

**TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ Session, 2024

H. B. 23- 114

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To repeal the Justice Center Fund Revolving
Account.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** Keeping the original purpose of the
2 Justice Center Fund in mind is significant in these trying economic times. In
3 particular, the Legislature notes that over thirty years have passed since the passage
4 of Public Law 7-25. Now, in 2024 the Justice Center is fully constructed and
5 financial resources are very limited. Government funds, more than ever, must be
6 used wisely and pursuant to the intent of their respective enabling legislation.
7 Moreover, the Legislature finds that 1 CMC §3405 provides that all criminal and
8 civil fines and all revenues collected by the courts of the Commonwealth in
9 accordance with 1 CMC § 3403, together with all fines or fees collected pursuant
10 to any other law, including 7 CMC § 3206 and 7 CMC § 3251, shall be deposited
11 and credited to the Justice Center Fund Revolving Account. Accordingly, the
12 Legislature finds that purpose and sole use of the specified revolving account is to

1 pay the principal, interest, expenses and establish reserves associated with the
2 USDA Rural Development Loan. Now is the appropriate time for the Legislature,
3 based on the aforementioned loan having been paid in full, to repeal the Judicial
4 Center Fund Revolving Account.

5 Justice demands that the true spirit of the original law that created the
6 judicial building fund to be followed. In repealing Title 1 section 3405, the
7 Legislature intends for the funds collected to be deposited into the General Fund.
8 Much needed revenue shall then be deposited into this General Fund where it can
9 be appropriated by the Legislature for the benefit of the entire Commonwealth.

10 **Section 2. Repealer.** Title 1, Government, Division 3, Judicial Branch,
11 Chapter 4, Judiciary Administration, section 3405 “Justice Center Fund,” is hereby
12 repealed in its entirety.

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

18 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
19 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
20 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
21 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding

1 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
2 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
3 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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

Prefiled: 7/29/2024

Date: _____

Introduced by: _____

Rep. Marissa R. Flores

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

Joseph S. Jay
House Legal Counsel

[Handwritten signatures and notes]
Rep. Marissa R. Flores
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