

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS

P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

MARISSA R. FLORES

CHAIRWOMAN

Adopted - 7/26/2023
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-32
DATE: JULY 24, 2023
RE: H.B. 23-48

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations to which was referred:

H. B. No. 23-48:

“To amend Title 4, Division 9 of the Commonwealth Code to place the apprenticeship program within the Department of Labor and to repeal 3 CMC §1351 through §1358; and for other purposes.”

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that H. B. No. 23-48 be passed by the House in its current form.

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY *JMV*
DATE *7/24/2023* TIME *11:18am*

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of House Bill No. 23-48 is to amend Title 4, Division 9 of the Commonwealth Code to place the apprenticeship program within the Department of Labor and to repeal 3 CMC §1351 through §1358 and for other purposes.

B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that apprenticeship programs are a system for training new generations of practitioners of a trade or profession with on-the-job training and often accompanying classroom work and reading. Furthermore, apprenticeships enable practitioners to gain a license to practice in a regulated occupation. Your Committee further finds that other U.S. jurisdictions, such as Guam, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and so forth, have implemented their own laws and have established their own state apprenticeship agencies (SAA).¹ Similar to the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship (OA), which handles the federal aspect of apprenticeship programs, SAAs provide technical assistance and support to program sponsors, answer questions about the apprenticeship model, guide partners on each phase of developing a program, connect businesses to training providers, and advise partners on available funding sources to support apprenticeships. Cognizant of such benefits, your Committee finds that our great Commonwealth will be able to significantly gain in developing a self-sufficient workforce.

Your Committee also finds that pursuant to the Northern Mariana Islands US Workforce Act of 2018, the Commonwealth-only Contract Worker (CW) program is set to cease on December 31, 2029. Such transition period was established to allow for the CNMI to transition towards a U.S. eligible workforce. Due to such time constraints, your Committee finds that right now would be the most opportune time to establish an apprenticeship program. With such program, the Commonwealth can develop a suitable skilled-labor workforce to fill the shortages that will potentially exist upon expiration of the transition program. Your Committee further acknowledges the intent of CNMI Public Law 15-5, which was supposed to establish the CNMI's Apprenticeship Program. However, your Committee finds that the CNMI Department of Labor would be the appropriate agency to overlook such program. Cognizant of their duties and responsibilities to oversee all matters pertaining to Labor, your Committee finds that they are capable to implement the Apprenticeship Program and communicate with all necessary stakeholders to help the program flourish. The Commonwealth must strengthen its workforce for the betterment of current and future generations to come.

Therefore, your Committee agrees with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 23-48 and recommends its passage in its current form.

¹ <https://www.apprenticeship.gov/about-us/apprenticeship-system>

C. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

The Committee received comments from the following:

- Francisco D. Cabrera, Acting Secretary, the Department of Commerce (Written)

The Acting Secretary of Commerce supports the proposed legislation.

In addition, the Committee sought comments from the following agencies:

- The Office of the Attorney General;
- The Department of Labor;
- Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI); and
- Northern Marianas College (NMC).

To date, no comments were received from such agencies.

D. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 23-48 was introduced by Representative Denita K. Yangetmai on May 10, 2023 to the full body of the House and was referred to the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for disposition.

Another similar legislation, namely House Bill 22-118, was introduced on October 18, 2022 and was jointly referred to the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and the House Standing Committee on Education. No further action was taken.

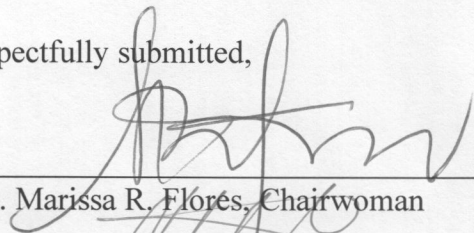
E. Cost Benefit:

The enactment of House Bill No. 23-48 will result in additional costs to the CNMI government for it will need additional resources, staffing and training to implement and/or transfer a new government program. However, the benefits of providing U.S. eligible workers with skilled labor training opportunities for future employment heavily outweigh the costs especially with the ceasing of the Commonwealth-only Contract Worker (CW) program approaching. Furthermore, the newly established Apprenticeship Program will be actively seeking for funding sources to help sustain such operations.

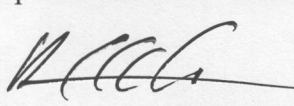
III. CONCLUSION:

The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H. B. NO. 23-48, and recommends its passage in its current form.

Respectfully submitted,

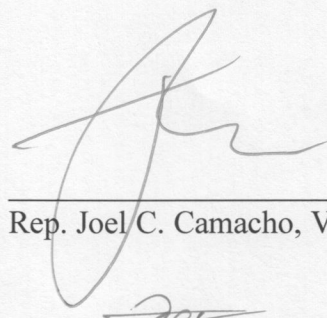

Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Chairwoman


Rep. Vincent R.S. Aldan, Member


Rep. Vicente C. Camacho, Member


Rep. Malcolm J. Omar, Member


Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Member

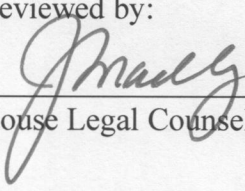

Rep. Joel C. Camacho, Vice Chair


Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Member


Rep. Manny G.T. Castro, Member


Rep. Edwin K. Propst, Member

Reviewed by:


House Legal Counsel

Attachment:

- Letter dated May 30, 2023 from the Acting Secretary of the Department of Commerce.



Department of Commerce
Office of the Secretary

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Arnold I. Palacios, Governor • David M. Apatang, Lt. Governor • Francisco D. Cabrera, Acting Secretary

May 30, 2023

The Honorable Congresswoman Marissa R. Flores
Chairwoman, House Standing Committee on Judiciary &
Governmental Operations
House of Representatives
23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Honorable Jesus M. Mafnas Building
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Re: Solicitation for Comments – House Bill No. 23-48

Dear Chairwoman Flores:

Thank you for giving the Department of Commerce the opportunity to submit comments on House Bill No. 23-48: *"To amend Title 4, Division 9 of the Commonwealth Code to place the apprenticeship program within the Department of Labor and to repeal 3 CMC §1351 through §1358 in their entirety; and for other purposes."*

The Department of Commerce supports the intent of the said bill and submits its comments

COMMENTS:

The Department of Labor is the appropriate department to lead such apprenticeship program for the CNMI; they have the accurate listings of all CNMI employers in their data and accountability to the type and number of employee(s) information that will help transitions towards the employment of U.S. eligible workers especially in the field of skilled labor as the CNMI prepare for the 2029 when the Commonwealth-Only Contract Worker (CW) program will cease by law. An attractive incentive that provides employers also with Tax-credit.

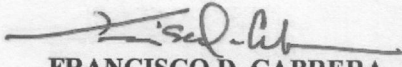
This Bill benefits our community and our economy, make investment in building capacity in our workforce.

Again, we thank you for allowing the Department of Commerce the opportunity to comment. We hope that you find the above recommendations useful for this purpose.

May 30, 2023
The Honorable Congresswoman Marissa R. Flores
Chairwoman, House Standing Committee on Judiciary &
Governmental Operations
House of Representatives
23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Department of Commerce – Comments on H.B. No. 23-48
Page 2.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (670) 664-3077.

Respectfully,



FRANCISCO D. CABRERA
Acting Secretary of Commerce

xc: Comments – File (H.B. No. 23-48)

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Session, 2023

H. B. 23-48

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Title 4, Division 9 of the Commonwealth Code to place the apprenticeship program within the Department of Labor and to repeal 3 CMC §1351 through §1358 in their entirety; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 23RD NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be cited as the “Commonwealth
2 Apprenticeship Program Act of 2023”.

3 **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that pursuant to
4 the Northern Mariana Islands US Workforce Act of 2018, the CNMI was given a
5 period, slated to end 31 December 2029, to transition towards the employment of
6 U.S. eligible workers, especially in the field of skilled labor. Cognizant of such a
7 transition requirement, the Legislature finds it highly pertinent to establish and
8 invest in programs that are intended to develop a local skilled workforce. With the
9 development of a U.S. based workforce, the CNMI will cease to rely exclusively
10 on non-U.S. workers.

