

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ Session, 2023

H. B. 23- **79**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To increase marriage license application fees.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that pursuant to 8
2 CMC §1202, the Governor and the respective Mayors of each municipality are
3 authorized to grant marriage licenses between two respective individuals.
4 Furthermore, the specified section further indicates the types of fees that the
5 Governor and respective mayors are allowed to charge. Such fees include
6 Ceremony fees (resident and non-resident), marriage license application fees
7 (resident and non-resident), documentation fees and marriage license copy fees.
8 Cognizant of the Commonwealth's present economic circumstances, the
9 Legislature finds that it would appropriate to increase the marriage license
10 application fees as a form of additional revenue to our Commonwealth. Further, the
11 funds realized can be used to improve government resources and services that are
12 intended to improve the well-being and overall livelihood for the people who reside
13 in the CNMI.

1 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to increase marriage license application
2 fees.

3 **Section 2. Amendment.** 8 CMC §1202(a)(1) is hereby amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **“§1202. Requisites of Marriage Contract; License.**

6 (a) (1) The Governor or a mayor is authorized to grant a license for
7 marriage between two persons. Upon the filing of an application for the
8 license, the Governor or a mayor shall collect from the parties the
9 following fees:

- 10 (i) Ceremony fees (Non-Residents), \$75;
- 11 (ii) Ceremony fees (Residents), \$30;
- 12 (iii) Marriage License Application (Non-Residents), ~~\$125~~ \$250;
- 13 (iv) Marriage License Application (Residents), ~~\$50~~ \$100;
- 14 (v) Documentation Fee, \$25; and
- 15 (vi) Marriage License Copy, \$25.

16 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, one hundred
17 percent (100%) of the fees collected by a respective mayor under this
18 section shall be deposited into that respective mayor's office account
19 which the Secretary of Finance shall establish without further
20 legislative appropriation. Such funds shall be used for the operations

1 conducted by each respective mayor. All fees collected by the Governor
2 shall be deposited into the general fund.”

3 **Section 3. 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 4. 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.

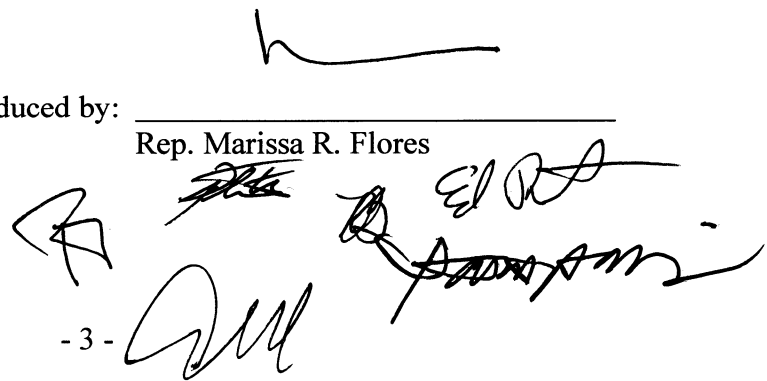
15 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
16 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 9/25/2023

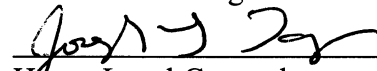
Date: _____

Introduced by: _____

Rep. Marissa R. Flores

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Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:



House Legal Counsel