

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SESSION, 2025

H.L.B. 24- 23

**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To establish the Rota Cultural Heritage and Education Tour
Act, for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
DELEGATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF
THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:**

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.** The Rota Legislative
2 Delegation finds that the Historic Preservation Office (HPO), under the Department
3 of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA), plays a vital role in preserving,
4 promoting, and interpreting Rota's cultural and historical heritage. With growing
5 public interest in heritage-based tourism and educational experiences, structured
6 guided tours and outreach programs are essential in enhancing cultural awareness,
7 fostering local pride, and supporting preservation efforts.

8 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the HPO to collect reasonable fees
9 for services provided to tourists, visitors, and the general public, thereby supporting
10 and sustaining these programs. However, the Delegation intends that these services
11 remain accessible to local students and government-sponsored educational
12 initiatives. Accordingly, this Act exempts school students and government agencies

1 from fee requirements.

2 **Section 2. Enactment.** Subject to the codification by the Law Revision
3 Commission, the following is enacted to read:

4 “Section 101. Short Title. This Act shall be cited as the “Rota Cultural
5 Heritage and Education Tour Act of 2025.”

6 Section 102. Authorization to Collect Tour and Outreach Fees.

7 (a) The Historic Preservation Office in Rota, under the Department of
8 Community and Cultural Affairs, is hereby authorized to establish and collect fees
9 for the following services:

- 10 1. Guided tours of historical, archaeological, or culturally significant
11 sites; and
- 12 2. Cultural educational outreach tours or programs conducted for
13 community groups, private organizations, or visiting delegations.

14 (b) The fees shall be determined based on relevant factors, including but
15 not limited to group size, location, tour duration, and administrative costs. The
16 HPO shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this section,
17 including but not limited to:

- 18 1. Fee schedules;
- 19 2. Permitting and reservation procedures;
- 20 3. Tour guide training and certification standards; and
- 21 4. Site preservation, safety, and visitor conduct guidelines.

1 Section 103. Exemptions.

2 (a) All students from public schools, as well as private or parochial
3 schools participating in educational field trips coordinated with the CNMI Public
4 School System or the parochial school system, shall be exempt from the fees
5 established under this Act.

6 (b) Government agencies conducting official or educational tours shall
7 also be exempt from paying tour or outreach fees.

8 (c) The HPO shall have the authority to grant additional fee exemptions or
9 waivers in cases where the purpose of the activity provides significant public
10 benefit or cultural value.

11 Section 104. Establishment of the Rota Cultural Outreach and Tour Fund.

12 (a) There is hereby established a special account to be known as the "Rota
13 Cultural Outreach and Tour Fund."

14 (b) All revenues collected under this Act shall be deposited into the Fund
15 and shall not revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

16 (c) Monies in the Fund shall be used exclusively for the following
17 purposes:

- 18 1. Maintenance and preservation of historical and cultural sites;
- 19 2. Development and dissemination of educational and interpretive
20 materials;
- 21 3. Training and certification of tour guides;

- 1 4. Acquisition of outreach equipment and provision of transportation;
2 and
3 5. Program staffing and administrative support.

4 Section 105. Expenditure Authority.

5 The expenditure authority for the Rota Cultural Outreach and Tour Fund
6 shall be the Mayor of Rota, in consultation with the DCCA Resident Director for
7 the First Senatorial District.”

8 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

14 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

15 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as
16 affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes.
17 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or
18 pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of
19 terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
20 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

21 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

- 1 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or it becoming
2 law without such approval.

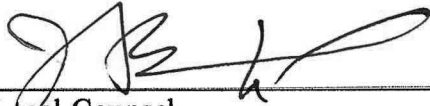
Prefiled: 8/25/2025

Date: 08.25.25

Introduced by: 

Rep. Julie Marie A. Ogo

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:


Legal Counsel