11 The Legislature also finds apprenticeship programs are a system for training

1 new generations of practitioners for trades and/or professions with On-the-Job
2 Learning and Related Training Instruction . Within these programs, a practitioner
3 can be licensed to practice in their respective craft in order to gain employment in
4 an Apprentice occupation. Other United States jurisdictions, such as Guam, Hawaii,
5 Alabama, and so forth, have implemented necessary laws and registered
6 apprenticeship programs that aim to develop their respective U.S. based, local
7 workforce. As a Commonwealth of the United States, it is imperative to mirror
8 these programs to provide our people in the CNMI with access to education and
9 training for the necessary skills they need to obtain employment, become
10 financially self-sufficient, to support their respective families, and to contribute to
11 the CNMI economy.

12 The Legislature further finds CNMI Public Law 15-5, codified as 3 CMC
13 §1351 et. seq., authorized the Northern Marianas College to establish the United
14 State Registered Apprenticeship Program. Despite this authorization, the
15 Legislature finds its implementation has been troublesome due to a lack of course
16 offerings that specifically address occupations that currently focus on the hiring of
17 foreign labor. Furthermore, the specified CNMI Public Law does not require the
18 collaboration of the CNMI Department of Labor, a department within the CNMI
19 Government that is tasked to handle private sector labor issues within the CNMI.
20 Mindful of the labor shortages that we are currently facing, it is highly pertinent to
21 allow for the appropriate agency to collaborate with the respective institutions to

1 ensure implementation. With this program, the input of the CNMI Department of
2 Labor will be an invaluable resource for its implementation and success.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend Title 4, Division 9 of the
4 Commonwealth Code by adding a new Chapter 9 to re-establish an apprenticeship
5 program within the CNMI and to repeal 3 CMC §1351 through §1358 in its entirety
6 and for other purposes. In doing so, this legislation will reestablish a CNMI
7 Registered Apprenticeship Program within the Department of Labor that is
8 designed to: increase local US highly skilled workers; establish systems for
9 employers to hire and train apprentices; authorize tax credits for certain long-term
10 apprenticeship training expenses.

11 **Section 3. Repealer.** 3 CMC §1351 through §1358 is hereby repealed in its
12 entirety.

13 **Section 4. Amendment.** Title 4, Division 9 of the Commonwealth Code is
14 hereby amended by adding a new Chapter 9 to read as follows:

15 **“CHAPTER 9. APPRENTICESHIP.**

16 **Article 1. CNMI Registered Apprenticeship Program.**

17 **§9901. Definitions.** As used in this Article:

18 (a) “Apprentice” means a worker at least 16 years of age, except
19 where a higher minimum age standard is otherwise fixed by law, who is
20 employed to learn an apprenticeable occupation as provided in the Code
21 Federal of Regulations (CFR) Title 29, Subtitle A, part § 29.4 under

1 standards of apprenticeship fulfilling the requirements of part § 29.5.

2 (b) "Apprenticeship Program" means a plan containing all terms and
3 conditions for the qualification, recruitment, selection, employment and
4 training of apprentices, as required under this part and CFR part 30,
5 including such matters as the requirement for a written apprenticeship
6 agreement.

7 (c) "USDOL-OA" means the Office of Apprenticeship of the U.S.
8 Department of Labor.

9 (d) "Business" means a professional group, association, corporation,
10 partnership, sole proprietorship, trust, foundation, or any other individual or
11 organization with good standing with the CNMI DOL and carrying on any
12 business whether or not operated for profit.

13 (e) "DOL" means the Department of Labor of the CNMI
14 Government.

15 (f) "Director" means the Director of Revenue and Taxation.

16 (g) "Employer" means a business employing an apprentice whether
17 or not such business has an apprenticeship agreement with the apprentice.

18 (h) "Institution of higher education" means the Northern Marianas
19 College, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, licensed post-secondary
20 institutions, or licensed post-secondary training programs in the CNMI.

