

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 13, 2024

3<sup>RD</sup> REGULAR Session, 2024

H. B. 23- 101

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish a revolving fund account for DLNR submerged  
land fees.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 23<sup>RD</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of the Northern Mariana Islands authorizes the Legislature to determine how the  
3 submerged lands off the coast of the CNMI shall be managed and disposed. CNMI  
4 Const. art. XI, § 2. The Legislature has authorized the Department of Land and  
5 Natural Resources to oversee the management and disposition of such submerged  
6 lands. See 2 CMC Division 1, Chapter 2 (Submerged Lands Act).

7           All funds generated from public land leases are required by the CNMI law  
8 to be deposited with the Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT). However, the  
9 Legislature may direct other funds, including monies collected from fees and  
10 permits, to be directed to the General Fund or to a revolving fund. As DLNR is  
11 responsible for maintaining and developing submerged lands, the Legislature  
12 determines that fee and permit monies should be deposited into a revolving account

1 for the benefit of DLNR operations and personnel. However, money from leases  
2 shall continue to go to MPLT.

3 **Section 2. Amendment.** 2 CMC §1221 of the Commonwealth Code is  
4 hereby amended to add subsection (h) as follows:

5 “(h) There is hereby created the Department of Land and Natural  
6 Resources (DLNR) Submerged Lands Revolving Fund, which shall  
7 be accounted for separately from the General Fund.

8 (1) All monies received as payment for licenses and permits under  
9 this section shall be deposited into the revolving fund. No monies  
10 received as payment for leases shall be deposited into the revolving  
11 fund.

12 (2) Monies in the revolving fund shall only be used to fund  
13 operations and personnel in DLNR.

14 (3) Expenditure authority over the revolving fund is vested in the  
15 Secretary of DLNR. The Secretary of DLNR shall report on the  
16 collection and expenditure of all monies collected pursuant to this  
17 article on a quarterly basis to the Presiding Officers of the  
18 Legislature.”

19 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
20 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
21 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its

1 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
2 shall not be affected thereby.

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

10           **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
11 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

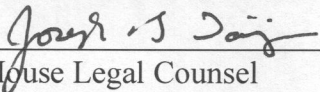
*Intro*  
Prefiled: 3/19/2024

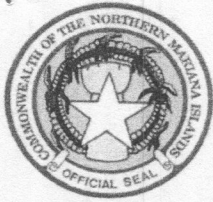
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Rep. Angelo A. Camacho

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel

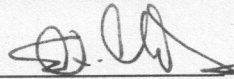


**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**  
 HONORABLE JESUS P. MAFNAS MEMORIAL BUILDING  
 P. O. BOX 500586  
 SAIPAN, MP 96950

**EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ**  
**SPEAKER**

HOUSE  
 FILE  
 Rep. Angelo  
 3/14/24 APO

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE** : March 13, 2024  
**TO** : CHAIRMAN ANGELO A. CAMACHO, NR COMMITTEE  
**FROM** : SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ   
**SUBJECT** : Referral of Legislation

In accordance with Rule IX, Section 8, I hereby refer the following measure for the Natural Resources Committee's review:

**H. B. No. 23-101:** To establish a revolving fund account for DLNR submerged land fees. Introduced by Rep. Angelo A. Camacho of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Edwin K. Propst, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on March 13, 2024.

The Committee has 60 days to submit a written report on the legislation; therefore, I urge the Committee to review promptly the aforementioned legislation.

cc: Senate President  
 House Members  
 LB Director  
 House Clerk



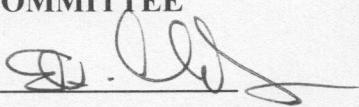
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**SPEAKER**

HOUSE  
 FILE  
 \*Rep. Yumul  
 3/14/24 ARD

**MEMORANDUM**

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**DATE** : March 13, 2024  
**TO** : CHAIRMAN RALPH N. YUMUL, WM COMMITTEE  
**FROM** : SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ   
**SUBJECT** : Referral of Legislation

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In accordance with Rule IX, Section 8, I hereby refer the following measure for the Ways and Means Committee's review:

**H. B. No. 23-101:** To establish a revolving fund account for DLNR submerged land fees. Introduced by Rep. Angelo A. Camacho of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Edwin K. Propst, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on March 13, 2024.

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