

Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SESSION, 2021

H. L. B. 22- 8

**A LOCAL REVENUE BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To impose a local license fee on all non-poker electronic gaming devices within the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT DELEGATION

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF THE

COMMONWEALTH CODE:

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SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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This Act shall be cited as the "Third Senatorial District Non-Poker Electronic Gaming Devices License Fee of 2021".

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SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

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The Delegation finds that non-poker gaming has grown in popularity within the Third Senatorial District since being legalized under Public Law No. 18-30. The Delegation finds that many of the visitors of the Third Senatorial District are attracted to these gaming facilities because of the safety of the environment and the types of games it offers to its patrons.

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Furthermore, the Delegation finds that the poker industry in the Commonwealth has been paying an annual fee of more than \$12,000.00 per machine which is split between the Commonwealth and the Senatorial District in

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1 which the machine is being operated on. The Delegation finds that a significant
2 portion of the poker fees dedicated to the Third Senatorial District has been
3 earmarked to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) to help
4 college students from the Third Senatorial District. The Delegation further finds
5 that with the enactment of the Commonwealth Casino (Public Law No. 18-56) no
6 new poker machines will be allowed to be register within the Commonwealth of
7 the Northern Mariana Islands after April 2015. This means that collections from
8 poker fees will decrease because of the prohibition on registering new machines.
9 The Delegation finds that the Third Senatorial District is dependent on poker fees
10 to pay for local programs, subsidizing local non-profit organizations, local
11 projects and most importantly the SHEFA program. Therefore, the intent of this
12 Act is to impose a local license fee on all non-poker gaming devices within the
13 Third Senatorial District.

14 **SECTION 3. ENACTMENT.**

15 Notwithstanding any laws, rules or regulations to the contrary and subject
16 to proper codification by the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission the
17 following is hereby enacted:

18 **“101. Local license fee(s) for non-poker gaming devices.**

19 (a) Local license fee(s) for non-poker gaming devices. There is
20 hereby imposed, pursuant to 1 CMC § 1402(c)(4), a local
21 license fee on all non-poker gaming devices within the Third
22 Senatorial District equal to the amount required by

1 Commonwealth law and shall subsequently adjust to be equal
2 to the amount assessed by Commonwealth law without further
3 legislative action.

4 (b) The fees collected under this Act shall be appropriated by the
5 Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. Provided
6 however, that should the obligation to the Saipan Higher
7 Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) student scholarship
8 account and the SHEFA operations account drop below its
9 current level (\$3,000,000.00 and \$200,000.00) due to the
10 shortage in poker fee collections and/or any other allocations
11 for SHEFA, the fees collected under this Act shall first
12 subsidize the SHEFA account(s) prior to being appropriated for
13 any other purposes.

14 (c) The Secretary of the Department of Finance shall create a
15 special account to be known as the "Third Senatorial District
16 non-poker gaming device fee account."

17 **SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

18 If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any
19 person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
20 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to
21 persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be
affected thereby.

1 **SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

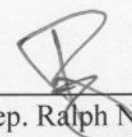
2 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as
3 affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
4 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes.
5 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or
6 pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of
7 terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
8 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

9 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

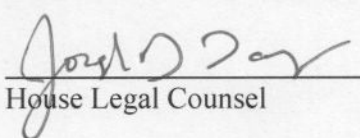
10 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or its
 becoming law without such approval.

 Prefiled: 4/14/201

 Date: 4/14/202

Introduced By:  _____
Rep. Ralph N. Yumu

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:



House Legal Counsel