

**TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**

**LEGISLATURE**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Regular Session, 2024**

**H. B. 23-104**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To appropriate \$5,236,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) for the Twenty Five Percent (25%) retirees' pension for all retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Central  
2 Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is in dire need  
3 of revenue to pay for its obligations to its employees and inherited areas to  
4 contracts that the government had entered into. The Legislature further finds that  
5 the Administration along with the Legislature had implemented a ten-hour work  
6 reduction for government employees. Additionally, the Legislature finds that the  
7 Administration has been using its reprogramming authority to pay for the  
8 constitutional obligation to the Public School System (PSS).  
9           Furthermore, the Legislature finds that the Administration, through its  
10 reprogramming authority, has been funding twenty-five percent of the retirees'  
11 pension. The Legislature finds that those funds are becoming scarce, placing the

1 Administration in a situation where it must decide whether to cut further expenses  
2 in order to meet its obligations. The Legislature is well aware that funding retirees'  
3 pension for all retirees of the CNMI cannot be compromised and cutting additional  
4 hours from the hard-working employees of the Commonwealth Government will  
5 be detrimental to their livelihood.

6 Therefore, the intent of this Act is to appropriate dividends collected by the  
7 Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the  
8 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to pay 25% of the retirees' pension.  
9 This includes all retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

10 **Section 2. Appropriation.** Notwithstanding any provision(s) of law,  
11 statutes, rules or regulations to the contrary and pursuant to the authority vested to  
12 the House of Representatives (more specifically to the Saipan and Northern Islands  
13 Legislative Delegation (SNILD) to appropriate dividends collected by CEDA from  
14 CUC), the Legislature through the House of Representatives hereby appropriates  
15 \$5,236,000.00 of the dividends collected by CEDA from CUC to pay 25% of the  
16 retirees' pension, inclusive of all retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern  
17 Mariana Islands.

18 **Section 3. Reprogramming.** Funds appropriated under this act shall not  
19 be reprogrammed for any other purpose and notwithstanding any provision of law,  
20 all funds appropriated under this Act shall be without fiscal year limitation.

1           **Section 4. Expenditure Authority.** The expenditure authority of the funds  
2 allocated under Section 2 of this Act shall be the Secretary of the Department of  
3 Finance.

4           **Section 5. Repayment.** Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary  
5 of Finance shall remit payments to Commonwealth Economic Development  
6 Authority (CEDA) that shall be appropriated by the Saipan and Northern Islands  
7 Legislative Delegation (SNILD).

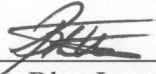
8           **Section 6. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
9 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
10 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
11 provisions to persons or circumstances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

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

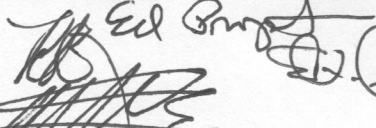

20           **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
21 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.



Prefiled: 3/22/2024

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Introduced by:   
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:  
Joseph S. Jajew  
House Legal Counsel

  
  
ALDAN V.S.  
