

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ Regular Session, 2023

H. B. 23-11

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Title 1, Division 8 of the Commonwealth Code by establishing a Veterans' Preference employment provision for the CNMI Government; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be cited as the "CNMI Government
2 Veterans' Preference Act of 2023".

3 **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the
4 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is home to veterans who have
5 honorably served our country. These remarkably unselfish individuals honorably
6 answered the nation's call with selfless dedication, and have gone to great lengths
7 to defend the rights and freedoms that we enjoy today. These heroic men and
8 women, along with their families, have endured the hardships that come with
9 military service, such as serving in times of war. As a token of our immeasurable
10 gratitude, it is highly appropriate for the CNMI Government to provide
11 employment preference, and opportunities, to these very deserving veterans and
12 their widows or widowers. It is particularly incumbent on the government to assist

1 veterans with service-connected permanent or total disabilities, and to exercise such
2 permissive preference when appropriate. No words or actions can ever equate to
3 the appreciation and gratitude they rightly deserve.

4 The Legislature also finds U.S. Federal Law provides for veterans'
5 employment preference under 5 U.S.C. §§ 2108 and 2108a. The Legislature further
6 finds that certain states and territories, such as Guam, Florida, California, and
7 others, have exercised their own forms of veterans' preference. Cognizant of such
8 efforts by the different states and territories, it is imperative that the CNMI
9 implement its own form of veterans' preference. Our honorable veterans, along
10 with their respective eligible family members, deserve such appreciation.
11 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend Title 1, Division 8 of the
12 Commonwealth Code by establishing a veterans' preference employment provision
13 for the CNMI Government.

14 **Section 3. Enactment.** Subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision
15 Commission, new sections are hereby added to Title 1, Division 8 of the
16 Commonwealth Code to read as follows:

17 **“§ 101. Definition.**

18 For the purpose of this chapter, “Preference Eligible” is defined
19 identically as at 5 U.S.C. §§ 2108(3)–(4) and 2108a(c) as they may be
20 amended.

1 **§ 102. Additional points for preference eligibles.**

2 A preference eligible who applies via Preferential Credit of
3 Qualification Evaluation for entrance into the civil service pursuant to the
4 Commonwealth Civil Service Act, 1 CMC §§ 8101 et seq., is entitled to
5 additional points above his or her rating, as follows—

6 (1) a preference eligible as defined at 5 U.S.C. § 2108(3)(C)–(G)—
7 2 points; and

8 (2) a preference eligible as defined at 5 U.S.C. § 2108(3)(A)–(B)—
9 1 point.

10 Provided, that the Office of Personnel Management may revise the
11 administration of this section by regulation.

12 **§ 103. Promulgation of regulations.**

13 The Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations
14 to implement veterans’ preference in examination for the civil service for
15 preference-eligible veterans and family members as defined in this chapter.”

16 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
17 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
18 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
19 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
20 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.

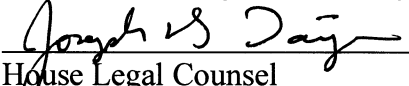
Prefiled: 1/31/2023

Date: 1/31/2023

Introduced by: _____


Rep. Vicente C. Camacho

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel