

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2026

H. B. 24- 90

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To mandate the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to change the power, water, and wastewater rate for the Commonwealth Ports Authority to the commercial utility rate; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Commonwealth Ports Authority
2 (CPA) is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and development of the
3 airports and seaports of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
4 (CNMI.) Established by Public Law 2-48, CPA was formed as an autonomous
5 government agency for the purpose of the security and promotion of the CNMI's
6 political, economic, cultural, and educational development. CPA's importance lies
7 in protecting and facilitating the island's borders which is integral for imports, inter-
8 island and international travel, and the tourism industry among other things.

9 Currently, the economy is undergoing a steep decline. Tourism rates have
10 significantly slowed, and flights have either been ceased or temporarily suspended.
11 As an autonomous agency, the duties of this essential office would be impeded by

1 increased economic burden due to lack of funds. The cost of operations remains
2 one of the bigger financial strains, especially the application of government rates to
3 CPA's utilities. Applying commercial utility rates will greatly alleviate CPA's
4 operational burdens, allow the allocation of funds to other crucial areas, and ensure
5 continued payments. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to apply commercial rates
6 to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

7 **Section 2. Authority.** Subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision
8 Commission, the following provisions shall be enacted to read as follows:

9 “§ 101. **CPA Commercial Rate.** Notwithstanding any law or regulation to
10 the contrary, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation shall charge the
11 Commonwealth Ports Authority, as established in Title 2: Natural Resources,
12 Division 2. Ports, Chapter 1. Commonwealth Ports Authority, the commercial rate
13 for power, water, and wastewater.”

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

19 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
20 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
21 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted

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

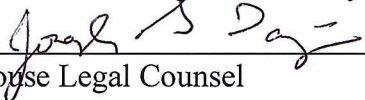
5 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
6 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 1/29/2026

Date: 1/28/26

Introduced by: 
Rep. Elias J.M. Rangamar

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel

Date: 1-27-26