

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ Session, 2023

H. B. 23- 57

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish the Health Network Program Revolving Fund Account and provide funding from the collection of revenue from tax liens and gross revenue tax penalties.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature recently established the
2 Health Network Program (HNP) under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
3 (CHCC) to provide for the orderly transition of medical referral services
4 administration and operations to CHCC. See Public Law No. 22-33, establishing
5 the Health Network Program. That new responsibility includes paying for travel
6 and housing costs of a patient following a referral. This Act establishes the Health
7 Network Program Revolving Fund Account to pay for such costs and directs that
8 funds collected from certain tax penalties and liens go into the revolving account
9 for use by CHCC.

10 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 3, Division 2, Chapter 9 § 2837 is hereby
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "§ 2837. Establishment of the Health Network Program.

1 (a) There is hereby established the Health Network Program (HNP) within
2 the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation.

3 (b) There is hereby established the Health Network Program Revolving
4 Fund Account within the Department of Finance for the purpose of funding travel
5 and housing costs for the HNP. The Chief Executive Officer of CHCC shall be the
6 expenditure authority for all disbursements associated with the HNP fund account.
7 These funds shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year. The account shall be audited
8 annually.

9 **Section 3. Amendment.** Title 4, Division 1, Chapter 8, Article 7. Penalties,
10 A. Civil Penalties, is hereby amended by adding a new section 18136 to read as
11 follows:

12 “§ 18136. Revolving Account Funding. Notwithstanding any other law, all
13 funds collected from civil penalties assessed under this Article shall be placed into
14 the Health Network Program Revolving Fund Account established in 3 CMC §
15 2837(b).”

16 **Section 4. Amendment.** Title 4, Division 1, Chapter 8, Article 4.
17 Collections, B. Lien for Taxes, is hereby amended by adding a new section 1869 to
18 read as follows:

19 “§ 1869. Revolving Account Funding. Notwithstanding any other law, all
20 funds collected from the execution of liens under this Article shall be placed into

1 the Health Network Program Revolving Fund Account established in 3 CMC §
2 2837(b).”

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

8 **Section 6. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
9 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
10 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
11 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
12 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
13 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
14 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

15 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
16 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 6/16/2023

Date: _____

Introduced by: ~~_____~~
Rep. Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

J. M. M. 6-16-23
House Legal Counsel