

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2026

H. B. 24- 106

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To require legislative representation and oversight in Section 902 consultations by including the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their designees, as Special Representatives of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24TH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Section 902
2 of the Covenant establishes a government-to-government consultation process to
3 address matters affecting the political and economic relationship between the
4 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States. The
5 Legislature further finds that the elected legislative leadership, as representatives
6 of the people and the body responsible for lawmaking, should participate in such
7 consultations to ensure full legislative oversight, protect the interests of the
8 Commonwealth, and promote transparency and coordination among branches of
9 government. The purpose of this Act is to require inclusion of the President of the
10 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their designees, as
11 members of the Commonwealth's official Section 902 consultation delegation.

1 **Section 2. Mandatory Legislative Representation in 902 Consultations.**

2 (a) Whenever Section 902 consultations are invoked by the Governor or
3 requested by the President of the United States, the Governor shall
4 designate a Commonwealth Special Representative team for those
5 consultations.

6 (b) Mandatory Members. The Governor's Special Representative team
7 shall include the following legislative leaders as Special Representatives
8 of the Commonwealth:

9 (1) The President of the Senate; and

10 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

11 (c) Designation of Representatives. If the President of the Senate or the
12 Speaker of the House is unable to attend in person or to participate, each
13 shall have the sole authority to appoint one (1) designee from their
14 respective chamber to serve in their place for the relevant consultation.
15 Any designee shall be a sitting member of the respective chamber.

16 (d) Access and Participation. The legislative Special Representatives and
17 their designees shall have full access to all consultation deliberations,
18 materials, documents, briefings, and reports generated in connection
19 with the Section 902 consultations, subject to any confidentiality
20 protections or executive privilege properly applicable to the
21 consultation process. Such legislative representatives shall be permitted

1 to participate in deliberations, raise questions, and offer
2 recommendations consistent with their role as Special Representatives
3 of the Commonwealth.

4 **Section 3. Coordination; Executive-Legislative Briefings.**

5 (a) The Governor or the Governor's authorized lead designee shall
6 coordinate with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
7 of Representatives (or their designees) to ensure timely notice of
8 scheduled consultations and to arrange for pre-consultation briefings as
9 appropriate.

10 (b) Within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of each Section 902
11 consultation in which the Commonwealth participates, the Governor
12 shall provide to both the chambers of the Legislature a written summary
13 of the consultation outcomes, agreements, and any proposed actions that
14 affect Commonwealth law, policy, budgets, or sovereignty, except to
15 the extent restricted by confidentiality or national security
16 considerations. When confidential information is withheld, the
17 Governor shall provide a classified or restricted briefing to the

1 legislative leadership or to any legislative committee designated by
2 them, consisted with the applicable law and security protocols.

3 **Section 4. Reporting and Transparency.**

4 (a) The legislative members of the Commonwealth's Section 902
5 consultation team shall provide periodic updates to their respective
6 chambers on the status and progress of consultations, subject to
7 confidentiality obligations applicable to the consultations.

8 (b) Any agreement or memorandum of understanding resulting from
9 Section 902 consultations that requires changes to the Commonwealth
10 law, appropriation of funds, or affects public policy shall be submitted
11 to the Legislature for review, and, where required by law, for approval
12 before such agreement takes effect within the Commonwealth.

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

18 **Section 6. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
19 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
20 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
21 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding

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

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

Prefiled: 4/8/2026

Date: 04/08/26

Introduced by: _____

Rep. Marissa R. Flores

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

Harish S
House Legal Counsel

Date: 4-8-26