



GOV. COMM. 15-149  
(HOUSE)

# COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

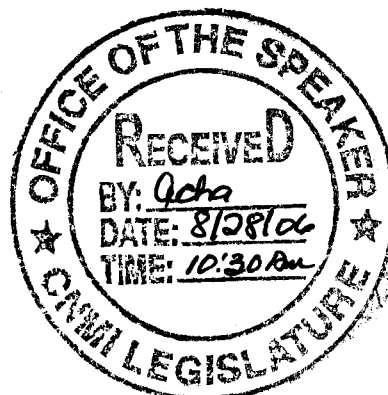
**Benigno R. Fitial**  
Governor

**Timothy P. Villagomez**  
Lieutenant Governor

The Honorable Oscar M. Babauta  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Fifteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Joseph M. Mendiola  
Senate President  
Fifteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

AUG 25 2006



Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 15-144, entitled, "To amend 2 CMC §4483 by adding a new subsection (c); and for other purposes," which was passed by the Fifteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 15-26**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

BENIGNO R. FITIAL

cc: Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General  
Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation  
Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority  
Administrator, Northern Marianas Retirement Fund  
Secretary, Department of Public Works  
Secretary, Department of Finance  
Secretary, Department of Commerce  
All Mayors  
Executive Director, Law Revision Commission  
Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**  
FIRST DAY, THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2006

**PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-26**  
**H. B. No. 15-144**

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**AN ACT**

To amend 2 CMC § 4483 by adding a new subsection (c); and for other purposes.

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**In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Introduced by Representatives:** Manuel A. Tenorio, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero,  
Benjamin B. Seman, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Stanley T. Torres, and Ray N. Yumul

**Date:** June 12, 2006

Referred to: None  
Public Hearing: None  
Standing Committee Report: None

**Passed First and Final Reading on June 12, 2006**

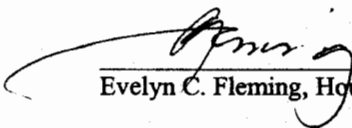
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**In the SENATE**

Referred to Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications  
Public Hearing: None  
Standing Committee Report No. 15-45

**Passed Final Reading on July 13, 2006**

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Evelyn C. Fleming, House Clerk



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**  
**THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2006**

**PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-26**  
**H. B. No. 15-144**

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**AN ACT**

To amend 2 CMC § 4483 by adding a new subsection (c); and for other purposes.

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

1       **Section 1. Findings.** The Legislature finds that because of the increase in fuel prices  
2 and the uncertainty of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's power generation capability  
3 and the incessant and perennial problems with the availability of water, it is necessary for the  
4 Commonwealth to look into other methods of power generation and a water reservoir system  
5 for residential homes. Because of the Commonwealth's geographical location, an endless  
6 supply of the sun's abundant and clean energy remains untapped. Rain water is also  
7 available, but the problem of dependable water supply remains a perennial concern for most  
8 home owners.

9       Energy from the sun can be categorized in two ways: (1) in the form of heat (or  
10 thermal energy), and (2) in the form of light energy. Solar thermal technologies use the sun's  
11 heat energy to heat substances, such as water or air, for applications such as space heating,  
12 pool heating and water heating for homes and businesses. There are a variety of products on  
13 the market that utilize thermal energy. Often the products used for this application are called  
14 solar thermal collectors and can be mounted on the roof of a building or in some other sunny  
15 location. The sun's heat can also be used to produce electricity on a large utility-scale by  
16 converting the sun's heat energy into mechanical energy. For similar reasons, the abundance  
17 of rain could be captured as useable water through a proper collection and storage system in  
18 order to supplement the constant water shortage on the island.

1       The Legislature finds that the Commonwealth homeowner stands to benefit from the  
2 implementation of solar energy usage by including such technologies into the development of  
3 new homes as well as the installation of an affordable water collection and storage system.  
4 The Legislature further finds that it is feasible to grant the Northern Marianas Housing  
5 Corporation the authority to either require all new home loan applicants to incorporate solar  
6 thermal technologies into their new home developments or develop a separate solar thermal  
7 technologies loan program that will provide loans for homeowners to install such  
8 technologies into their homes.

9       **Section 2. Amendment.** 2 CMC § 4483 is hereby amended by adding a new  
10 subsection (c) to read as follows:

11               “(c) NMHC shall require through regulation that all new home loan  
12 applicants, on a voluntary basis, may incorporate solar thermal technologies and/or a  
13 water collection and storage system into their new home developments applying  
14 similar internal rates for home loans or develop a separate loan program that will  
15 provide loans for homeowners to install such solar thermal technologies and/or a  
16 water collection and storage system into their homes.”

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  
24 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
25 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
26 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
27 becomes effective.

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

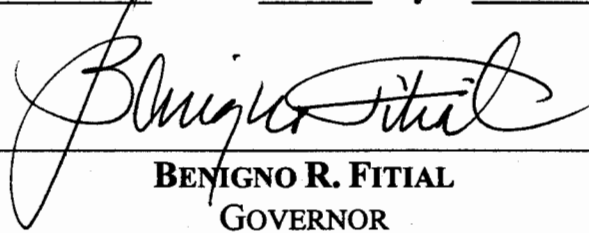
CERTIFIED BY:

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

ATTESTED TO BY:

  
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**EVELYN C. FLEMING**  
HOUSE CLERK

APPROVED on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2006

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