

Arnold I. Palacios  
Governor



GOV. COMM: 23-43  
(HOUSE)

David M. Apatang  
Lieutenant Governor

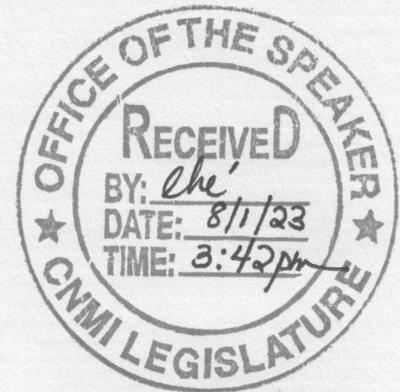
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

August 01, 2023

GOV 2023-812

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

The Honorable Edith E. Deleon Guerrero  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950



8/2/23

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madame President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 23-60, HD1** entitled, "To re-appropriate funds under Section 2(g) of Public Law 20-61 for the Health Network Program (HNP); and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 23-08**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Governor

HOUSE CLERK'S OFF  
RECEIVED BY *Jmr*  
DATE *8/1/2023* TIME *4:08pm*

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General;  
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor;  
Secretary of Finance; CEO, CHCC; Special Assistant for Administration;  
Programs and Legislative Review Office



**TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANA COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**THIRD SPECIAL SESSION**

**JUNE 28, 2023**

**REPRESENTATIVE BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 3** (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R.S. Aldan, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Manny G. T. Castro, Marissa R. Flores, Julie M. A. Ogo, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 23-60, HD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO RE-APPROPRIATE FUNDS UNDER SECTION 2(G) OF  
PUBLIC LAW 20-61 FOR THE HEALTH NETWORK  
PROGRAM (HNP); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Bill not was referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 7, 2023;**

*with amendments* in the form of H. B. No. 23-60, HD1 and transmitted to **THE SENATE.**

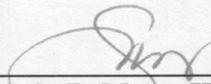
**IN THE SENATE**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 17, 2023;**

*without amendments* and returned to **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**H. B. No. 23-60, HD1, IS DULY PASSED BY THE TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE.**

  
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**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**



TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

FIRST DAY, FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 7, 2023

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**H. B. No. 23-60, HD1**

**AN ACT**

**TO RE-APPROPRIATE FUNDS UNDER SECTION 2(G) OF PUBLIC  
LAW 20-61 FOR THE HEALTH NETWORK PROGRAM  
(HNP); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

**SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

1           The Legislature finds that the Office of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) under the  
2 Executive Branch has identified funds for the architectural and engineering design, and  
3 construction of a solid waste transfer station for the southern part of Saipan. The Legislature  
4 further finds that Section 2(g) of Public Law 20-61 appropriated One Million Eighty-Five  
5 Thousand Dollars (\$1,085,000.00) for the exact same project.  
6

7           Additionally, the Legislature finds that the Health Network Program (HNP) under the  
8 Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC) is in dire need of additional funds to assist  
9 patients from the Commonwealth seeking medical assistance/treatment outside of the  
10 Commonwealth. The Legislature finds that it is imperative that the House, Senate and the  
11 Administration work harmoniously to find funds to assist the HNP and CHCC to continue these

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**HOUSE BILL 23-60, HD1**

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1 services for the people of the Commonwealth in their medical needs outside of the  
2 Commonwealth.

3 Therefore, the intent of this Act is to reappropriate the remaining funds under  
4 Section 2(g) of Public Law 20-61 for the Health Network Program.

5 **SECTION 2. RE-APPROPRIATION.**

6 Notwithstanding any laws, statutes, rules or regulations to the contrary the legislature  
7 hereby reappropriates the remaining funds of Eight Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Nine  
8 Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$881,987.00) under Section 2(g) of Public Law 20-61 for the  
9 Health Network Program for but not limited for travel, housing and transportation expenses.  
10 Provided however that Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) shall be reserved for inter-island  
11 medical referrals. Expenditure authority of the funds under Section 2 of this Act shall be the  
12 Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC).

13 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

18 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

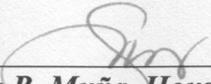
SOUTH WORTH

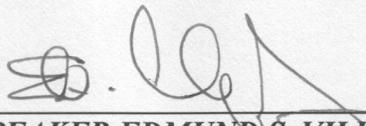
HOUSE BILL 23-60, HD1

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**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by:   
**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**

Certified by:   
**SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ**  
House of Representatives  
23<sup>rd</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2023

  
**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands