

David M. Apatang  
Governor



GOV. COMM: 24-41  
(HOUSE)

Dennis James C. Mendiola  
Lieutenant Governor

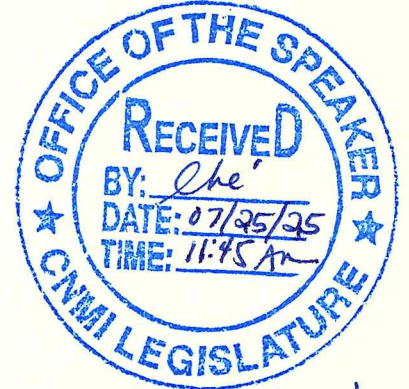
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

July 24, 2025

GOV2025-002

The Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors  
Acting President  
The Senate; Twenty-Fourth Northern  
Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

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




07/25/25


Dear Mr. Acting President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **Senate Bill No. 24-15, SD1**, entitled, "To amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number to incorporation filings; to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search of corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 24-07**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
DAVID M. APATANG  
Governor

RECEIVED BY   
DATE 7/25/2025 TIME 7:30 PM

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;  
Public Auditor; Acting Special Assistant for Administration;  
Secretary, Department of Commerce; Programs and Legislative Review Office



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

**SENATE BILL NO. 24-15, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number to incorporation filings; to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search of corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes.

***SENATE ACTION***

**Offered by Senator(s):** Corina L. Magofna

**Date:** February 10, 2025

**Referred to:** None

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**Final Reading:** February 28, 2025

***HOUSE ACTION***

**Referred to:** Committee on Commerce

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 24-10 adopted 06/20/25

**Final Reading:** June 20, 2025

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Francisco Q. Cruz", written over a horizontal line.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**



**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2025** **S.B. NO. 24-15, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number to incorporation filings;  
to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search of  
corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that corporations formed  
2 under the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are considered persons  
3 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Section 502 (a)(1) of The Covenant to  
4 Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the  
5 United States of America establishes that the federal banking laws of the United States shall  
6 apply to the Northern Mariana Islands.

7           The Legislature also finds that all CNMI-chartered banks are members of the United  
8 States banking system. CNMI-chartered banks have no legal restriction on opening accounts  
9 for corporations formed and based outside the CNMI. Likewise, nationally-chartered US  
10 banks have no legal restriction on opening accounts for corporations formed and based in  
11 CNMI.

12           The Legislature further finds that it would be of extreme benefit for CNMI  
13 corporations to be able to avail themselves of the services of nationally-chartered US banks.  
14 However, the industry standard due diligence performed by nationally-chartered US banks  
15 includes verifying the existence and good standing of potential corporate clients by searching  
16 the website of the Registrar of Corporations, by filing a number of the corporation's Articles  
17 of Incorporation, for the state or territory in which the corporation is formed and/or based and

SENATE BILL NO. 24-15, SD1

1 retrieving evidence of existence and good standing. CNMI's Registrar of Corporations has no  
2 system that would allow banks to perform such an action.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number  
4 to incorporation filings; to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search  
5 of corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes.

6 **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC § 4266 (b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 “(b) The Registrar of Corporations files a document by stamping or otherwise  
8 endorsing “Filed,” together with his name and official title ~~and~~, the date and time of receipt,  
9 and, upon request at time of filing, a stamped or machine-printed filing number unique to the  
10 document on both the original and the document copy. After filing the document, except as  
11 provided in 4 CMC §§ 4333 and 4650, the Registrar of Corporations shall deliver the  
12 document copy to the domestic or foreign corporation or its representative.”

13 **Section 3. Amendment.** 4 CMC § 4269 (b)(1) is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 “(1) The domestic corporation's name or the foreign corporation's name used in the  
15 Commonwealth and the filing number of the entity's Articles of Incorporation, if a filing  
16 number was assigned;”

17 **Section 4. Amendment.** 4 CMC § 4269 is hereby amended to add a new subsection  
18 (d) to read as follows:

19 “(d) Within 90 days of the effective date of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall  
20 cause to be created a publicly-accessible database, viewable via the official website of the  
21 Registrar of Corporations that allows members of the public to search for filed Articles of  
22 Incorporation or Certificates of Authority by filing number and displays all information  
23 constituting a Certificate of Existence pursuant to this section.”

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

28 **Section 6. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
29 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes

**SENATE BILL NO. 24-15, SD1**

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1 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
2 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
3 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
4 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
5 becomes effective.

6 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
7 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

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**DENNIS C. MENDIOLA**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

ATTESTED BY:

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**FRANCISCO Q. CRUZ**  
**SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**

*Approved* this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025

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**DAVID M. APATANG**

**Governor**  
**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**