



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

ANGELO A. CAMACHO
CHAIRMAN
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Adopted - 8/18/2023

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-37

DATE: July 21, 2023

RE: House Bill No. 23-18

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 Natural Resources to which was referred:

H. B. No. 23-18:

“To reduce the CNMI’s growing litter problem and to conserve resources by accepting beverage containers for refund value and providing penalties.”

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that H. B. NO. 23-18 be passed by the House in the form of House Substitute 1.

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of House Bill No. 23-18 is to reduce the CNMI’s growing litter problem and to conserve resources by accepting beverage containers for refund value and providing penalties.

B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that the intent of House Bill No. 23-18, HS1, the “Beverage Container Act of 2023,” is to address and reduce the growing litter problem in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) caused by beverage containers discarded in public places like beaches and highways. The bill aims to shift the responsibility and costs of litter cleanup, recycling, and waste disposal from the government and taxpayers to the producers and consumers of beverage containers. The proposed solution is to establish a refundable deposit system on certain beverage containers, similar to Oregon’s Bottle Bill, which has been successful in reducing litter and promoting recycling. By implementing this Act, the CNMI Legislature seeks to create a self-supported, efficient, and environmentally-friendly Recycling Program to manage beverage container waste, encourage recycling efforts, and conserve resources on the island.

Furthermore, your Committee finds that under the Act, beverage distributors are required to pay a \$0.10 deposit fee per container manufactured or imported to the CNMI. The collected fees will form a “Recycling Fund” maintained separately from the general fund, which will finance the recycling program. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will establish redemption centers where consumers can return empty beverage containers and receive a refund of \$0.05 per container. DPW is granted the authority to administer the Recycling Program, enforce the Act’s provisions, and promulgate necessary rules and regulations. Penalties for non-compliance are outlined, with both civil and criminal consequences for violations. The Act includes provisions for registration and record keeping for beverage distributors, and it contains a severability clause to protect unaffected provisions in case of legal challenges.

In addition to the intent described above, it is worth noting that the “Beverage Container Act of 2023” received valuable input from the CNMI Attorney General, who made technical suggestions to further strengthen the bill. These suggestions aimed to enhance the legal soundness and effectiveness of the legislation, ensuring that it aligns with existing laws and regulations while bolstering its potential impact on addressing the litter problem and promoting recycling efforts. By incorporating the Attorney General’s technical amendments, the bill seeks to refine its provisions and increase its likelihood of successful implementation, providing a comprehensive and robust approach to managing beverage container waste in the CNMI.

C. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

Your Committee did not hold any public hearings on House Bill No. 23-18, however your Committee did solicit for comments from the following agencies:

- Office of Attorney General
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ)
- Saipan Chamber of Commerce
- The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI)
- Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)

Comment(s) were received from:

- Office of Attorney General

D. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 23-18 was introduced by Representative Manny G. T. Castro on March 09, 2023 to the full body of the House and was referred to the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

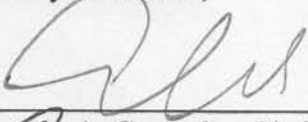
E. Cost Benefit:

The enactment of House Bill No. 23-18, HS1, will result in additional cost to the CNMI Government however the intent of the bill heavily outweighs the cost.


III. CONCLUSION:

The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H. B. NO. 23-18, HS1, and recommends its passage.

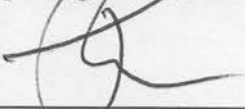
Respectfully submitted,




Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Chairperson




Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Vice Chair



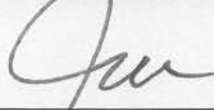
Rep. Joel C. Camacho, Member



Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao, Member




Rep. Vincent S. Aldan, Member




Rep. Julie A. Ogo, Member

Rep. Diego Vincent F. Camacho, Member

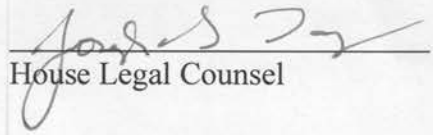


Rep. Manny T. Castro, Member



Rep. Roman C. Benavente, Member

Reviewed by:


