

**TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Regular Session, 2023

H. B. **23-3**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To impose a toll fee to be paid by passengers who enter the Marpi area; and for other purposes.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that there is a  
2 pressing need for funds to provide for the construction and maintenance of the  
3 tourist sites within the Third Senatorial District. The imposition of a toll fee to be  
4 paid by nonresidents entering the Marpi area is a reasonable and worthwhile means  
5 to generate these funds.

6           **Section 2. Enactment.** Subject to proper codification by the  
7 Commonwealth Law Revision the following new provision is hereby enacted:

8                   **“101. SHORT TITLE.** This Act shall be known as the “Marpi Area  
9 Toll Fee Act of 2019.

10                   **102. MARPI TOLL FEE.**

1           (a) The authority to impose and collect a fee for the use of public  
2 roads is transferred from the Department Public Works to the Department  
3 of Lands and Natural Resources.

4           (b) A toll fee of five US dollars (\$5.00) is imposed on each  
5 nonresident person who enters the Marpi area.

6                   (1) The Division of Parks and Recreation under the  
7 Department of Lands and Natural Resources shall erect toll gates  
8 or barriers as are necessary to collect the toll fee under this Act. The  
9 toll fee shall be collected from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm daily from  
10 Monday to Sunday.

11                   (2) The Department of Public Lands in collaboration with  
12 the Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources  
13 shall designate specific public land areas where toll gates are to be  
14 erected.

15                   (3) All toll fees collected pursuant to this Act shall be  
16 transmitted to the Secretary of Finance for deposit in a special  
17 account separate from the General Fund which shall be designated  
18 as the "Marpi Area Toll Fee Account."

19           (c) The funds in the Marpi Area Toll Fee Account are non-lapsing  
20 and shall be available for expenditure without fiscal year limitation for the  
21 construction, maintenance, and beautification of tourist sites within the

1 Third Senatorial District and to assist in the operations of the Division of  
2 Parks and Recreation (Saipan). The expenditure authority shall be the  
3 Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

4 (d) The term “non-resident” as used in this Act means a person who  
5 is not a resident of the Commonwealth.

6 **103. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

7 The Secretary of Finance shall annually make a financial report of  
8 the status of the Fund to the presiding officers of the Legislature no later  
9 than 30 days after the close of each Fiscal Year.

10 **104. REGULATIONS.**

11 Within 90 days of this Act the Secretary of the Department of Lands and  
12 Natural Resources shall promulgate rules and regulation necessary to carry  
13 out the intent of this Act.”

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

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


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

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


Prefiled: 1/13/2023

Date: 1/13/2023

Introduced by:

  
Rep. Roman C. Benavente

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel