

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Session, 2024

H. B. 23- 116

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To earmark Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) of Electronic Gaming (E-Gaming) license fees towards the Department of Finance for enforcement purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that pursuant to 4
2 CMC §1503(a)(6), the license fee for poker amusement machines, electronic
3 gaming machines, or electronic table games lawfully defined and situated shall be
4 two-thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per machine or fifteen percent
5 (15%) of net gaming proceeds, whichever is greater. Furthermore, the Legislature
6 also finds that it is the duty and responsibility of the Department of Finance to
7 enforce the provisions related to electronic gaming. Cognizant of such duty and
8 responsibility, the Legislature finds that it would be in the best interest of the
9 electronic gaming (e-gaming) industry to earmark two hundred thousand dollars
10 (\$200,000.00) to the Department of Finance to enhance their enforcement efforts.
11 With the additional funds, the Department of Finance can effectively and efficiently

1 enforce appropriate laws for the betterment of the e-gaming industry and the entire
2 Commonwealth as a whole.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to earmark Two Hundred Thousand
4 Dollars (\$200,000.00) of Electronic Gaming (E-Gaming) license fees towards the
5 Department of Finance for enforcement purposes.

6 **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC §1503(a)(6) is hereby amended to read as
7 follows:

8 “(6) Notwithstanding 4 CMC § 1503(a)(2) and (5) or any other law impos-
9 ing a license fee, the license fee for poker amusement machines, electronic
10 gaming machines, or electronic table games as defined in 6 CMC §
11 3154(a)(3) and (4) and situated at a hotel pursuant to 6 CMC § 3156(b),
12 shall be two thousand five hundred dollars per machine or 15% of net
13 gaming proceeds, whichever is greater. The license fee shall be issued on a
14 calendar year basis, payable in advance in one installment. If the 15% net
15 gaming proceeds im- posed under this section is greater than the license fee
16 per machine and per server, the fee shall be paid on the 15th day following
17 the close of each month. The term “net gaming proceeds” as used in this
18 section, means the total amount of all credits or cash played, less the total
19 amount of credits or cash won by the patron. Notwithstanding any law to
20 the contrary, two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) of the fees
21 collected pursuant to this section is hereby earmarked and continuously

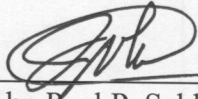
1 appropriated each fiscal year without further legislative appropriation to the
2 Department of Finance for enforcement purposes and shall not be
3 reprogrammed for any other purpose. The expenditure authority shall be the
4 Secretary of the Department of Finance.”

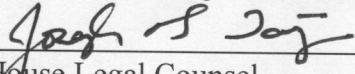
5 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
6 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
7 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
8 provisions to persons or circumstances other than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

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

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

Prefiled: 8/7/2024

Date: _____ Introduced by: 
Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

House Legal Counsel