House Legal Counsel

Attachments:

- Letter dated May 12, 2023 from Edward Manibusan, Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Attorney General

2nd Floor Hon. Juan A. Sablan Memorial Bldg.
Caller Box 10007, Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

EDWARD MANIBUSAN
Attorney General

LILLIAN A. TENORIO
Deputy Attorney General

VIA EMAIL: rep.camachoa@cnmileg.net

May 12, 2023

OAGHOR: 2023-40
LSR No. 23-207

Hon. Angelo A. Camacho
Chairman, Committee on
Natural Resources
House of Representatives
23rd Northern Mariana Islands Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Re: HB 23-18, HS1 (Beverage Container Act of 2023 – reduce the growing litter problem by accepting beverage containers for refund value and providing penalties)

Dear Chairman Camacho:

Thank you for requesting our comments on House Bill No. 23-18, HS1 entitled: “to reduce the CNMI’s growing litter problem and to conserve resources by accepting beverage containers for refund value and providing penalties.” Having reviewed the proposed legislation, we offer the following comments.

The draft legislation is based on the Oregon Bottle Bill which became law in 1971. The Oregon statute has been expanded to include water, alcoholic beverages, and plastic containers to reduce litter and change the throwaway mentality in the Commonwealth and encourage environmental conservation. HB No. 23-18, HS1 is consistent with Section 9 of Article I of the Commonwealth Constitution which recognizes that “each person has the right to a clean and healthful public environment in all areas, including the land, air and water.”

Recycling Program

Under Section 103(2), a recycling program would be established under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Work. The bill would allow DPW to delegate the administration of the program to another government agency or enter into a contract with private companies while retaining the ultimate responsibility for recycling. I recommend that this provision be revised to comply with the Constitution. The legislature cannot confer its “delegating authority” to DPW to designate another agency to administer the program. Only the legislature can do so. The provision would also impermissibly override and undercut the Governor’s reorganization authority to reallocate recycling to another government agency. As to contracting with private companies,

Civil Division
Telephone: (670) 237-7500
Facsimile: (670) 664-2349

Criminal Division
Telephone: (670) 237-7600
Facsimile: (670) 234-7016

Attorney General Investigation Division
Telephone: (670) 237-7628
Facsimile: (670) 234-7016

Victim Witness Advocacy Unit
Telephone: (670) 237-7602
Facsimile: (670) 234-7016

there may be components of the recycling program that could not be contracted out to private companies, e.g., the collection of fees. The Committee should consider modifying the bill to identify those components of the recycling program could be best implemented by private companies.

Recycling Fund

The reference to the National Treasury on page 6, line 11, should be changed to Commonwealth Treasury.

Section 104(4) should be amended that further legislative action would be required to appropriate the funds if the Public Auditor has not conducted the annual examination of the report on the use of the funds under Section 104(5) to ensure compliance and transparency.

Deposit Fee

Section 105 would require that the deposit fee be paid to DPW. Since the Recycling Fund will be managed by the Department of Finance, the deposit should be paid to DOF, which is consistent with the current practice of paying government fees directly at DOF or DOF-designated payment centers.

Deposit Beverage Refund

In Section 106, the refunds to be made to consumers would be paid from the deposit fees which will take effect concurrently with the deposit fee to be assessed six months after the effective date of the Act. The Committee should examine whether the effective dates of the Deposit Fee and Deposit Beverage Refund should be staged with the Deposit Fee taking effect earlier than the Deposit Beverage Refund to ensure that there is money available in the Recycling Fund to pay the Deposit Beverage refunds.

Redemption Centers

Section 107 should clarify that DPW will designate redemption centers including centers with private companies through a licensing process. Subsection (4) of the section should be revised to make clear that the redemption centers do not have "the right to serve" and is merely granted a license. The sentence should be revised to read "The Department may ~~withdraw~~ revoke the ~~right to serve as a~~ license of a redemption center at any time for noncompliance with the terms and conditions of this Act, or the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to ~~sub~~Section 109 of this Act."

Deposit Beverage Distributors, Registration, and Recordkeeping


Deposit Beverage Distributors (DBDs) will be required to register with DPW concurrent with the assessment of Deposit Fees and the payment of the Deposit Beverage Refunds. To ensure a timely and smooth transition into the establishment of the Recycling Program, fee assessment, and refund payments, the Committee should consider whether an earlier registration of DBDs would be more feasible. DPW should also be required to forward the DBD registrants to DOF.

Conclusion and Recommendation

A viable recycling program is an essential part of the policy to reduce litter and encourage environmental conservation in the Northern Mariana Islands. Although DPW has been delegated as the administering executive branch department, our comments reflect the importance of coordinating the implementation of the recycling program in consultation with other departments and agencies through a methodical and concerted plan of action.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


EDWARD MANIBUSAN
Attorney General

cc: All members, House of Representatives

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2023

First Regular Session, 2023

H. B. 23-18, HS1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To reduce the CNMI's growing litter problem and to conserve resources by accepting beverage containers for refund value and providing penalties.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature acknowledges the need
2 to address a growing litter problem along our beaches, highways and other public
3 places. The Legislature finds that beverage containers are the most common items
4 littering these areas, thus finding it necessary to shift the costs of litter cleanup,
5 recycling, and waste disposal from government and taxpayers to producers and
6 consumers of beverage containers.

7 The Legislature further finds that a similar legislation was introduced in
8 Oregon called the Oregon's Bottle Bill. Oregon's Bottle Bill of 1971, officially
9 known as the Oregon Beverage Container Act, was the first legislation of its kind
10 in the United States. It required a refundable deposit on certain beverage containers,
11 including beer, malt beverages, mineral water, soda water, and carbonated soft
12 drinks. The law aimed to reduce litter and promote recycling by encouraging

1 consumers to return their empty beverage containers to designated redemption
2 centers for refunds. The deposit was set at 5 cents per container, and the redemption
3 rate was initially set at 90%. Furthermore, over its 40-year history, the Bottle Bill
4 has undergone several significant updates and changes. What was once the
5 Oregon's Bottle Bill is now known as the Oregon Bottle Bill Expansion, which was
6 signed into law by Oregon Governor Kate Brown on June 3, 2021. The expansion
7 aims to increase the redemption value of beverage containers and to expand the
8 types of containers covered by the deposit system.

9 Under the new law, the deposit value for beverage containers, including
10 glass, plastics, and aluminum, would increase from 5 cents to 10 cents starting April
11 01, 2022. Additionally, the expansion would require beverage distributors to pay a
12 handling fee of 3.25 cents per container to redemption centers to help offset the cost
13 of operating the redemption system. The handling fee would increase over time to
14 account for inflation.

15 Furthermore, the expansion included additional containers that were not
16 previously covered by the Bottle Bill, such as sports drinks, tea, coffee, and hard
17 cider. This expansion brings the total number of covered containers to over 90% of
18 all beverage containers sold in Oregon. Overall, the Oregon Bottle Bill Expansion
19 is a significant update to the original 1971 legislation, aimed at modernizing the
20 deposit system and further incentivizing recycling efforts. By adapting the
21 legislation to suit CNMI's unique circumstances, it could potentially provide a cost-

1 effective and environmentally-friendly solution to managing beverage container
2 waste on the island.

3 **Section 2. Short-Title.** Beverage Container Act of 2023.

4 **Section 3. Enactment.** Subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision
5 Commission, the following provision is hereby enacted:

6 **“§101. Definitions. As used in this Act:**

7 (1) “Deposit Beverage” means beer, ale, or other drink produced by
8 fermenting malt, mixed spirits, mixed wine, tea and coffee drinks regardless
9 of dairy-derived product content, soda, or non-carbonated water, and all
10 nonalcoholic drinks in liquid form and water intended for internal human
11 consumption that is contained in a deposit beverage container.

12 The term “deposit beverage does not include the following:

13 (a) A liquid, which is:

14 (I) A syrup

15 (II) In a concentrated form; or

16 (III) Typically added as a minor flavoring ingredient in food
17 or drink, such as extracts, cooking additives, sauces, or
18 condiments.

19 (b) A liquid which is ingested for medicinal purposes only;

20 (c) A liquid that is designed and consumed only as a nutritional
21 supplement and not as a beverage;

1 (d) Products frozen at the time of sale to the consumer, or in the case
2 of institutional uses such as hospitals, at the time of sale to the users;

3 (e) Products designed to be consumed in a frozen state;

4 (f) Instant drink powders;

5 (g) Seafood, meat, or vegetable broths, or soups, but not juices; and

6 (h) Milk and all other dairy-derived products, except tea and coffee
7 drinks with trace amounts of these products.

8 (2) "Deposit Beverage container" means the individual, separate,
9 sealed glass, polyethylene terephthalate, high density polyethylene, or metal
10 container less than or equal to thirty-two fluid ounces, used for containing,
11 at the time of sale to the consumer, a deposit beverage intended for use or
12 consumption in the CNMI.

13 (3) "Deposit Beverage Distributor" means a person who is a
14 manufacturer of beverage in deposit beverage containers in the CNMI, or
15 who imports and engages in the sale of filled deposit beverage containers to
16 a dealer or consumer. The term does not include airlines and shipping
17 companies that merely transport deposit beverage containers, unless said
18 containers are deposited in the CNMI.

19 (4) "Import" means to buy, bring, or accept delivery of deposit
20 beverage containers from an address, supplier, or any entity outside the
21 CNMI.

1 (5) "Importer" means any person who buys, brings, or accepts
2 deliver of deposit containers from outside of the CNMI for sale or use within
3 the CNMI.

4 (6) "Department" means the Department of Public Works.

5 (7) "Redeemer" means a person, other than a dealer or distributor,
6 who demands the refund value in exchange for the empty deposit beverage
7 container.

8 **§102. Recycling program.** There is hereby established a Recycling
9 Program in the CNMI. The purpose and aim of the Recycling Program is to
10 create a self-supported, safe and efficient system of disposal of beverage
11 container throughout the CNMI.

12 **§103. Declaration of Authority.**

13 (1) The Department shall have the duty and authority to administer
14 the Recycling Program. Such authority includes, but is not limited to, the
15 administration of the Recycling Fund, the hiring of employees and
16 contractors and consultants, the purchasing and selling of property and
17 services, the leasing or obtaining interest in land on behalf of the CNMI
18 Government, the receipt of donations and contributions, and the entering
19 into agreements to further the purpose of the Recycling Program.

20 (2) As the responsible agency for the CNMI Government, the
21 Department may, from time to time, delegate or contract out the

1 administration of the Recycling Program to other governmental agencies of
2 the CNMI or private companies; PROVIDED that the ultimate
3 responsibility and authority for the Recycling Program shall rest with the
4 Department.

5 **§104. Recycling Fund.**

6 (1) There is hereby established a revolving fund within the
7 Commonwealth Treasury that shall be known as the "Recycling Fund," to
8 be maintained by the Department of Finance, separate and apart from the
9 general fund. Independent records and accounts shall be maintained in
10 connection therewith.

11 (2) All revenues received from deposit fees received pursuant to this
12 Act, or the sale of beverage containers under the provisions of this Act,
13 appropriations by the CNMI Legislature, any grants, donations and
14 contributions to the Recycling Program, and any interest or income earned
15 on the money in the Recycling Fund shall be deposited into the Recycling
16 Fund.

17 (3) Except when specific requirements are imposed by law or by the
18 grantor or donor, the Recycling Fund shall be first applied to the expenses
19 attributable to the administration of the Recycling Program, then to the
20 payments required under subsection 105 of this Act, then to a reserve to

1 cover anticipated and unanticipated future expenses of the program. The
2 Department may also use the money to:

3 (a) Fund administrative, audit, and compliance activities associated
4 with collection and payment of the deposits and handling fees of the deposit
5 beverage container fee and deposit program;

6 (b) Conduct recycling education and demonstration projects; and
7 (c) Promote recyclable market development activities.

8 (4) Money in the fund is hereby authorized and is hereby
9 appropriated and may be obligated or expended without further legislative
10 action for the purpose stated in this Act. Further legislative action shall be
11 required to appropriate the funds if the Public Auditor has not conducted
12 the annual examination of the report on the use of the funds under Section
13 104 (5) to ensure compliance and transparency.

14 (5) The Department shall, not later than 90 days after the close of
15 each fiscal year, submit to the Office of the Governor and the Legislature a
16 complete report showing its activities under the Recycling Program and the
17 use and condition of the Recycling Fund, and such other matters that the
18 Department deems appropriate. The activities concerning the Recycling
19 Fund shall be examined by the Public Auditor at least annually, and the
20 report of such examination shall be supplied to the Office of the Governor
21 and the Legislature.

1 **§105. Deposit fee.** A beverage distributor shall pay to the
2 Department a deposit beverage container fee on each deposit beverage
3 container manufactured in or imported to the CNMI. The fee shall be
4 imposed only once on the same beverage container. The fee shall be \$0.10
5 per beverage container. The Department shall evaluate the amount of
6 deposit beverage containers recovered during the first six months of the
7 fully implemented deposit beverage container deposit program and
8 recommend to the Legislature any modification in the fee structure
9 necessary to meet the deposit beverage container deposit program funding
10 requirements. This section shall become effective six months after the
11 effective date of this Act.

12 **§106. Deposit beverage refund.** Using the monies in the Recycling
13 Fund, the Department shall purchase beverage containers for \$0.05 per
14 container. Beverage containers may only be purchased through redemption
15 centers established pursuant to subsection 107 of this Act. The Department
16 shall sell beverage containers for recycling at market prices. This section
17 shall become effective six months after the effective date of this Act.

18 **§107. Redemption centers.**

19 (1) To facilitate the return of empty beverage containers, the
20 Department shall establish one or more redemption centers at which empty

1 beverage containers may be returned and payment received. Any person
2 may operate a redemption center subject to the approval of the Department.

3 (2) The application for approval of a redemption center shall be filed
4 with the Department and contain such information as the Department may
5 require.

6 (3) The approval of a redemption center may contain such terms and
7 conditions as the Department deems appropriate. Such terms and conditions
8 may differ among redemption centers and may be altered or amended from
9 time to time as the situation warrants. Using the money in the Recycling
10 Fund, the Department may provide compensation not to exceed \$0.025 per
11 container to the redemption centers for their services.

12 (4) The Department may revoke the license of a redemption center
13 at any time for noncompliance with the terms and conditions of this Act, or
14 the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to section 109 of this Act.

15 **§ 108. Deposit beverage distributors, registration, and record**
16 **keeping requirements.** Six months after the effective date of this Act, all
17 deposit beverage distributors operating within the CNMI shall register with
18 the Department, using forms prescribed by the Department, and shall notify
19 the Department of any changes in address or other information previously
20 submitted.

1 (1) After this Act is enacted, any person who desires to conduct
2 business in the CNMI as a new deposit beverage distributor shall register
3 with the Department no later than one month prior to the commencement of
4 the business.

5 (2) All deposit beverage distributors shall maintain records
6 reflecting the manufacture of their beverage in deposit beverage containers
7 as well as the importation of deposit beverage containers. The records shall
8 made available, upon request, for inspection by the Department; provided
9 that any proprietary information obtained by the Department shall be kept
10 confidential and shall not be disclosed to any other person, except:

11 (A) As may be reasonably required in an administrative or
12 judicial proceeding to enforce any provisions herein, or

13 (B) Under an order issued by a court.

14 **§ 109. Rules and regulations.**

15 (1) The Department may promulgate, amend and enforce
16 appropriate rules and regulations to carry out the duties and powers set forth
17 herein, which may include, but are not limited to, provisions governing:

18 (A) The collection, purchase, sale or other disposal of beverage
19 containers;

20 (B) The type and condition of the beverage containers that may be
21 redeemed;

1 (C) The methods and requirements for the redemption of the
2 beverage containers;

3 (D) All matters concerning the operation of redemption centers;

4 (E) The prohibition of importing empty beverage containers for the
5 purpose of redeeming them in the CNMI; and

6 (F) Other matters necessary for the administration of this Act.

7 The power of the Department to establish such rules and regulations
8 is subject to the powers of the Department of Finance to establish rules and
9 regulations regarding the collection of the deposit fee and the establishment
10 and operation of the Recycling Fund as set forth in subsection 14 of this
11 Act.

12 (2) The Department of Finance shall promulgate, amend and enforce
13 appropriate rules and regulations regarding the collection of the deposit fee
14 and the establishment and operation of the Recycling Fund.

15 All rules and regulations established under this Act shall be adopted
16 pursuant to the CNMI Administrative Procedures Act.

17 **§ 110. Appropriation.** The sum of \$100,000 is hereby authorized
18 to be appropriated for expenditure and obligation for Fiscal Year 2024 for
19 the purpose of providing start-up funds for the CNMI Recycling Program,
20 for the collection of deposit containers already on island and for the exercise
21 of the powers and duties set forth herein. Such sums shall be deposited into

1 the Recycling Fund and shall be administered in accordance with this Act.
2 Any unexpended or unobligated balance of this appropriation shall not lapse
3 at the end of the fiscal year.

4 **§ 111. Payment.** The deposit fee levied under subsection 105 of this
5 Act shall attach as follows:

6 (1) If intended for resale, at the time of the first retail sale in the
7 CNMI; and

8 (2) If intended for personal use, at the point of import.

9 All deposits that have attached during a calendar month shall be paid to the
10 Department of Finance on or before the fifteenth day of the succeeding
11 month and shall be administered by the Secretary of Finance. Deposit fee
12 revenues not paid within the time specified shall be considered delinquent.

13 **§ 112. Procedure.** The first seller of beverages subject to the deposit
14 fee under this Act shall keep accurate records of all sales of the beverages
15 subject to this Act, and shall provide the Department of Finance with
16 supporting documents to substantiate the accuracy of all reports filed.

17 **§ 113. Presumption.** It shall presume that all beverage containers
18 are subject to the deposit fee imposed by this Act until the contrary is
19 proved, and the burden of proving that a beverage container is not subject
20 to the deposit fee shall be upon the seller.

1 **§ 114. Prepayment.** The first seller of beverage containers shall
2 have the option of prepaying all deposit fees due under this Act in
3 accordance with the regulations issued by the Department of Finance.

4 **§ 115. Lien on property.** All deposit fees imposed under this Act
5 shall be a lien upon any property of the person obligated to pay the deposit
6 fees and may be collected by levy upon such property in the same manner
7 as the levy of an execution.

8 **§ 116. Civil penalty.** All deposit fees under this Act shall be subject
9 to a penalty of five percent (5%) of the unpaid fees due per month or portion
10 thereof that such fees remain unpaid.

11 **§ 117. Criminal penalty.** Any person who knowingly, willfully and
12 unlawfully violates or refuses to comply with any provisions of this Act, or
13 with any regulation duly issued by the Department of Finance or the
14 Department for the enforcement of this Act shall, upon conviction thereof,
15 be fined not more than \$500. The criminal penalties are in addition to the
16 civil penalties that may be due under this Act.”

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

1 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
2 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
3 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
4 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
5 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
6 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
7 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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

Prefiled: 2/22/2023

Date: 2/22/2023

Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Manny G.T. Castro
/s/ Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
/s/ Rep. Roman C. Benavente
/s/ Rep. Angelo A. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Diego V. F. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Joel C. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Marissa R. Flores
/s/ Rep. Julie M.A. Ogo
/s/ Rep. John Paul P. Sablan
/s/ Rep. Ralph N. Yumul

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:
/s/ Joseph L.G. Tajeron, Jr.
House Legal Counsel