

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2023

H. B. 23- 92

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To suspend the Net Energy Metering in the CNMI; and for other purpose.

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

- 1 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be cited as the “Net Metering Act of
2 2023”.
- 3 **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that suspending
4 the Net Energy Metering in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands
5 (CNMI) should be considered for several reasons. First, it will address the concerns
6 related to grid stability and management. By not allowing excess energy from
7 individual solar systems to feed back into the grid, potential fluctuations in
8 electricity supply and demand could be mitigated. Second, the proponents argue
9 that doing away with Net Energy Metering could lead to a fairer cost allocation for
10 maintaining the grid. Without Net Energy Metering, the burden of grid
11 maintenance costs would not fall disproportionately on non-solar customers.
12 Moreover, this shift could encourage investments in battery storage or other energy

1 storage solutions, promoting greater grid independence. Additionally, the CNMI
2 might explore alternative approaches like community solar projects that distribute
3 benefits and costs more equitably among participants. Financial considerations
4 could also play a role, as eliminating Net Energy Metering subsidies may alleviate
5 some budgetary pressures.

6 **Section 3. Amendment.** Title 4, Division 8, Chapter 1, Article 2, § 8122 (f)
7 is hereby suspended.

8 **Section 4. Amendment.** Title 4, Division 8, Chapter 5, Article 3. Net
9 Energy Metering is hereby suspended in its entirety.

10 **Section 5. Sunset Clause.** The Provisions under Sections 3 and 4 of this
11 Act shall automatically expire four years after the effective date of this Act.

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

17 **Section 7. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
18 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
19 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
20 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
21 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have

1 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
2 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

3 **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
4 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 12/21/2023

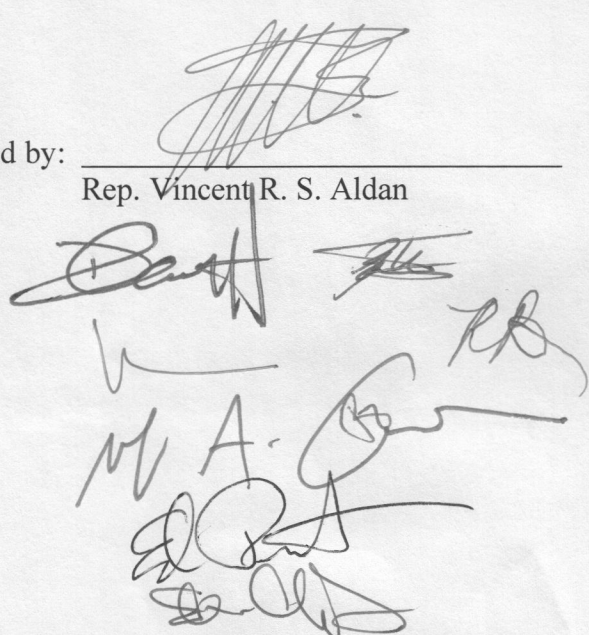
Date: _____

Introduced by: _____

Rep. Vincent R. S. Aldan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

Joseph D. Davis
House Legal Counsel

A collection of handwritten signatures and initials in black ink. At the top is a large, dense signature. Below it are several other signatures and initials, including one that appears to be 'M.A.' and another that looks like 'RB'. The signatures are scattered and some are partially overlapping.