be under a State of Significant Emergency or a State of Public  
15 Health\_Emergency. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to allow a member of the  
16 Commonwealth Election Commission to appear, participate, and vote in an official  
17 meeting using a telephone, video, or other electronic means.

SENATE BILL NO. 21-67, SD1

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1       **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 6106 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2       “§ 6106. Election Commission: Quorum and Attendance.

3       (a) Five (5) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum to conduct  
4       official business; provided, however, that at least one member from each  
5       senatorial district is present. All decisions of the Commission shall be made by  
6       three-fourths (3/4's) vote of the members.

7       (b) A member of the Commission may appear, attend, participate, and vote in an  
8       official meeting electronically using a telephone, video, or other electronic  
9       means provided that the member is physically present in the Commonwealth of  
10      the Northern Mariana Islands.”

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

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



SENATE BILL NO. 21-67, SD1

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

**CERTIFIED BY:**

  
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**VICTOR B. HOCOG**  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

**ATTESTED BY:**

  
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**SIXTO K. IGISONAR**  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

*Approval* this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2020

  
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**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**