

David M. Apatang
Governor



Gov. Msg. No. 24-60

Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 24, 2025



GOV2025-002

The Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors
Acting President
The Senate; Twenty-Fourth Northern
Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Acting President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **Senate Bill No. 24-15, SD1**, entitled, "To amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number to incorporation filings; to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search of corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 24-07**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. APATANG
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;
Public Auditor; Acting Special Assistant for Administration;
Secretary, Department of Commerce; Programs and Legislative Review Office

OFFICE OF THE
SENATE CLERK

Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building • 12296 Pagan Loop. • Capitol Hill, Saipan
Caller Box 10007 • Saipan, MP 96950 • (670) 237-2200 • governor.cnmi.gov

Signed By:
Date: 7/25 Time: 1:45 pm



**THE SENATE
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE**

SENATE BILL NO. 24-15, SD1

AN ACT

To amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number to incorporation filings; to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search of corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes.

SENATE ACTION

Offered by Senator(s): Corina L. Magofna

Date: February 10, 2025

Referred to: None

Standing Committee Report No.: None

Final Reading: February 28, 2025

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to: Committee on Commerce

Standing Committee Report No.: 24-10 adopted 06/20/25

Final Reading: June 20, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Francisco Q. Cruz", is written over a horizontal line.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**



THE SENATE
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2025 **S.B. NO. 24-15, SD1**

AN ACT

To amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number to incorporation filings;
to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search of
corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that corporations formed
2 under the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are considered persons
3 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Section 502 (a)(1) of The Covenant to
4 Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the
5 United States of America establishes that the federal banking laws of the United States shall
6 apply to the Northern Mariana Islands.

7 The Legislature also finds that all CNMI-chartered banks are members of the United
8 States banking system. CNMI-chartered banks have no legal restriction on opening accounts
9 for corporations formed and based outside the CNMI. Likewise, nationally-chartered US
10 banks have no legal restriction on opening accounts for corporations formed and based in
11 CNMI.

12 The Legislature further finds that it would be of extreme benefit for CNMI
13 corporations to be able to avail themselves of the services of nationally-chartered US banks.
14 However, the industry standard due diligence performed by nationally-chartered US banks
15 includes verifying the existence and good standing of potential corporate clients by searching
16 the website of the Registrar of Corporations, by filing a number of the corporation's Articles
17 of Incorporation, for the state or territory in which the corporation is formed and/or based and

SENATE BILL NO. 24-15, SD1

1 retrieving evidence of existence and good standing. CNMI's Registrar of Corporations has no
2 system that would allow banks to perform such an action.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number
4 to incorporation filings; to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search
5 of corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes.

6 **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC § 4266 (b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 “(b) The Registrar of Corporations files a document by stamping or otherwise
8 endorsing “Filed,” together with his name and official title ~~and~~ the date and time of receipt,
9 and, upon request at time of filing, a stamped or machine-printed filing number unique to the
10 document on both the original and the document copy. After filing the document, except as
11 provided in 4 CMC §§ 4333 and 4650, the Registrar of Corporations shall deliver the
12 document copy to the domestic or foreign corporation or its representative.”

13 **Section 3. Amendment.** 4 CMC § 4269 (b)(1) is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 “(1) The domestic corporation's name or the foreign corporation's name used in the
15 Commonwealth and the filing number of the entity's Articles of Incorporation, if a filing
16 number was assigned;”

17 **Section 4. Amendment.** 4 CMC § 4269 is hereby amended to add a new subsection
18 (d) to read as follows:

19 “(d) Within 90 days of the effective date of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall
20 cause to be created a publicly-accessible database, viewable via the official website of the
21 Registrar of Corporations that allows members of the public to search for filed Articles of
22 Incorporation or Certificates of Authority by filing number and displays all information
23 constituting a Certificate of Existence pursuant to this section.”

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

28 **Section 6. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
29 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes

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

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

CERTIFIED BY:



DENNIS C. MENDIOLA
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ATTESTED BY:



FRANCISCO Q. CRUZ
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 24th day of July, 2025



DAVID M. APATANG
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands