

Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Session, 2021

H. B. 22-67

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 4 CMC § 8112 to prioritize net metering to include public libraries; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 22nd NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Public Law
2 18-75 found that the only way to reduce utility costs was to utilize renewable energy
3 sources to offset the electricity or other utility required for the operations of the
4 Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation and the Public School System.
5 Accordingly, the purpose of PL18-75 was to provide a definition for net metering
6 and to prioritize the interconnection with net metering for health and education
7 renewable energy capacity at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. In
8 addition, any reasonable direct expense to CUC for reviewing and interconnecting
9 the PV or wind power renewable energy capacity shall be the responsibility of
10 CHCC and PSS and that there would be no cost to CUC to prioritize the
11 interconnection of the renewable energy. Over time, CHCC and PSS will save
12 millions of dollars in utility costs and utilize the money saved for other essential
13 needs of the public health and education entities.

1 Accordingly, the intent of this Act is to include public libraries as an
2 education entity for net metering and to prioritize the interconnection with net
3 metering for renewable energy capacity at the CUC. In addition, including public
4 libraries in the definition of education entities, will allow the entity to qualify and
5 apply for federal grants that support the Administration's priorities for clean energy
6 to power the future in the U.S. territories as part of the larger efforts towards energy
7 security in America.

8 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 4, Division 8, Chapter 12, Article 1 § 8112
9 (e) and (g) are hereby amended to read as follows:

10 “(e) “Health and education renewable energy capacity” means a renewable
11 capacity that is located on the premises of a public health entity or education entity,
12 including public libraries; operated in parallel with the utility's transmission and
13 distribution facilities; in conformance with the utility's interconnection
14 requirements; and intended primarily to offset part or all of the electrical
15 requirements of the health and education government agencies;”

16 “(g) “Net metering” means measuring the difference between the electricity
17 supplied through the electrical grid and the electricity generated by an eligible
18 entity and fed back to the electric grid over a monthly billing period; provided that
19 net energy metering shall be accomplished using one or more meters capable of
20 registering the flow of electricity in two directions and any additional metering shall

1 be used only to provide the information necessary to accurately bill or credit the
2 public health entity or education entity;”

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

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

15 **Section 5. Effective date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
16 the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

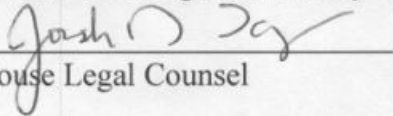
Prefiled: 5/20/2021

Date: 5/20/2024

Introduced By:


Rep. Angel A. Demapan

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel