

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

Second Spec. Session, 2025

S. B. 24-31

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend the authority for compliance officers to staff treatment programs in the Judiciary.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** In 2018, the Legislature authorized the  
2 addition of a drug court program in the Judiciary and established court personnel  
3 (compliance officers) to serve as law enforcement within the drug court program.  
4 See PL 20-54. Since then, the Judiciary has added a mental health court program.  
5 Other specialty treatment programs may follow, including a veterans court  
6 program. These evolving programs recognize diversion and treatment as  
7 alternatives to conviction and punishment. This bill establishes the authority for  
8 professionally trained probation and compliance officers to serve in treatment  
9 courts as law enforcement officers. This bill also identifies training and firearm  
10 certification standards to be adopted by the Judicial Council.

11           **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 3207 of the Commonwealth Code is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13                   “§ 3207. **Establishment of Drug Court.**

14                   (a) [no changes]

15                   (b) Compliance officers shall qualify for employment under such  
16 minimum standards of professional experience, physical and mental health,  
17 and education as established by the Judicial Council. No individual who has

1 been convicted of a felony or other crime of moral turpitude may serve as a  
2 compliance officer. Compliance and probation officers shall undergo  
3 firearms training and periodic certification through the Marshall Services  
4 Division to the same extent as Police Officers of the Department of Public  
5 Safety. The Judicial Council shall establish standards for such training and  
6 certification consistent with the Department of Public Safety's standards.

7 (b c) ~~Community supervision~~ Probation officers and compliance  
8 officers shall serve under the treatment court programs within the Judiciary  
9 ~~Drug Court~~ and shall have the authority and responsibility to:

10 (1) Create, maintain, and secure a complete record of each  
11 participant placed in a treatment court program.

12 (2) Instruct a participant as to the terms, conditions, and restrictions  
13 specified by the treatment court program.

14 (3) Keep informed of all terms, conditions, and restrictions specified  
15 by the treatment court program.

16 (4) Investigate, exercise general supervision over, and monitor  
17 compliance of participants which shall include, among other things, the  
18 authority to visit a participant at home, employment site, or anywhere else  
19 specified by the treatment court program, to conduct drug tests of  
20 participants, or take any items prohibited by the conditions of supervision  
21 that are observed in plain view.

22 (5) Keep records of work performed and report on information  
23 concerning a participant's conduct and compliance with a treatment court  
24 program.

25 (6) Use all suitable methods, including the imposition of informal  
26 sanctions, not inconsistent with a treatment court program, to aid and  
27 encourage a participant to effect improvements in conduct.

1 (7) Serve warrants of arrest, make arrests and bring participants  
2 before the treatment court when he or she believes that cause for formal  
3 sanctions or termination exists.

4 (8) Carry a firearm in the performance of official duties.

5 (9) Perform any other duty, or have such powers as are necessary to  
6 implement the provisions of this Article, as deemed appropriate by the  
7 treatment court program.”

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

13 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
14 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
15 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted  
16 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding  
17 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have  
18 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,  
19 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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

Prefiled:

Date: 5/9/25

Introduced by:   
Senator Karl King-Nabors

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
Senate Legal Counsel