

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 16, 2024

Third Regular SESSION, 202~~5~~

H. L. B. 24- 43

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

To establish a docking and watercraft fee for derby event participants utilizing the West and East Docks on Rota; to include vessels, jet skis, kayaks, and canoes; to exempt bona fide Rota residents and educational activities; to provide penalties for violations; and to allocate collected revenues for conservation and community programs.

**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.**

2           The Rota Legislative Delegation finds that annual fishing derbies and  
3 maritime competitions attract visiting participants using various types of watercraft,  
4 including vessels, jet skis, kayaks, and canoes. These events contribute positively  
5 to Rota's tourism and economy, but they also place increased strain on the island's  
6 docking facilities, launch areas, and marine environment.

7           The purpose of this Act is to establish a fair and reasonable derby-specific  
8 fee system to help maintain dock facilities, promote marine safety and

1 environmental conservation, and ensure that visiting participants contribute their  
2 fair share, while exempting bona fide Rota residents and educational or youth  
3 training programs that use the docks for non-commercial purposes.

4           **SECTION 2. ENACTMENT.** Subject to the codification by the  
5 Commonwealth Law Revision, the following is enacted to read:

6           “Section 101. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the ‘Rota Derby  
7 Docking and Watercraft Fee Act of 2025.’

8           Section 102. Definition.

9           (a) “Bona fide resident of Rota” means an individual who has resided in  
10 Rota for at least one (1) year immediately before the derby event and holds a valid  
11 Rota voter registration, driver’s license, or other government-issued proof of  
12 residency verified by the Mayor’s Office or DLNR.

13           (b) “Derby event” means any organized fishing, boating, or watercraft  
14 competition conducted under a valid permit issued by DLNR or the Mayor’s  
15 Office.

16           (c) “Watercraft” includes all motorized and non-motorized vessels,  
17 including but not limited to boats, jet skis, kayaks, and canoes.

18           (d) “Educational purpose” means any government, school, or community-  
19 based instructional activity that does not involve competition or commercial gain.

1           Section 103. Applicability. This Act applies exclusively to officially  
2 sanctioned derby events or maritime competitions authorized by the Department of  
3 Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) or the Office of the Mayor of Rota.

4           It does not apply to educational programs, such as school-based marine  
5 training, youth boat activities, or environmental education programs conducted by  
6 government agencies, non-profit organizations, or educational institutions.

7           Section 104. Derby Docking and Watercraft Fees.

8           (a) Non-bona fide residents (visiting derby participants) shall be charged  
9 the following:

- 10                   1. Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per day per motorized vessel;
- 11                   2. Five Dollars (\$5.00) per day per jet ski or personal watercraft;
- 12                   3. Three Dollars (\$3.00) per day per kayak or canoe.

13           (b) Bona fide residents of Rota (derby participants) shall be charged a one-  
14 time fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00) per vessel, valid for a maximum of three (3)  
15 consecutive days during the derby event.

16           (c) Fees shall be collected and receipted before or during derby registration.

17           (d) Any vessel or watercraft that remains docked, moored, or operated  
18 beyond the official derby period without renewal shall be subject to penalties under  
19 Section 8 of this Act.

20           Section 105. Exemptions. The following are exempt from payment of the  
21 docking or watercraft fees:

1 (a) Bona fide Rota residents not participating in the derby event;

2 (b) Educational, youth, or community programs utilizing the docks or  
3 launch areas for training or awareness activities that are non-commercial and  
4 coordinated through the Mayor's Office or DLNR;

5 (c) Government vessels or crafts operating for law enforcement, emergency  
6 response, or official duties.

7 Section 106. Collection and Administration.

8 (a) The Department of Land and Natural Resources – Division of Fish and  
9 Wildlife (DLNR-F&W) shall collect all derby docking and watercraft fees, issue  
10 receipts, and maintain official records of event participants.

11 (b) All revenues shall be deposited into a special "Rota Derby Docking Fee  
12 Account" administered by DLNR-F&W in coordination with the Office of the  
13 Mayor of Rota.

14 (c) DLNR-F&W shall submit post-event reports to the Rota Legislative  
15 Delegation and the Mayor's Office summarizing total collections, exemptions, and  
16 expenditures.

17 Section 107. Allocation of Funds. Funds collected under this Act shall be  
18 distributed as follows:

19 (a) 70% to DLNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife, for dock facility  
20 maintenance, marine resource conservation, and derby environmental management.

1 (b) 20% to the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota for harbor  
2 operations, derby coordination, and public safety services during events.

3 (c) 10% to the Rota Municipal Council for oversight, monitoring, and  
4 community outreach related to derby and marine activities.

5 Section 108. Penalty and Citation.

6 (a) Any person who docks, moors, or operates a vessel, jet ski, kayak, or  
7 canoe during a derby event without payment of the required fee shall be subject to:

8 1. A fine not exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per  
9 violation; and/or

10 2. Citation or removal of the vessel or watercraft by authorized  
11 DLNR enforcement personnel.

12 (b) Repeat violators may be barred from participation in future derby events  
13 for up to one (1) year.

14 (c) All penalties collected shall be deposited into the Rota Derby Docking  
15 Fee Account and distributed per Section 7.”

16 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

1           **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

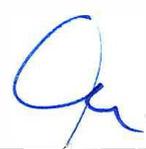
2           This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as  
3 affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
4 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
5 contained in this Act shall not affect any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

9           **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

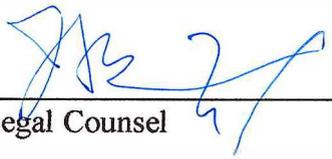
10           This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or it becoming  
11 law without such approval.

Prefiled: 1/14/2014

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by:   
Representative Julie M.A. Ogo

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
Legal Counsel