

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2023

H. B. **23-6**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 4 CMC § 8112 to prioritize net metering to include public libraries; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Public Law
2 18-75 found that the only way to reduce utility costs was to utilize renewable energy
3 sources to offset the electricity or other utility required for the operations of the
4 Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation and the Public School System.
5 Accordingly, the purpose of Public Law 18-75 was to provide a definition for net
6 metering and to prioritize the interconnection with net metering for health and
7 education renewable energy capacity at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.
8 In addition, any reasonable direct expense to CUC for reviewing and
9 interconnecting the PV or wind power renewable energy capacity shall be the
10 responsibility of CHCC and PSS and that there would be no cost to CUC to
11 prioritize the interconnection of the renewable energy. Over time, CHCC and PSS

1 will save millions of dollars in utility costs and utilize the money saved for other
2 essential needs of the public health and education entities.

3 Accordingly, the intent of this Act is to include public libraries as an
4 education entity for net metering and to prioritize the interconnection with net
5 metering for renewable energy capacity at the CUC. In addition, including public
6 libraries in the definition of education entities, will allow the entity to qualify and
7 apply for federal grants that support the Administration’s priorities for clean energy
8 to power the future in the U.S. territories as part of the larger efforts towards energy
9 security in America.

10 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 4, Division 8, Chapter 1, Article 1 § 8112 (e)
11 and (g) of the Commonwealth Code are hereby amended to read as follows:

12 “(e) “Health and education renewable energy capacity” means a
13 renewable capacity that is located on the premises of a public health entity
14 or education entity, including public libraries; operated in parallel with the
15 utility’s transmission and distribution facilities; in conformance with the
16 utility’s interconnection requirements; and intended primarily to offset part
17 or all of the electrical requirements of the health and education government
18 agencies;

19 (g) “Net metering” means measuring the difference between the
20 electricity supplied through the electrical grid and the electricity generated
21 by an eligible entity and fed back to the electric grid over a monthly billing


1 period; provided that net energy metering shall be accomplished using one
2 or more meters capable of registering the flow of electricity in two
3 directions and any additional metering shall be used only to provide the
4 information necessary to accurately bill or credit the public health entity or
5 education entity;”

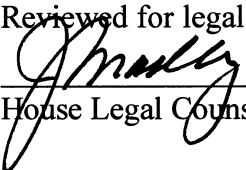
6 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of
7 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
8 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Act or the application of its
9 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those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

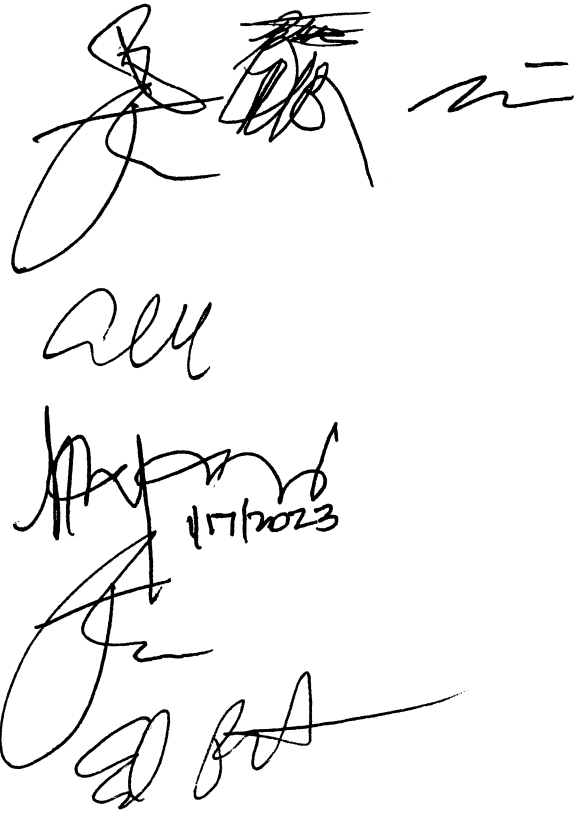
11 **Section 4. Savings clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall
12 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired
13 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the
14 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall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

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

Prefiled: 1/18/2023

Date: 1/18/2023 Introduced By: 
Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:
 1-11-23
House Legal Counsel


A collection of handwritten signatures and initials, including a large signature, a signature with the date 1/17/2023, and several other initials.