21 (i) "Occupational list" means a list of occupations prioritizing the

1 CNMI's needed trades that corresponds with a USDOL-OA apprenticeship
2 training program that lists the occupational trades approved for
3 apprenticeship training within the Program.

4 (j) "Program" means the Commonwealth Registered Apprenticeship
5 Program, an occupationally driven apprenticeship training program meeting
6 the standards of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship,
7 that is recognized and approved as an occupational priority by DOL to
8 which this Article applies.

9 (k) "Program sponsor" means an employer that employs apprentices
10 who receive training through a program provider of a registered
11 apprenticeship program.

12 (l) "Program Provider" means a business or institution of higher
13 education that conducts a registered apprenticeship program recognized by
14 the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), Office of Apprenticeship
15 (OA). A business with a registered apprenticeship program may be both a
16 program participant and a program provider.

17 (m) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the CNMI Department of
18 Labor.

19 (n) "Tax credit" means an offset to business privilege tax owed by a
20 business equal to fifty percent (50%) of all eligible costs paid or incurred
21 by a program participant to train an apprentice.

1 (o) "Trade" means the skilled practice of an occupation.

2 (p) "USDOL" means the United States Department of Labor.

3 (q) "Skilled trainer" means a journeyman or journeyworker.

4 (r) "ETC" means Education Tax Credit

5 (s) "Cancellation" means the termination of the registration or
6 approval status of an apprenticeship program at the request of the sponsor,
7 or termination of an Apprenticeship Agreement at the request of the
8 apprentice.

9 (t) "Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) Institutions" means
10 institutions or entities with job training programs approved by the US
11 Department of Labor (DOL).

12 (u) "Advisory Council" means the Advisory Council Under the
13 CNMI State Workforce Development Board (SWDB).

14 (v) "CNMI Office of Apprenticeship" shall consist of full-time
15 employees of the CNMI Department of Labor and shall manage registered
16 and potential Business Employers and Apprentices.

17 (w) "State Workforce Development Board" means the board is a
18 formal body of volunteers with the majority representing the business
19 community, local elected officials (Senate and House), and other required
20 members of government and workforce/labor organizations. Members of
21 the board are appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

1 Additionally, the CNMI State Workforce Development Board assists the
2 Governor with administrative, fiscal, and policy oversight of the Workforce
3 Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I programs and services.

4 **§9902. CNMI Registered Apprenticeship Program.**

5 The Secretary of Labor shall:

6 (a) administer the Commonwealth Registered Apprenticeship
7 Program and coordinate with the CNMI SWDB Registered Apprenticeship
8 Program Advisory Council.

9 (b) ensure proper educational accreditation standards are met and
10 maintained by program providers, using educational classes provided by an
11 institution of higher education or approved educational learning resources
12 identified in the standards.

13 (c) shall develop standards for apprenticeship agreements in
14 conformity with this Chapter; and

15 (d) hire the staff needed for the CNMI Registered Apprenticeship
16 Program;

17 (e) Certify all participating businesses are in good standing pursuant
18 to NMIC Title 80 Department of Labor Subchapter 80-20.1 Employment
19 Rules and Regulations.

20 (f) Perform other duties as are necessary to carry out the intent and
21 purpose of this Chapter;

1 **§9903. Apprenticeship Program Occupations Approved for the**
2 **Commonwealth Registered Apprenticeship Program.**

3 Annually, the Secretary shall:

4 (a) Establish a list of skilled occupations and trades approved for the
5 program based on JVA data collected from the Division of Employment
6 services.

7 (b) Amend the list of skilled occupations as necessary. Provided,
8 however, that all occupations listed are eligible under the USDOL-OA
9 apprentice occupations.

10 (c) Consider new program participant applications and agreements
11 as they are submitted for review.

12 **§9904. Authorization to Enter into Apprenticeship Agreements.**

13 The SWDB Advisory Council, with the approval of the Secretary,
14 may contract with program providers to prescribe the manner, terms, and
15 conditions of DOL cooperation with the provider in meeting the Program's
16 objectives. The contracts shall be with program providers having a
17 registered and approved apprenticeship training program that complies with
18 applicable laws.

19 **§9905. Eligibility.**

20 An apprentice must:

21 (a) Be a paid employee of RAP Sponsor. To qualify as an apprentice,

1 an individual must have an established and documented employment
2 history with the employer for three months or more.

3 (b) Be a citizen or non-citizen authorized to work in the United
4 States

5 (c) Be at least 16 years of age or older.

6 (d) Agree to the terms and conditions of the Program and § 9909 of
7 this Article.

8 **§9906. Participation Requirements for Apprentices.**

9 An apprentice shall sign an agreement with the respective employer
10 and DOL that stipulates that, in exchange for the training, the apprentice
11 will remain and work in the CNMI for a period of one year for each year of
12 participation in the Program.

13 **§9907. Administration of the Commonwealth Registered**
14 **Apprenticeship Program.**

15 (a) The CNMI State Workforce Development Board shall:

16 (1) Establish a CNMI Registered Apprenticeship Advisory Council
17 to provide leadership and guidance to promote and expand apprenticeship
18 in new high-growth industries; build and maintain partnerships with
19 stakeholders; and coordinate resources that support apprenticeship
20 opportunities.

21 (2) Resolve differences arising out of the apprenticeship agreements

1 where the differences cannot be otherwise adjusted locally;

2 (3) Submit all proposed modifications in legislation, regulations,
3 policies and/or operation procedures planned or anticipated by the Agency,
4 either at the time of application for recognition or subsequently, to the
5 Department for review and obtain the Secretary's concurrence prior to
6 implementation.

7 (4) Perform other duties as are necessary to carry out the intent and
8 purpose of this Chapter;

9 (b) The CNMI Registered Apprenticeship Program duties and
10 responsibilities shall include, but are not limited, to the following:

11 (1) Provide assistance for the development of on-the-job learning
12 programs in national apprenticeable occupations or local apprenticeable
13 occupations;

14 (2) Register such apprenticeship agreements as are in the best
15 interest of apprenticeship, and which conform to the standards established
16 by this Chapter;

17 (3) Keep a record of apprenticeship agreements and upon
18 determination thereof issue either an interim credential or a certificate of
19 completion of apprenticeship;

20 (4) Terminate or cancel any apprenticeship agreements in
21 accordance with the agreements or at the request of the sponsor, or

1 termination of an Apprenticeship Agreement at the request of the
2 apprentice.

3 (5) Keep a record of program participants and program provider
4 processing fees and finances.

5 (6) Establish contracts with government agencies, departments and
6 instrumentalities, public or private organizations, firms, companies,
7 businesses, program providers or individuals to provide technical or skilled
8 training programs. Said contracts shall provide for specialized training in
9 needed skills not otherwise available through the Program. If this
10 specialized training is not part of an accessory CNMI Government or
11 federally funded program, the program participant shall pay the training
12 cost.

13 (c) Program sponsors having apprentices in training shall adopt and
14 register with the Secretary a written Affirmative Action Plan and Selection
15 Procedure according to Title 29 C.F.R. Part 30. Program sponsors may set
16 their own minimum requirements, qualifications, and credentials for
17 apprentices in compliance with all applicable Program requirements of
18 USDOL-OA standards.

19 (d) DOL is authorized to collect a processing fee in order to defray
20 the cost of administering the Program. The fee shall be equal to one percent
21 (1%) of the amount of tax credit approved by the Secretary on each

1 application for certification of tax credit, and shall be due upon release of
2 the certification.

3 (e) Such fees shall be deposited in the CNMI Apprenticeship
4 Program Fund to be used exclusively for the operations of DOL's
5 apprenticeship activities.

6 **§9908. Tax Credit for Apprenticeship Program Participants.**

7 (a) Any business that employs apprentices duly enrolled and
8 registered under the terms of the Program is entitled to a tax credit against
9 its BGRT equal to fifty percent (50%) of the eligible costs paid or incurred
10 by the business, provided that:

11 (1) The apprenticeship training program teaches an approved
12 occupation under § 9903 of this Article;

13 (2) The apprentice completes a training stage of an apprenticeship
14 program as determined by DOL, following USDOL-OA standards. No tax
15 credit shall be claimed by a program participant for an apprentice unless the
16 apprentice completes at least fifty percent of the approved Work Process
17 Schedule;

18 (3) The eligible costs were paid or incurred during the apprentice's
19 participation in the Program;

20 (4) The eligible costs were paid or incurred within the previous three
21 calendar years from the date the costs are submitted to DOL for

1 certification. Costs paid or incurred earlier than the three calendar years
2 preceding the date the costs are submitted to DOL shall not be certified as
3 eligible costs;

4 (5) No business or program participant holding a Qualifying
5 Certificate (QC) shall claim tax credits pursuant to this Section. The
6 Commonwealth Economic Development Authority shall assist the
7 Secretary in determining whether a participant may claim the credit;

8 (6) The apprentice must complete a minimum of 2,000 hours of On-
9 the-Job-Training per year, unless otherwise required by USDOL standards.

10 (7) A "progressive wage scales" shall be approved to meet USDOL
11 OA standards. Paid wages must meet federal minimum wage. There must
12 be at least one wage progression scale.

13 (8) Apprenticeship training costs paid by Workforce Innovation and
14 Opportunity Act (WOIA) funds, Department of Labor CNMI
15 Apprenticeship Program funds, and any training costs paid by the
16 Commonwealth Government or federal funding shall not be eligible
17 Program costs and shall not be applied as a tax credit.

18 (b) A program participant may only apply the tax credit if allowed
19 by the CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation procedures.

20 **§9909. Implementation of Tax Credit by the Director of**
21 **Revenue and Taxation.**

1 The Director of Revenue and Taxation shall, no later than ninety
2 days after the enactment hereof, in cooperation with the Secretary, develop
3 procedures to implement the tax credit authorized by this Article, and to that
4 end shall:

5 (a) enact such requirements for claimants as may be necessary to
6 implement this Article;

7 (b) promulgate forms and publications to assist eligible businesses
8 claiming the tax credit;

9 (c) develop procedures to facilitate the off-set of tax credits against
10 business privilege tax liabilities; and

11 (d) coordinate with the Secretary relative to verifying eligible
12 business privilege tax credits. The Secretary shall certify eligible training
13 costs paid or incurred pursuant to the Program.

14 **§9910. Reporting Requirements.**

15 (a) The Secretary shall include a summary report of this program in
16 the Citizen Centric Report due at the close of each fiscal year. The report
17 shall include:

18 (1) List the number of Registered Apprentices for every
19 corresponding occupation;

20 (2) List the number of Registered Apprentices that completed their
21 training program.

1 (3) List the total amount of tax credits claimed by each program
2 sponsor in the preceding fiscal year;

3 (b) Program sponsors and program providers must report to an
4 approved CNMI DOL and US DOL program system.”

5 **Section 5. Amendment.** 4 CMC §1205(c) of the Commonwealth Code is
6 hereby amended by adding a new subsection (9) to read as follows:

7 **“§1205. Education Tax Credit.**

8 (c) A "qualified educational institution" under this section means:

- 9 (1) The Public School System (“PSS”);
- 10 (2) Northern Marianas College (“NMC”);
- 11 (3) An educational institution located in the Commonwealth which
12 has been issued a Letter of Determination granting tax exempt status under
13 Section 501(c) (3) of the IRC by the Division of Revenue and Taxation prior
14 to the date of the donation for which the tax credit is taken;
- 15 (4) Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture;
- 16 (5) Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities;
- 17 (6) Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
- 18 (7) Northern Marianas Technical Institute.
- 19 (8) The Northern Marianas Sports Association.
- 20 (9) Commonwealth Registered Apprenticeship Program.”

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

6 **Section 7. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
7 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
8 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
9 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
10 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
11 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
12 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

13 **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
14 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 5/4/2023

Date: 5/4/23

Introduced by: Denita Kaipat Yangetmai
Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

5-4-23
House Legal Counsel